



The Ohio River Challenge 128 miles on the Ohio River In a 10-person Voyageur Canoe



Cincinnati to Louisville 128 miles – **June 6 to 9, 2019** – 4 days

River City Paddle Sports, REI Cincinnati and the Ohio River Recreational Trail Committee are seeking kindred spirits to paddle 30-foot-long voyageur canoes the full distance from Cincinnati, Ohio to Louisville KY on the Ohio River Recreational Watertrail. It will be long days and at times before dawn or night paddling on the beautiful Ohio River. Each evening we will camp in Rivertown campsites, a truck and trailer will meet us on the river carrying all the gear.

All the group equipment, canoes, paddles, life jackets, transportation and meals will be provided.

- Have an adventure paddling 128 miles on the Ohio River Recreational Trail.
- Learn about and document the historical, ecological and cultural Ohio River sites.
- Assist the Ohio River National Water Trail initiative by: 1) Assess each public access site using the National Park Service protocols. 2) Collect photos, videos, drone videos and narrative descriptions for the Ohio River Digital Guide.
- Visit the River towns of Cincinnati, Aurora, Rising Sun, Vevay, Carrollton, Madison, Westport and Louisville.
- Promote Paddlesports and the Ohio River Recreational Trail to all River towns.

The four-day trip is a fundraiser for the Ohio River Recreational Watertrail and a service project to collect the local data, photos and stories while being a true adventure on the river. Each participant must raise or donate \$325 dollars for the 4-day trip. The donation can be in cash or in part in-kind services. Participants must provide their own camping and personal equipment, we will be canoeing many miles each day, at times up to 10 hours at a stretch.

Participants must be physically healthy, in good shape and in good spirits!

Visit www.rivercitypaddlesports.org and click on Ohio River Recreational Trail to complete the application so you can be considered as part of our crew.

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Many thanks for our Campground Hosts



Many thanks to our Sponsors



For more information, contact The Ohio River Recreational Trail committee co-chairs:
Dr. David Wicks at dwicks1@gmail.com or Brewster Rhoads at brewohio@gmail.com

The Ohio River Recreational Trail

We envision two segments of the Ohio River Recreational Trail covering **274 miles** from Portsmouth, Ohio to Louisville, KY.

Section A: 115 miles from Portsmouth (Ohio River Mile 356) to Cincinnati (Ohio River Mile 471) including the Meldahl and Markland U.S. Army Corps pools

Section B: 159 miles from Cincinnati (Ohio River Mile 471) to Louisville (Ohio River Mile 630) including the Markland, McAlpine and Cannelton pools

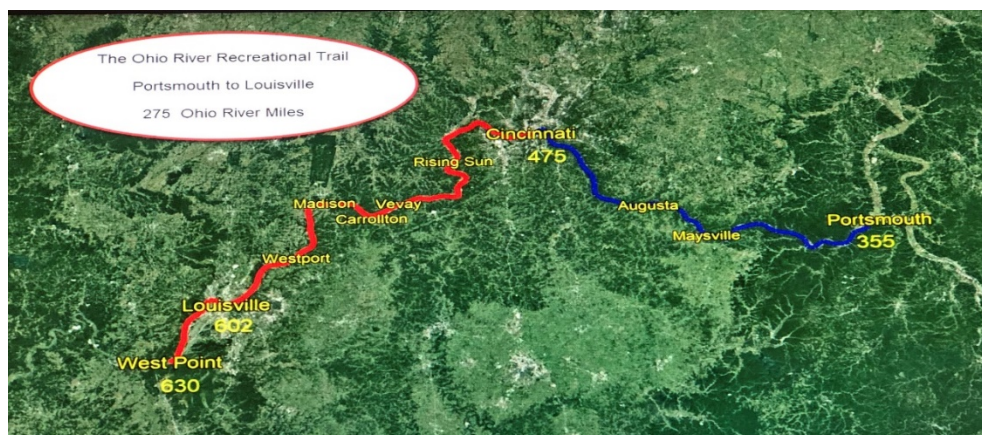
The Ohio River Recreational Trail planning will use the U.S. National Park Service standards as identified in the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The committee includes representatives from river communities, boating, cycling and paddling organizations/businesses, travel and tourism bureaus, river-based businesses, federal, state and local agencies, economic development officials, entertainment venues, etc.

The Ohio River Recreational Trail will:

- Promote tourism, safety, respect for private lands, and a “Leave No Trace” ethic while facilitating both long distance and local paddling, power boating, fishing and cycling along the Ohio River
- Provide increased access to the Ohio by collaborating with local governments, recreation organizations and commercial user groups
- Coordinate with county and municipal travel and tourism entities to ensure the largest possible impact on retail, lodging and food sales while providing a high-quality experience for paddlers, cyclists, anglers and boaters
- Work with the state wildlife and natural resources agencies in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio to promote Ohio River fishing, boating, hunting, cycling, bird watching and nature appreciation

2019 Initiatives:

- A mobile friendly, map-based “Digital Guide to the Ohio” website that would provide information about real time river conditions (stage, temperature, current, water quality, commercial traffic, etc.) plus locations of marinas, fuel docks, boat ramps, river access points, bike trails, historic sites, barge “sail line”, campgrounds, pump out stations, entertainment venues, breweries, wineries, riverfront restaurants, etc
- River City Paddle Sports will sponsor two Ohio River Voyageur Canoe Trips - Portsmouth to Cincinnati June 1 to June 5, Cincinnati to Louisville: June 6 to June 9. [Registration/application – www.rivercitypaddlesports.org](http://www.rivercitypaddlesports.org)
- Public Access Points (or “Trail Heads”) identified with branded Recreational Trail signage and informational kiosks Identify organizations doing Ohio River education and research.
- Partner with ORSANCO and Ohio River Basin Alliance in the development of the Ohio River Basin Strategic Plan
- A marketing and branding plan to promote the Trail using social media, special events, earned media, signage, etc
- Make application to have the Ohio River Recreation Trail be a dedicated water trail in the National Park Service’s The National Water Trails System.



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