



Geauga Park District Watercraft Rental

SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS

PARTICIPANTS MUST READ THESE RULES BEFORE PADDLING A RENTAL BOAT. READING AND FOLLOWING THESE RULES MAY REDUCE (BUT NOT ELIMINATE) RISK OF A SERIOUS ACCIDENT. **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IS THE KEY TO SAFETY!**

GENERAL USE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

If you do not meet these criteria, you may not be able to rent a Geauga Park District boat.

- **NO SWIMMING** in East Branch Reservoir
- Paddlers must be **18 years old** to rent boats.
- Paddlers must **complete and sign a waiver**.
- Paddlers must **wear life jackets at all times**.
- Paddlers must **wear a shirt while wearing life jackets**.
- Paddlers must **read the following rules and regs**.
- Participants must **weigh at least 30 pounds** to safely fit our life jackets.
- **No children under the age of 3 years old**.
- **Ages 10 and old can paddle on their own**.
- Participants max weight depends on boat type. (see below)

Please note that restrictions are based on our equipment: life jackets and watercraft. Some people may not be able to paddle if our equipment does not fit properly.

- Staff will also provide paddles.
- Headwaters Park Boathouse staff will provide a PFD (Personal Flotation Device) for each person that will be on a Geauga Park District watercraft. If you bring your own PFD, staff will confirm that it is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and fits properly.
- Every boater is responsible for the care and proper handling of all Geauga Park District property. You are responsible for any damage or injury caused to you or other boaters by your actions.

WEIGHT LIMITS & Fleet numbers

Kid boats max weight 150 lbs. (2)

Solo boats Loons 275 lbs. (6) and Vapors 325 lbs. (10)

Tandem Kayaks 500 lbs. (2)

Canoes 650 lbs. (4)

Paddle Boats 750 lbs. (2)

MEDICAL WARNING/RESTRICTIONS

- **Swimming is prohibited** in Headwaters Park East Branch Reservoir.
- **DO Not enter restricted areas:** stay 500 feet away from the dam, 100 feet from the eagle's nest, and do not enter wildlife preserve north of Mayfield Rd.
- **Dogs are not permitted on/in watercraft**.
- **No smoking, use of drugs, alcohol, or cooking is permitted** in Geauga Park District watercraft.
- **No coolers allowed**.
- **Participants must complete and sign a waiver**.
- **Participants must wear life jackets at all times**.
- **Participants must read the following rules and regs**.
- **Boats are rented for 2 hours MAX pre day**.
- **No rentals are allowed within 30 mins of hearing thunder**.

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

Paddlers under the age of 16 years old must be supervised by an adult while on the water.

All paddlers under the age of 18 years old are required to have their parent or legal guardian sign a waiver.

By participating in this activity, you acknowledge that you have received and read these Safety Rules of Participation and agree to follow them at all times.

BEFORE YOU HIT THE WATER

- A waiver must be filled out. It must include the name and signature of everyone riding on the watercraft (adults must sign for children under 18 years of age).
-Your driver's license will be held until your watercraft is returned and confirmed clean and in good condition and all supplies/equipment are returned.
- -Properly fit and secure your life jacket. Life jackets must be worn at all times.

WHILE ON THE WATER

- **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PROPERLY WEAR THEIR LIFE JACKETS FOR THE DURATION OF THE TRIP AT ALL TIMES.** Note: It is hard to put on a life jacket after you fall out of the boat.
- **No Switching boats without a signed waiver**
- **No Standing in Canoes/kayaks/Boats.**
- No exiting boats on the shoreline except for the beach launch area, by order of the City of Akron.
- If you have an Emergency: call 911

Recreation

Recreation at East Branch Reservoir is managed by the Geauga Park District and includes boating, fishing, bird watching, rustic camping, hiking and horseback riding trails through Headwaters Park.

East Branch Reservoir is 420 acres with 7.5 miles of shoreline. Paddling on the can be challenging under certain conditions. You are responsible for your own safety.

Boating is welcome on East Branch Reservoir but is limited to electric motors only.

Some areas of East Branch Reservoir have been classified as “No Trespassing” areas. These areas are marked on signs in the water.

East Branch Reservoir is considered a “no contact” lake. Swimming for both humans and pets is prohibited.

- Payment for any damage or lost items will be made upon the return of the watercraft.

Note: This document is repetitive on purpose.