

Safety Tips

1. Consult a map and know current river conditions before boating and then file a float plan with a reliable person indicating where you are going and when you will leave and return. Remember to contact the person once you have returned safely. The rural sections of the Blanchard River Water Trail are relatively remote and isolated in places, thus offering a wilderness-like experience.
2. Be prepared for any unknown event. Know how to get to roads if you must walk out. Know the local emergency telephone numbers and know where you are along the trail in case you need to request emergency assistance.
3. It is wise to never boat alone. Do yourself a favor and take a friend.
4. Dress for the weather and water temperature. Bring an extra change of clothing with you in a waterproof bag. Pack your cellphone in the same waterproof bag with your clothes. Neoprene shoes or tennis shoes with woolen socks are recommended footwear.
5. Carry plenty of drinking water. Gatorade and chocolate milk in addition to drinking water is not a bad idea.
6. Do not overload or unevenly load your boat. Keep the weight in the boat centered from side to side and from bow to stern. The lower and closer the load in the boat is to the boat's centerline, the more stable it will be.
7. Wear a properly fitted, Class III, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket. Life jackets provide buoyancy in the event you capsize, provide protection for your torso if you fall down or hit something, and help retain body heat when water and air temperature are cold.
8. Be prepared to swim.
9. Always maintain three points of contact (e.g. two hands and one foot touching the boat) while moving around in the boat.
10. Do not attempt to stand or walk in swift water.
11. Never boat over dams.
12. Portage (i.e. carry your boat around) any section of water, hazard, or obstacle that you feel uncertain about.
13. Avoid boating in extreme weather conditions.
14. If you capsize, hold on to your boat unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in a current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.

Outdoor Ethic

Outdoor Ethic #1: Travel on durable surfaces, such as rock, gravel, and sand when launching, landing, and portaging. Avoid vegetation if possible.

Outdoor Ethic #2: Dispose of waste properly—pack it out. Plastics are especially dangerous to wildlife.

Outdoor Ethic #3: Leave what you find. Appreciate artifacts and natural objects, but leave them undisturbed.

Outdoor Ethic #4: Respect wildlife. Observe from a distance; don't feed, follow, or approach wildlife. Control pets or leave them at home.

Outdoor Ethic #5: Respect the privacy and rights of landowners. Most of the riverbank is privately owned. Obtain permission before entering.

Outdoor Ethic #6: Be considerate of others, avoid boisterous behavior, and let nature's sounds prevail. A few of the great joys associated with canoeing and kayaking on the Blanchard River Water Trail include the beautiful sounds of silence, listening to birdsong, watching deer drinking water along the riverbank, seeing the parental tactics of Canada geese and how the goslings react as you approach, watching the great blue heron float on air within the river corridor, spotting a raccoon playing a game of peek-a-boo, and if you're lucky, witnessing a mature bald eagle overhead or perched on a limb like a sentinel. These are the special moments to experience if you're quiet and if you let nature's sounds prevail.



The Hancock Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that supports the Hancock Park District's programs, parks, and recreational facilities. To learn more and to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.HancockParks.com or call (419) 425-7275.



1424 East Main Cross Street, Findlay, OH 45840
Office Phone: (419) 425-7275
General Email: hpdparks@hancockparks.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM
www.HancockParks.com

Zonta Landing Boat Rentals

Riverside Park Waterfront, Boathouse
231 McManness Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840
Phone: (419) 423-1902
(during hours of operation only)

OUTFITTER SERVICE
Spring • Summer • Fall

ZONTA LANDING
Boat Rentals



Float Trips on the Blanchard River

The Blanchard River offers relative isolation and solitude, a wilderness-like experience, and outdoor adventure. To fully grasp the Blanchard River's many moods and experiences, and to appreciate its beauty, wildness, and quality as both a natural resource and an outdoor recreation resource, a person must venture out and explore the waterway by canoe or kayak. Canoeists and kayakers will have the opportunity to see wildlife and enjoy scenic beauty. It is a wonderful way to spend quality time together in the great outdoors.

The Hancock Park District (HPD) facilitates float trips on the Blanchard River from April through October when river conditions are favorable. A variety of services are offered, including Self-Guided Spring Float Trips with HPD Shuttle Service, Zonta Landing Boat Rentals, Basic Canoeing and Kayaking Courses for Beginners, Self-Guided Fall Float Trips, Daily Boat Rentals, and Group Boat Rentals.

Basic Canoeing and Kayaking Courses for Beginners

Basic Canoeing and Kayaking Courses for Beginners are offered periodically in June at Riverside Park's Zonta Landing. Instructional content emphasizes safety, basic paddling skills, and maneuverability. The purpose of the course is to teach the fundamentals of canoeing and kayaking, increase confidence, and encourage participation in self-guided float trips on the 37.6-mile Blanchard River Water Trail.



Self-Guided Spring Float Trips with HPD Shuttle Service

In April and May, the Hancock Park District offers Self-Guided Float Trips with HPD Shuttle Service from Liberty Landing to Blanchard Landing. This popular 9.3 mile float trip is scenic with frequent bends, narrow sections, and exciting riffles with no known hazards. Wildlife sightings are commonplace. Paddlers will pass two bridges and travel along the border of the Worden Family-Indian Green Conservation Area and the south unit of Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Support facilities include parking lots, seasonal restrooms, and developed river access sites.

Self-Guided Fall Float Trips

With the closing of Zonta Landing Boat Rentals after Labor Day, self-guided float trips continue on Saturdays and Sundays throughout September and October. Float trips begin and end at Riverside Park's Zonta Landing. Canoeists and kayakers will have the opportunity to enjoy the late summer green and early autumn brilliance along the Blanchard River as they paddle upstream past the Country Club golf course, Eastpoint Area, and Vogel song Conservation Area to the State Route 568/Sandusky Street Bridge and back. The trip takes approximately two hours.

Taking care of yourself and others is your responsibility. It should be your ultimate goal, while enjoying quality time on the water, exercising, and recreating on the Blanchard River Water Trail.



Daily Boat Rentals

Canoes and kayaks can be rented for float trips on the Blanchard River within Hancock County. The transportation of watercraft is the renter's responsibility. Float trip options include short excursions, ½ day trips, and a two-day trip with overnight tent camping at Riverbend Recreation Area's campground. The daily rental rate is \$20 per canoe and \$10 per solo kayak.

Group Boat Rentals

Group float trips are ideal for families, friends, students, and co-workers who want to spend quality time together. Popular float trip options include the 9.3-mile section from Liberty Landing to Blanchard Landing and a trip that begins and ends at Riverside Park's Zonta Landing. Support facilities include parking lots, restrooms, and developed river access sites. The Hancock Park District will drop off and pick up canoes and kayaks. The transportation of participants, such as carpooling and shuttling of vehicles is the renter's responsibility. The group rental rate is \$20 per canoe or \$10 per solo kayak. A guide (if available) will be provided upon request. The guide fee ranges from \$80 to \$280 depending on the trip.



Zonta Landing Boat Rentals

Zonta Landing Boat Rentals at Riverside Park has canoes, kayaks, and pedal boats for rent on weekends and holidays from 1 to 7 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The standard boat rental fee is \$5 per ½ hour for canoes, kayaks, and pedal boats.

The Special Float Trip Option is \$20 per canoe or \$10 per solo kayak for approximately two hours. Float trips begin and end at Zonta Landing. Boating is limited to an area upstream past the Findlay Country Club golf course, Eastpoint Area, and Vogel song Conservation Area to State Route 568/Sandusky Street Bridge and back.

Watercraft Safety Rules

1. Boat rental operators must be at least 12 years of age unless accompanied by an adult (18 or older).
2. Life jackets must be worn at all times.
3. Remain seated at all times when operating the watercraft.
4. Pedal boats must stay within the old reservoir.
5. Canoes and kayaks must not enter the old reservoir and must stay away from the safety line and dam.
6. Unsafe operation, ramming, and splashing is not permitted and will terminate use without a refund.
7. Canoes and kayaks may be temporarily docked at Waterfalls Area and Eastpoint Area.
8. Do not trespass on private property.
9. Watch for flying golf balls when paddling through the Country Club golf course.
10. Boat rental operators are responsible for their rental time on the water and for taking care of the equipment. Do not litter.