



River Safety

The North Saskatchewan River is a hallmark of Edmonton's landscape. It is used all year round for activities such as: canoeing, kayaking, fishing, gold panning and more. However, the river can also be unpredictable so it is important to prepare accordingly.

Did you know? Under the City of Edmonton's revised Public Spaces Bylaw: 61(1) A person must wear an approved lifejacket or personal floatation device at all times while in, on, or holding on to any vessel being used as a means of water transportation on the North Saskatchewan River or other body of water.

Before you leave home:

- Tell someone about your trip plans, including the route, your companions and scheduled return. If anything happens they can call emergency services.
- Check the general weather report and know how it might impact your activity.
- Figure out the river depth/flow stats at rivers.alberta.ca
- Pack necessary safety equipment, first aid kit and personal items. Ensure items are sealed in a waterproof bag.

Prior to entering the water:

- Evaluate the water conditions and make sure your boating and swimming abilities are compatible.
- Put on your personal floatation device. It does not work if you're not wearing it and it's required.
- Ensure you're in compliance with Transport Canada guidelines or any COE bylaws or provincial regulations.

On the water:

- Know your limitations and do not go further than you are comfortable.
- Do not drink alcohol or take drugs.
- If your boat turns sideways against an obstruction (water intake, large rocks, drift-piles etc), try to face your boat downstream to avoid tipping over.
- If you see lightning, go to shore right away.
- Give other vessels and any waterfowl a wide berth when passing.



Visit edmonton.ca or call 311 for more information.

Boating Safety Checklist:

Did you know? Anything that floats is considered a vessel. This includes canoes, kayaks, Paddleboards, Human powered vessels, Inflatables e.g. Floating Islands, air mattresses, and any inflatable device, as well as a rowing shell six meters or less must carry a;

- Personal flotation device of appropriate size for each person on the vessel
- Buoyant heaving line 15m in length
- Paddle or an anchor with 15m of cable, rope or chain
- Bailer or manual pump
- Sound-signaling device like a whistle or air horn; and
- Flashlight if operating during periods of low daylight.

Let's make this a safe and enjoyable summer on the river for everyone this year. edmonton.ca/riversafety

