



# Paddling on the Charles River in Waltham

## Powerboats

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- Powerboats travel in the deep-water channel (generally near the river's center).
- Avoid powerboats by moving to shallower water (generally closer to shore).

## Rowing Shells

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- Shells are fast!
- Shells can't see other boats well.
- Avoid shells by moving to shallower water.

## Dams

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- Do not paddle under Moody St. Bridge next to our dock or Rt. 16 Bridge in Wellesley.
- Review our free map for dam locations.

## High Water

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- Paddling above the white golf course footbridge is hazardous during high water.

## Waves

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- Stay low in the boat. Sit or kneel.
- Turn into the waves.
- Keep paddling!

## Wind

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- Try paddling into the wind first — it may be harder than it looks!
- Paddle along the shore that will protect you from the wind.

## Lightning

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- Check our weather forecast before you go.
- Go to shore and secure your boat.
- Find shelter.
- Wait for conditions to improve.
- Notify us, if possible, at (617) 965-5110.

**Make sure you can see others,  
and that others can see you!**

## Keep a Lookout

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- Always watch for other boats.
- Look behind you for faster boats.

## Crossing the River

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- Choose a crossing area that has an unobstructed view in both directions.
- Wait until both directions are clear.
- Cross straight to the other side.

## Bridges

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- Don't stop or linger near bridges.
- Canoes and kayaks should line up, single file, until well clear of the bridge.

## About to Collide?

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- Stop or turn your boat to avoid collision.
- If practical, steer toward shore.
- Signal intentions to the other boater.

**PFDs Float — You Don't!  
You must wear your lifejacket at all times.**