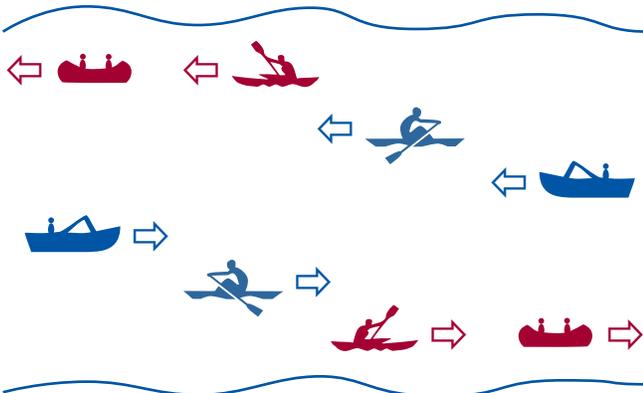


Paddling on the Charles River

Boats

- Always keep a lookout for other boats.
- Look behind you for faster boats.
- Paddlers should stay closer to the right hand shore.
- Boats follow this general traffic pattern:



Duck Boats and Tour Boats

- These boats move slowly and are difficult to maneuver, so you should stay out of their way and yield to them.
- If they quack at you, quack back!

Rowing Shells/Crew Boats

- Shells (crew boats) are fast!
- Shells don't stop or turn quickly.
- Shells can't see other boats well.
- Yell "HEADS UP ROWER" to safely let a rower know where you are.

Sailboats

- Boats under sail have the right of way.
- Sailboats may not see you (many are learning to sail or racing).
- Sailboats can move quickly and it's hard to predict their course.

Powerboats

- Powerboats move quickly.
- Powerboats generally use the center of the river, but may approach the shore.
- Canoes and kayaks should avoid the center except to cross.

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

Crossing the River

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

Limited Shoreline Access

- In many places, walls make it impossible to get onto the shore from the river.
- Waves reflecting off these walls become bigger and more confusing.
- Review our free map for these locations.
- Avoid these areas

**Life Jackets Float – You Don't!
You must wear your Life Jacket at all times.**

Instruction ♦ Sales ♦ Kids' Programs ♦ Corporate Outings ♦ Birthday Parties

PaddleBoston.com



Paddling on the Charles River

Waves

- Don't paddle right along shore — the waves there are bigger. Stay 10–20 feet offshore.
- Stay low in the boat. Sit or kneel.
- Turn into the waves.
- Keep paddling!

Wind

- Try paddling into the wind first — it may be harder than it looks!
- On windy days, the river can be very choppy with large waves.
- Wind speeds generally increase in the afternoon.
- Return to the rental center before it gets too rough!

About to Collide?

- Use your paddles in the water to stop.
- Alter course to avoid the other boat (generally to the right.)
- Use your whistle to attract attention of the other boater.

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

Bridges

- Don't stop or linger near bridges.
- When passing under bridges, line up single file until well clear of the bridge.
- Paddle close to shore under the bridge.

Narrow Channels

- When passing through a narrow channel, stay single-file and as far right as possible.
- Don't stop or linger in the channel.

Lightning and Thunder

- Check the forecast before you paddle.
- Go to shore and secure your boat.
- Find shelter.
- Wait for conditions to improve (we won't charge for waiting).
- Notify us, if possible.

If You Capsize

- Stay with your boat.
- Your lifejacket will keep you afloat — but only if you are wearing it.
- Swim the boat to shore.
- Consider taking a paddling class from us, where you'll practice rescues and more!

The River is Wide!

- Paddlers who capsize in the middle of the river may be unable to swim to shore.
- Stay close to shore and avoid areas where you cannot access the shore.

Charles River Locks & Dam

- The new Charles River Locks & Dam is located east of the Zakim Bridge and separates the river from Boston Harbor.
- Unless you have made a Harbor Rental reservation you **may not take rented boats through the locks** and onto Boston Harbor.
- Stay far away from the locks and dam if you are not passing through.
- Watertown Dam is at the other end of this stretch of river, beyond Galen St. Bridge.

Please put these numbers in your phone in case you need assistance:

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON: 617-396-1375

KENDALL SQUARE: 617-335-0487

