During the late 17th and 18th centuries, travel was by foot and small boats. In the era when wilderness was defined by size; the topographic relief is much less pronounced. The floodplain widens and its channel doubles in size. The Scenic portion of the Maumee River runs through the Village of Grand Rapids, located in the northwestern part of Ohio. The Maumee River, named by the Miami Indians, flows through portions of Paulding, Defiance, Henry, Wood and Lucas counties. The Scenic portion of the Maumee River originates at the Ohio-Indiana state line and extends 43 miles to the U.S. 24 bridge, west of Defiance. This section is characterized by a broad meandering floodplain. Here, riversbanks rise sharply in comparison to the flat, surrounding terrain. The river banks support a healthy, forested corridor. The recreational portion, from the U.S. 24 bridge west of Defiance to the US 28 S.R. 23 bridge at Perrysburg, Maumee is 33 miles long. In this segment the river greatly changes in character. Its floodplain widens and its channel doubles in size, the topographic relief is much less pronounced, and forest cover becomes sparse. The historic and cultural heritage of this section is of major state and national significance, making it worthy of designation. In the era when wilderness reigned supreme and travel was by foot or water, the river constituted one of the chief modes of transportation. During the late 17th and 18th centuries, the Indian people moved southward and westward into the Maumee River Valley because of tribal warfare and the pressures of the European settlements. The Miami Indians were the predominant group; they settled at the headwaters of the river. Many battles of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812 occurred in the river valley, which played a decisive role in the opening up of the “Northwest Territory” for settlement. The Maumee River, once a part of the Great Black Swamp, underwent extensive drainage to yield vast, fertile, agricultural lands, a part of the landscape that remains today. Indeed, this major river of northwestern Ohio constitutes an important historical and cultural resource for the citizens of Ohio.

The Maumee River Watershed is over 5,500 square miles and drains some of the richest farmland in Ohio. The agriculture community continues to work with local, state, and federal organizations to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the river. Coupling these agronomic practices with conservation buffers have yielded reductions in sediment and phosphorus pollution. Precision farming and conservation tillage practices are being implemented throughout the watershed. Specifically, no-till farming has increased dramatically and has assisted in protecting the river. Development of new residential areas is on the rise and stormwater runoff from urban areas can be a serious threat to the river if not properly managed.

The mission of Ohio’s Scenic Rivers Program is to preserve the natural qualities of Ohio’s finest streams to present and future generations may experience their natural beauty and value. The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program works with citizen groups and all levels of government to identify and protect the best of Ohio’s waterways. Many people make a direct contribution each year to preserve Ohio’s scenic rivers. Volunteers regularly assist in litter cleanups, tree plantings, stream bank stabilization projects, and stream quality monitoring. On-going reforestation efforts beautify rivers and play a fundamental role in protecting the quality of our river ecosystems.

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The information contained in this map is believed to be accurate. Neither Metroparks Toledo or ODNR are responsible for any inaccuracies. Interpretation and use of the map and its contents are the responsibility of the user.

For more information:
Metroparks Toledo metroparkstol.com
ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft watercraft.ohiodnr.gov
ODNR Division of Wildlife wildlife.ohiodnr.gov
ODNR Paddle Ohio paddle.ohiodnr.gov
Wood County Park District woodcountyparkdistrict.org
USGS Water Data waterdata.usgs.gov

Disclaimer
Outdoor Ethic

Dispose of waste properly——pack it all out!

Travel on durable surfaces——rock, gravel, and sand. Use existing, improved access sites. When using a natural river bank to launch your boat, stay clear of vegetation or mud.

Stay on the trail while portaging (carrying your boat).

Leave what you find. Appreciate artifacts and natural objects but leave them undisturbed.

Prevent spreading invasive species, including live bait, by completely cleaning vegetation or mud.

Respect wildlife——observe from a distance. Know where you are along the trail at all times.

Know how to get to roads if you must walkout.

Never boat alone

Wear a life jacket at all times, particularly in moving water. By law, children under 10 must wear life jackets of an appropriate size.

File a “float plan” with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return. Remain on the river’s edge until your boat returns safely.

Be aware of motorized boats, especially close to shore, unless wearing bright colors for visibility, always point your boat into the wake to avoid capsizing.

If you capsize, hold onto your boat until it presents a life-threatening situation. Position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.

Carry plenty of drinking water

Avoid overheating and guard against extreme weather conditions.

In case of emergency call 911. Know where you are along the trail in case you need to request emergency assistance.