

PADDLING THE FORK: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GREAT PADDLING EXPERIENCE



- Always wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Go with a group, including one person with knowledge of the section you will be floating.
- Know the ability of people in your paddling group. Be prepared to self-rescue if needed.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Drive to the take-out site prior to floating so that you can identify it from the water and know where to get out.
- Leave your vehicles locked and valuables hidden away out of sight.
- Know your physical ability and skill level before getting in on the water. Water is much stronger than you.

- Hypothermia is a serious and significant risk when the sum of air and water temperatures is less than 100°F.
- Respect private property rights while paddling by staying in Floyds Fork and not littering.
- If you are going to fish, have a valid Kentucky Fishing License and practice catch and release to help maintain this quality fishery.
- Floyds Fork is a natural stream prone to wild fluctuations in water levels and weather conditions.
- Check real-time water conditions by scanning the QR Code below. Generally, the minimum fun level for paddling is 35 cfs (cubic feet per second) on the gauge.
- Floyds Fork leaves its banks above 5000 cfs. The Parklands may close canoe access sites during flood events.

REAL TIME WATER CONDITIONS: SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE FOR CURRENT WATER LEVELS ON FLOYDS FORK.



Flow Level on USGS Gauge (cubic feet per second)	Floating Experience	Time needed to complete trip versus time estimated by 21CP	Be Aware Of
0-30 cfs	Long sections of shallows where boats must be pulled or carried	+50% in time estimates	Low water, more of a creek walk than a float.
30-200 cfs	Barely detectable current in long pools	+10% to time estimates	Boat control important as floatable water is along banks. All beaches accessible.
200-400 cfs	Moving water observed throughout stream	Float time estimates provided on interpretive materials	Higher speed water along stream banks. Plenty of beaches available for access.
400-1,000 cfs	River channel full – some islands submerged	-20% of estimated time	Small waves and riffles. Few beaches available to land boats
1,000-2,500 cfs	Fast water conditions. Nearing bank full – all islands submerged	-50% of estimated time	Fast water. No beaches available for pulling out. Floating debris possible.
+2,500 cfs	High Water Conditions - Over banking, stream into trees.	-75% of estimated time	Floating debris. Stream into the trees. Access and exit from stream difficult.
+5,000 cfs	Flood conditions.	No time expectation provided	Flood conditions.

- Floyds Fork is classified as a Class I+ (1.5) Rapid water with small rapids, waves and obstructions. The Fork may be very narrow and have many sharp turns and long stretches of overhanging trees and brush. In higher flows, trees, log jams and other strainers may be dangerous.
- Some waves may be present which, if run sideways, can swamp a canoe. Improper leans in a canoe or kayak can cause a capsiz. Boaters must have the ability to read the water, anticipate future moves and react quickly. Canoes and kayaks designed for river use are recommended.
- River running is not risk free. Unlike a theme park setting, your adventure will take place in a natural environment over which The Parklands of Floyds Fork and its partners have no control. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of river running, such as constantly changing water levels, can cause loss or damage to equipment, personal injury, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death.
- As a participant, you will be responsible for your own movement and safety while on the river. Due to the inherent nature of the sport, you will be primarily responsible for your own rescues. Check the condition of your equipment including your canoe/kayak, rescue ropes, and other river safety equipment. Users assume full responsibility for the safety of themselves while on the water.