

Paddling Today?

If you are thinking about putting your paddle craft in at one of the Boone County Conservation District canoe/kayak put-in / take-out sites at Distillery Road Conservation Area or County Line East Conservation Area, please check the Realtime Data from the United States Geological Service's stream gage for the Kishwaukee River. You can access this information to see the current water level and flow conditions by following the link below.

For Realtime Data at the Belvidere Stream Gage Station for the Kishwaukee River:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?site_no=05438500

There are two graphs on this site:

1. The first graph shows the current volume of flow in cubic feet per second as a blue line charted across the graph. Note that the current flow is the latest point plotted on the far-right hand side of the graph. The median daily statistic discharge is shown by yellowish-orange triangles plotted across the graph. Comparing the difference between these two values will provide you with the perspective about whether the volume of flow in the river is higher or lower relative to the median value for the current date.
2. The second graph shows how deep the water is at the stream gage. This is depicted as gage height in feet. So, water flowing past the gage is shown as the gage height in feet. The current value is the end of the blue line plotted on the graph at the right edge of that graph.

For your safety, we stress that you should – **Know Before You Go!**

- ✓ Always wear a properly fitted Personal Floatation Device – commonly known as a life jacket! This means everyone!
- ✓ Take precautions for safety with first aid, proper clothing for the weather and water temperature conditions; and bring plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- ✓ Check your craft and equipment to be sure everything is in good conditions.
- ✓ The American Canoe Association has excellent brochures and information available on their website: www.americancanoe.org

Remember - only you can decide whether your skills as a paddler are appropriate for the river conditions on any given day. People who have not successfully taken an accredited American Canoe Association or equivalent course for paddling rivers and streams are encouraged to do so before paddling. We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable experience while out paddling the Kishwaukee River. If you and your paddling partners take a class you will discover a whole new level of appreciation and enjoyment! The Kishwaukee River and its tributaries are unmanaged, natural, river systems with dangerous strainers and currents. Paddling this river system is entirely at your own risk!

The Kishwaukee River is one of the highest quality streams in the state of Illinois! It is a “*Unique Aquatic Resource*” and you can help keep it that way by following the principles of Leave No Trace! Check this link to learn more: <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>.

Have a Great Day Paddling!

