

# PADDLING THE FORK: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE



- Always wear your life jacket. If you're under 12, it's the law!
  - Go with a group, including one person with knowledge of the section you will be paddling.
  - Know your skill and ability, as well as 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.
- 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.

## Floyds Fork is a natural stream prone to wild fluctuations in water levels and weather conditions. Water levels rise and fall quickly.

Flow Level on USGS Gauge (cubic feet per second)	Floating Experience	Time needed to complete trip versus time estimated by The Parklands	Be aware of
< 30 cfs	Long sections of shallows where boats must be pulled or carried.	+50% to time estimates	Low water, more of a creek walk than a float.
30-90 cfs	Barely detectable current in long pools.	+10% to time estimates	Boat control important as floatable water is along banks. All beaches accessible.
90-400 cfs	Moving water observed throughout stream.	Float time estimates provided on paddling route maps	Boat control important as floatable water is along banks. All beaches accessible.
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+ cfs	Possible flood conditions.	No time expectation provided.	Very fast currents, debris in water; challenge to access and exit water.

**Floyds Fork leaves its banks above 3,000 cfs. The Parklands may close access lots.**

- Floyds Fork is classified as a Class I+ (1.5) moving 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. Avoid strainers, (log jams, root balls, etc.) which can be dangerous, and hug the inside of curves for calmer water.
- Some waves may be present which, if run sideways, can swamp a boat. 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 in a theme park, 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.

**Scan QR code for more information on current water conditions.**



For emergencies, call **911**  
 For general park info, call **(502) 584-0350**  
 For a complete map of paddling routes, visit [theparklands.org/paddling](http://theparklands.org/paddling)



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