

BEFORE YOUR PADDLE



Essential River Rules & Etiquette

- **Launch & Take-Out Etiquette:** Be efficient at boat ramps; rig your boat away from the ramp to avoid blocking others.
- **Right of Way:** While paddling has specific rules, generally, downstream traffic has the right of way as they have less maneuverability. Yield to larger, less maneuverable boats.
- **Group Management:** Keep your group together, especially in tight or fast-moving water. If a faster group approaches, pull over to let them pass.
- **Angler & Shoreline Respect:** Give anglers a wide berth and avoid paddling through their fishing
Property Rights: Do not trespass on private property.
Use only established public access points. If you get out of your boat, you are trespassing if it is not marked as a public access point.
- **Safety First:** Wear a properly fitted PFD (life jacket) at all times. There must be a PFD in the boat for every person 13 and older. 12 and under **MUST** be wearing theirs at all times on the water.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Pack out all trash, including fishing line and waste. Respect wildlife and do not disturb natural surroundings.

Key Safety Measures

- **Be Prepared:** Know your limits, check water levels, and dress appropriately for the weather and water temperature.
- **Stay Alert:** Watch for hazards like strainers (fallen trees/log jams), bridge pilings, and changing currents. REPORT hazards by texting 706.466.9014 with a photo, if possible, and drop a pin.
- **Avoid Alcohol:** Do not paddle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**



Scan the **QR code**
to find out if the river is
SAFE to use. Georgia River Guide App