

Paddle Plan - Paddle the Paw Paw @ Riverside

This plan may be modified because of weather, water or group dynamics.

Two Rivers Coalition - Sept 10, 2011

A. Paddle Route

Put In - Coloma Road Crossing of Paw Paw River @ Riverside - 0.4 mile east of I-196 Exit 4.

Take Out - Former St Joe Water Tower Location on South terminus of Upton Drive
West of Blossomland Bridge - (12 river miles)

Shuttle – Car pooling & shuttling help alleviate parking limitations at the Put In & Take Out.

Two Rivers will assist by transporting the loaner boats, planning the shuttle and leading the caravan to stage vehicles, boats and paddlers.

Paddlers are responsible for transporting themselves and their own boats.

B. Paddle Time Line Saturday, Sept 10, 2011

10:00 am - Meet at Put In - Drop boats & assign loaner boats

10:10 am - Caravan to Take Out to Stage Vehicles -

Drivers staging vehicles at the Take Outs can follow Car Spot Leader
(West on Coloma Rd - 2.1mi South on M-63 - 5.4 mi West on Klock Rd - 0.2 mi
Continue onto Upton Dr - 0.6 mi Slight left to stay on Upton Dr - 0.3 mi)

Drivers then Shuttle Back to Put In. (Late arrivals shuttle from Take Out after paddle.)

10:45 am Discuss the Paddle & Review “Paddle Safe”

11:00 am - Launch Boats

1:00 pm - ETA Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

5:00 pm - ETA Former St Joe Water Tower Location on Upton Drive

10 min after Take Out - Leave to Shuttle Drivers Back to the Put In

C. Paddle and Contact Information

This is an intermediate level paddle. Paddlers with limited experience are welcome to join us but they should be aware of the conditions unique to this section of the river. Because of the distance (12 river miles) and the lack of take out options along the way, participants need to plan on a 6 hour trip. The river does have some tree fall that will require some maneuvering from time to time. And we finish the trip with a short open water paddle under the Blossomland Bridge. A limited number of loaner boats are available. Please make arrangements in advance. If you plan to participate or have questions please contact:

Coordinator - Kenneth Nesbitt PawPawRiver@hotmail.com 269.330.1040

D. Paddle Safe

Safety is of primary concern when you are dealing with water.

If things go wrong, situations have the potential of becoming very serious, very quickly.

Continued under the **Paddle Safe** File.....**Please Review**

Paddle Safe

Safety is of primary concern when you are dealing with water.

If things go wrong, situations have the potential of becoming very serious, very quickly.

- 1. Risk Assessment - Your GoNoGo Decision** for any paddle should be based on the weather, water, your skills, training and experience, and with understanding that:
 - a. you are engaging in an activity with inherent dangers,
 - b. you accept & acknowledge you are participating at your own risk, and
 - c. you are responsible for your own safety.

- 2. Wear a Fully Secured Pfd** while on the water, for your safety and safety of the group.
Per US Coast Guard, 70% of kayak drownings may have been avoided if victim had been wearing a Pfd.

- 3. Know Your Limits.** Avoid situations beyond your abilities. If in doubt, portage or go around.

- 4. Dress for Immersion** & appropriately for weather. Carry extra set dry clothing in waterproof bag.

- 5. Bring Appropriate Safety Equipment & Gear.** And know how to use it.

- 6. This Is a Group Paddle** - Adjust your pace to that of the group to make the trip safe & enjoyable for all. **Stay behind the lead kayak & ahead of the sweep kayak. Keep boats a safe distance apart.** When approaching a challenging stretch, **Hang back & allow the boat in front of you to clear before you enter the area.** After passing through, **Wait for the other boats to clear** before moving on. **Let the lead or sweep kayakers know if you find it necessary to leave the group.** This affects the whole group, as a **'Divide the Group'** or **'Abort the Paddle'** Decision

- 7. Communication - Cell Phone in Dry Bag** is good safety tool. Signal coverage may be limited.

Local Marine Radio Communication - Channel determined at launch. First Option - Channel **68**

International Signals	Whistle	Visual	Kayak Master Talk
Where are you / I'm Here	1 blast		Howdy / Back At Ya
Come here	2 blasts	Hold paddle vertically	Round em' Up
Help	3 blasts	Hold paddle vertically - wave top side to side	Bring on the Calvary
Other Signals			
All clear - Move Fwd	1 toot	Move one arm (held above head) forward	Giddy Up
Stop	2 toots	Hold paddle horizontally	Whoa
Go this side of obstacle		Point arm or paddle towards path to follow.	Step Over Here

- 8. Think SAFE** - In Event of an Incident - **Stop Assess Formulate Execute**

- a. Know Your Limits.** Consider outside help.

Minimize putting self in a situation that increases the problem.

- b. If You Spill ... Stay Calm ...** When you surface, **Yell "Swimmer"**. **On open water**, stay with boat. **On streams**, keep upstream of the boat or let it go. **Float on your back** with feet up, pointed downstream. Work towards shore. Go over obstacles, not under.

- c. If Others Spill ... 1. Yell "Capsize" 2. Signal for Help 3. Yell "Swimmer"** when sighted. Two rescuers come forward, one taking charge as "Lead Rescue". **Rescue priorities are:**
 1. Safety of Rescuers
 2. Other Group Members Safety
 3. Assist in Rescue of Swimmer.

- d. Other Group Members** Gather a reasonable distance from the rescue and hug the shore (on streams) or bridge up (on open water). Stay attentive and be prepared to assist if requested by the "Lead Rescue".

- e. Upstream (behind) Boaters...**Two paddlers head to shore & go forward to the swimmer with throw rope rescue bags.

- f. Downstream (ahead) Boaters...**If it can be done safely, stand by to pick up swimmers & to rescue the gear & the boat.

- 9. We Are Guests in a Watery World** that is home to many other creatures.
"Treat Their Home with Respect"