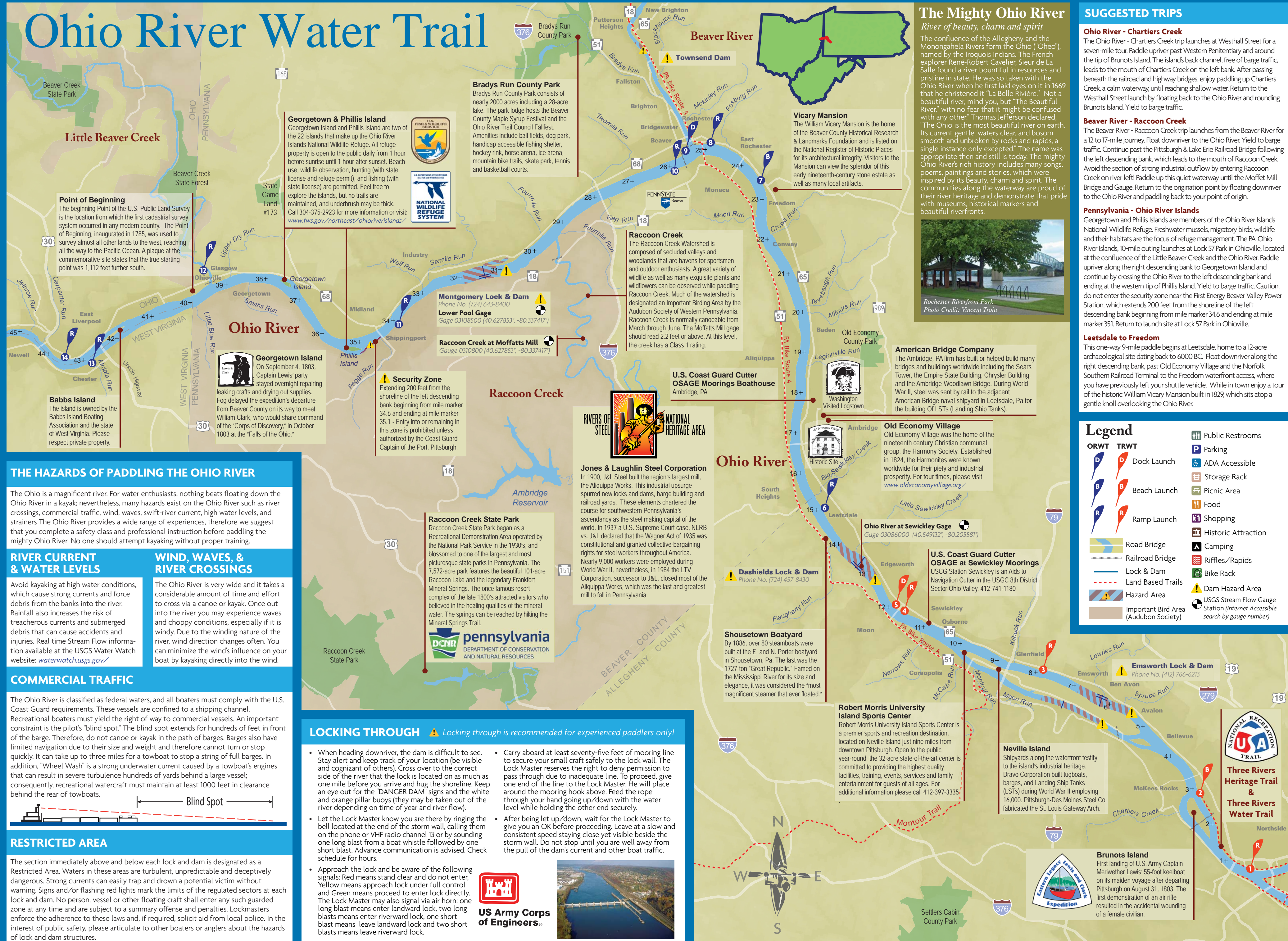


Ohio River Water Trail



The Mighty Ohio River

River of beauty, charm and spirit

The confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers form the Ohio ("Oheo"), named by the Iroquois Indians. The French explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle found a river bountiful in resources and pristine in state. He was so taken with the Ohio River when he first laid eyes on it in 1669 that he christened it "La Belle Rivière." Not a beautiful river, mind you, but "The Beautiful River" with no fear that it might be confused with any other. Thomas Jefferson declared, "The Ohio is the most beautiful river on earth. Its current gentle, waters clear, and bosom smooth and unbroken by rocks and rapids, a single instance only excepted." The name was appropriate then and still is today. The mighty Ohio River's rich history includes many songs, poems, paintings and stories, which were inspired by its beauty, charm and spirit. The communities along the waterway are proud of their river heritage and demonstrate that pride with museums, historical markers and beautiful riverfronts.



SUGGESTED TRIPS

Ohio River - Chartiers Creek
The Ohio River - Chartiers Creek trip launches at Westhall Street for a seven-mile tour. Paddle upriver past Western Penitentiary and around the tip of Brunts Island. The islands back channel, free of barge traffic, leads to the mouth of Chartiers Creek on the left bank. After passing beneath the railroad and highway bridges, enjoy paddling up Chartiers Creek, a calm waterway, until reaching shallow water. Return to the Westhall Street launch by floating back to the Ohio River and rounding Brunts Island. Yield to barge traffic.

Beaver River - Raccoon Creek
The Beaver River - Raccoon Creek trip launches from the Beaver River for a 12 to 17-mile journey. Float downriver to the Ohio River. Yield to barge traffic. Continue past the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Bridge following the left descending bank, which leads to the mouth of Raccoon Creek. Avoid the section of strong industrial outflow by entering Raccoon Creek on river left. Paddle up this quiet waterway until the Moffet Mill Bridge and Gauge. Return to the origin point by floating downriver to the Ohio River and paddling back to your point of origin.

Pennsylvania - Ohio River Islands
Georgetown and Phillis Islands are members of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Freshwater mussels, migratory birds, wildlife and their habitats are the focus of refuge management. The PA-Ohio River Islands, 10-mile outing launches at Lock 57 Park in Ohioville, located at the confluence of the Little Beaver Creek and the Ohio River. Paddle upriver along the right descending bank to Georgetown Island and continue by crossing the Ohio River to the left descending bank and ending at the western tip of Phillis Island. Yield to barge traffic. Caution, do not enter the security zone near the First Energy Beaver Valley Power Station, which extends 200 feet from the shoreline of the left descending bank beginning from mile marker 34.6 and ending at mile marker 35.1. Return to launch site at Lock 57 Park in Ohioville.

Leetsdale to Freedom
This one-way 9-mile paddle begins at Leetsdale, home to a 12-acre archaeological site dating back to 6000 BC. Float downriver along the right descending bank, past Old Economy Village and the Norfolk Southern Railroad Terminal to the Freedom waterfront access, where you have previously left your shuttle vehicle. While in town enjoy a tour of the historic William Vicary Mansion built in 1829, which sits atop a gentle knoll overlooking the Ohio River.

Legend

ACCESS AND AMENITIES ALONG THE WAY

(L) and (R) indicate the left or right Ohio riverbank when facing downriver.

Three Rivers Water Trail

0.0	Point State Park- Fort Pitt Museum	17.6 R	Economy Run: SM, M, W (40.6024; -80.2341)
0.1 R	North Shore Attractions - Heinz Field, Carnegie Science Center, USS Requin submarine, Rivers Casino	18.5 R	Old Lock 4: SM (40.6164; -80.2330)
0.1 R	Heinz Quay Launch	18.7 L	Logstown Run: SM, CR, M (40.6183; -80.2372)
0.7 L	Marine Terminal - Beware commercial traffic!	20.7 R	Old coal dock and pilings: SM, SB (40.6471; -80.2361)
0.8 L	Saw Mill Run	22.1 R	Crows Run: S, W, M (40.6666; -80.2502)
0.8 L	Monaca East Rochester Bridge, 1932	22.5 L	Chartiers Creek confluence: M, HS (40.6719; -80.2559)
1.6	Brunts Island	23.0 R	Freedom Wall: M (40.6788; -80.2535)
2.3	Ohio Connecting Railroad Bridge, 1915	23.6 R	Dutchman Run: SM, W, S, M, C (40.6852; -80.2562)
2.6 L	Chartiers Creek	23.6 L	Near pilings: SM, SB (40.6838; -80.2585)
2.7 R	Western Penitentiary	25.0 L	Between Monaca Rochester Bridge and Railroad Bridge: SM (40.6964; -80.2844)
2.8 R	Westhall Street Launch	25.2 L	Monaca Waterworks Park: SM, LM (40.6929; -80.2852)
3.1 R	Sewage Treatment Plant - Beware strong outflow!	25.4 R	Water Plant discharge: SM, LM (40.6976; -80.2856)
3.3	McKees Rocks Indian Mound - Historic Site	25.5 R	Beaver River to Dam: ALL (40.6964; -80.2888)
3.3	McKees Rocks Bridge, 1931	26.1 L	Between Railroad Bridge and Beaver Valley Expressway Bridge: SM (40.6922; -80.2927)
4.9	Davis Island	7.1 R	Two Mile Run: W, S, SM (40.6799; -80.3323)
4.9	Neville Island	29.3 R	Lock 6: M, W, S, SM (40.6686; -80.3501)
4.9	Fleming Park Bridge, 1955 (Ohio River back channel)	7.9	Raccoon Creek: LM, CR (40.6601; -80.3491)
5.4	Pittsburgh, Chartiers & Youghiogheny Railroad Bridge, 1894 (Back channel)	8.0 R	Below Pumphouse: HS (40.6628; -80.3496)
6.3	Emsworth Lock & Dam - Going downriver, approach from river right. 412-766-6213	8.6	Ohio River back channel, Neville Island Hole in lagoon: M (40.5083; -80.1322)
6.8	Emsworth Dam - Ohio River back channel, no lock use main channel.	8.6	Kilbuck Run confluence: SM, W, S, WB, HS (40.5158; -80.1314)
7.9 L	Dravo Corporation Shipyard - Historic Site	9.5 L	Montour Run: SM, W, S, WB (40.5147; -80.1461)
7.9 R	Kilbuck Launch	11.2	Old lock wall, rocky upstream end of wall: SM, S, M (40.5288; -80.1767)
8.4 L	At the end of E. Beaver Street, Glenfield, PA Fish & Boat Commission access area - PFBC or DCNR launch permit required. (40.514279; -80.120287)	12.1 L	Narrows Run: SM, BS (40.5375; -80.1945)
8.6 L	Fairfield Inn Suites, Neville Island	12.5 R	Between Sewickley Bridge and restricted zone of Dashiels Dam: SM (40.5399; -80.1875)
8.7	1-79 Neville Island Back Channel Bridge, 1976	13.5	Dam tailwaters: W, S, HS, SM, WB, C (40.5514; -80.2080)
8.8 R	Greater Pgh Aquatic Club - Ohio River back channel	13.6 R	Little Sewickley Creek: W, SM, WB, M (40.5514; -80.2080)
9.1 R	Riverside Park, Glenfield	14.1 L	Flaugherty Run: SM, W, S, WB, C, HS (40.5575; -80.2173)
9.5 R	Paradise Beach - Ohio River back channel	15.4 R	Big Sewickley Creek: SM, W, WB, HS (40.5731; -80.2245)
9.6	Coraopolis - Neville Island Bridge, 1994-95	17.0 L	Two water discharges, 70 yds apart: HS, WB, S, W, SB, SM (40.5992; -80.2378)
9.7	Robert Morris University Island Sports Complex		
11 R	U.S. Coast Guard Station		
11.6 R	Chestnut Street Launch		
11.6	Sewickley Bridge, 1981		
11.8 R	Walnut Beach - Historic Site		
11.8 R	Walnut Street Launch		

(L) and (R) indicate the left or right riverbank when facing downriver.

Ohio River Water Trail

13.5	Dashiels Lock & Dam - Going downriver, approach from river left. 724-457-8430	17.6 R	Economy Run: SM, M, W (40.6024; -80.2341)
13.5 R	Morrow Pontefract Park	18.5 R	Old Lock 4: SM (40.6164; -80.2330)
13.9 L	Shouse Park	18.7 L	Logstown Run: SM, CR, M (40.6183; -80.2372)
14.2 L	Shousetown Boatyard - Historic Site	20.7 R	Old coal dock and pilings: SM, SB (40.6471; -80.2361)
15 R	Leetsdale Archeological Site - Historic Site	22.1 R	Crows Run: S, W, M (40.6666; -80.2502)
		22.5 L	Chartiers Creek confluence: M, HS (40.6719; -80.2559)
		23.0 R	Freedom Wall: M (40.6788; -80.2535)
		23.6 R	Dutchman Run: SM, W, S, M, C (40.6852; -80.2562)
		23.6 L	Near pilings: SM, SB (40.6838; -80.2585)
		25.0 L	Between Monaca Rochester Bridge and Railroad Bridge: SM (40.6964; -80.2844)
		25.2 L	Monaca Waterworks Park: SM, LM (40.6929; -80.2852)
		25.4 R	Water Plant discharge: SM, LM (40.6976; -80.2856)
		25.5 R	Beaver River to Dam: ALL (40.6964; -80.2888)
		26.1 L	Between Railroad Bridge and Beaver Valley Expressway Bridge: SM (40.6922; -80.2927)
		7.1 R	Two Mile Run: W, S, SM (40.6799; -80.3323)
		29.3 R	Lock 6: M, W, S, SM (40.6686; -80.3501)
		7.9	Raccoon Creek: LM, CR (40.6601; -80.3491)
		8.0 R	Below Pumphouse: HS (40.6628; -80.3496)
		8.6	Ohio River back channel, Neville Island Hole in lagoon: M (40.5083; -80.1322)
		8.6	Kilbuck Run confluence: SM, W, S, WB, HS (40.5158; -80.1314)
		9.5 L	Montour Run: SM, W, S, WB (40.5147; -80.1461)
		11.2	Old lock wall, rocky upstream end of wall: SM, S, M (40.5288; -80.1767)
		12.1 L	Narrows Run: SM, BS (40.5375; -80.1945)
		12.5 R	Between Sewickley Bridge and restricted zone of Dashiels Dam: SM (40.5399; -80.1875)
		13.5	Dam tailwaters: W, S, HS, SM, WB, C (40.5514; -80.2080)
		13.6 R	Little Sewickley Creek: W, SM, WB, M (40.5514; -80.2080)
		14.1 L	Flaugherty Run: SM, W, S, WB, C, HS (40.5575; -80.2173)
		15.4 R	Big Sewickley Creek: SM, W, WB, HS (40.5731; -80.2245)
		17.0 L	Two water discharges, 70 yds apart: HS, WB, S, W, SB, SM (40.5992; -80.2378)

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

LEGEND: CR - crappie, C - catfish, HS - hybrid strippers, M - muskie, LM - largemouth bass, SB - striped bass, SM - smallmouth bass, S - saugers, WH - white bass, ALL - all species.

THE HAZARDS OF PADDLING THE OHIO RIVER

The Ohio is a magnificent river. For water enthusiasts, nothing beats floating down the Ohio River in a kayak; nevertheless, many hazards exist on the Ohio River such as river crossings, commercial traffic, wind, waves, swift-river current, high water levels, and strainers. The Ohio River provides a wide range of experiences, therefore we suggest that you complete a safety class and professional instruction before paddling the mighty Ohio River. No one should attempt kayaking without proper training.

RIVER CURRENT & WATER LEVELS

Avoid kayaking at high water conditions, which cause strong currents and force debris from the banks into the river. Rainfall also increases the risk of treacherous currents and submerged debris that can cause accidents and injuries. Real time Stream Flow information available at the USGS Water Watch website: waterwatch.usgs.gov/

WIND, WAVES, & RIVER CROSSINGS

The Ohio River is very wide and it takes a considerable amount of time and effort to cross via a canoe or kayak. Once out into the river you may experience waves and choppy conditions, especially if it is windy. Due to the winding nature of the river, wind direction changes often. You can minimize the wind's influence on your boat by kayaking directly into the wind.

COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

The Ohio River is classified as federal waters, and all boaters must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard requirements. These vessels are confined to a shipping channel. Recreational boaters must yield the right of way to commercial vessels. An important constraint is the pilot's "blind spot." The blind spot extends for hundreds of feet in front of the barge. Therefore, do not canoe or kayak in the path of barges. Barges also have limited navigation due to their size and weight and therefore cannot turn or stop quickly. It can take up to three miles for a towboat to stop a string of full barges. In addition, "Wheel Wash" is a strong underwater current caused by a towboat's engines that can result in severe turbulence hundreds of yards behind a large vessel; consequently, recreational watercraft must maintain at least 1000 feet in clearance behind the rear of towboats.



RESTRICTED AREA

The section immediately above and below each lock and dam is designated as a Restricted Area. Waters in these areas are turbulent, unpredictable and deceptively dangerous. Strong currents can easily trap and drown a potential victim without warning. Signs and/or flashing red lights mark the limits of the regulated sectors at each lock and dam. No person, vessel or other floating craft shall enter any such guarded zone at any time and are subject to a summary offense and penalties. Lockmasters enforce the adherence to these laws and, if required, solicit aid from local police. In the interest of public safety, please articulate to other boaters or anglers about the hazards of lock and dam structures.

LOCKING THROUGH

- When heading downriver, the dam is difficult to see. Stay alert and keep track of your location (be visible and cognizant of others). Cross over to the correct side of the river that the lock is located on as much as one mile before you arrive and hug the shoreline. Keep an eye out for the "DANGER DAM" signs and the white and orange pillar buoys (they may be taken out of the river depending on time of year and river flow).
- Let the Lock Master know you are there by ringing the bell located at the end of the storm wall, calling them on the phone or VHF radio channel 13 or by sounding one long blast from a boat whistle followed by one short blast. Advance communication is advised. Check schedule for hours.
- Approach the lock and be aware of the following signals: Red means stand clear and do not enter, Yellow means approach lock under full control and Green means proceed to enter lock directly. The Lock Master may also signal via air horn: one long blast means enter landward lock, two long blasts means enter riverward lock, one short blast means leave landward lock and two short blasts means leave riverward lock.
- Carry aboard at least seventy-five feet of mooring line to secure your small craft safely to the lock wall. The Lock Master reserves the right to deny permission to pass through due to inadequate line. To proceed, give one end of the line to the Lock Master. He will place around the mooring hook above. Feed the rope through your hand going up/down with the water level while holding the other end securely.
- After being let up/down, wait for the Lock Master to give you an OK before proceeding. Leave at a slow and consistent speed staying close yet visible beside the storm wall. Do not stop until you are well away from the pull of the dam's current and other boat traffic.



US Army Corps of Engineers



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