



CRWC

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Paddling Safety Tips

One of the ways to ensure the protection of our lakes, rivers and streams is to get out and enjoy them! Summer is a great time to explore your watershed, and with the popularity of recreating on the Clinton River and adjacent tributaries increasing each year, you don't want to be the last one on the river.

The paddling conditions on the Clinton River are changing constantly due to weather and other environmental factors, and several sections are better suited towards more experienced kayakers.

Before you decide to venture out on to the water, it is important to educate yourself on some of the dangers of the river, and make the necessary preparations.



Visit our website to check out our [paddling map!](#)

Use the legend on the left side of the map to turn data layers off or on that give information about locations to launch, canoe and kayak liveries, river difficulty, recommended fishing locations, and more. Check out the map here:

[http://www.crwc.org/paddling/.](http://www.crwc.org/paddling/)

Recreating in your watershed



ALWAYS PADDLE WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.

Life vests, helmets, a whistle, a first aid kit and a phone are standard equipment.



NEVER PADDLE ALONE.

Always paddle with at least one other person, and do not become separated.



BE AWARE OF STREAM FLOW.

Check stream flow at the USGS gauge nearest to your intended trip. Visually check stream flow before you embark; if the river is too fast for your comfort level, wait until it recedes.



BE AWARE OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE.

Cold water is extremely dangerous. Learn about protecting yourself from hypothermia.



BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER.

Conditions can change rapidly. Be aware of forecasts and do not go out during thunderstorms or other adverse weather events. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.



BE AWARE OF THE DAYLIGHT.

Make sure you have enough daylight to comfortably finish your trip.



BRING A SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN A DRY BAG.

It is very likely you will get wet. Bring a spare change of clothes in a dry bag to avoid hypothermia.



WEAR PROPER FOOTWEAR.

Protect your feet from sharp river rocks; always wear footwear.



KNOW HOW TO SWIM.

Make sure you know how to swim before embarking on a river trip.



KNOW HOW TO GET HELP.

To get help, dial **911**. Bring a cell phone in a dry bag and make sure you are aware of your surroundings and can communicate your position to emergency responders.