

Wading River and Oswego River Water Trails

Wharton
State Forest

PADDLE SMART & SAFELY

CANOE AND KAYAK ACCESS ONLY

Wading and Oswego Rivers are winding, shallow waterways with many underwater obstacles causing hazardous conditions. **Inflatable tubes, paddleboards, swimming and motor boats are not permitted.**

BE PREPARED

Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a cell phone in a waterproof bag. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return.

WEAR A LIFE VEST

It is the one piece of equipment that will save your life. NJ State Law requires children 12 and under to always wear a U.S. Coast Guard

approved personal flotation device (PFD). Everyone must wear a PFD from November 1 to May 1 when on a canoe or kayak under 26 feet in length. Please put on your properly fitted PFD before getting into your boat.

KNOW THE WATER CONDITIONS

Water levels can change making it unsafe to paddle. Check the levels to know when to go and when to wait for another day. For real time river levels visit USGS National Water Dashboard - <https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/> and select your location.

BE SMART

Alcohol is not permitted on state park property; violators will be prosecuted.

If you paddle while impaired, you may not notice a hazard or remember how to handle an emergency. **Stay sober.**

PADDLE WITH FRIENDS

You can help each other build paddling skills and offer assistance when someone needs it. Learn if your friends can swim and if anyone has first aid skills.

KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

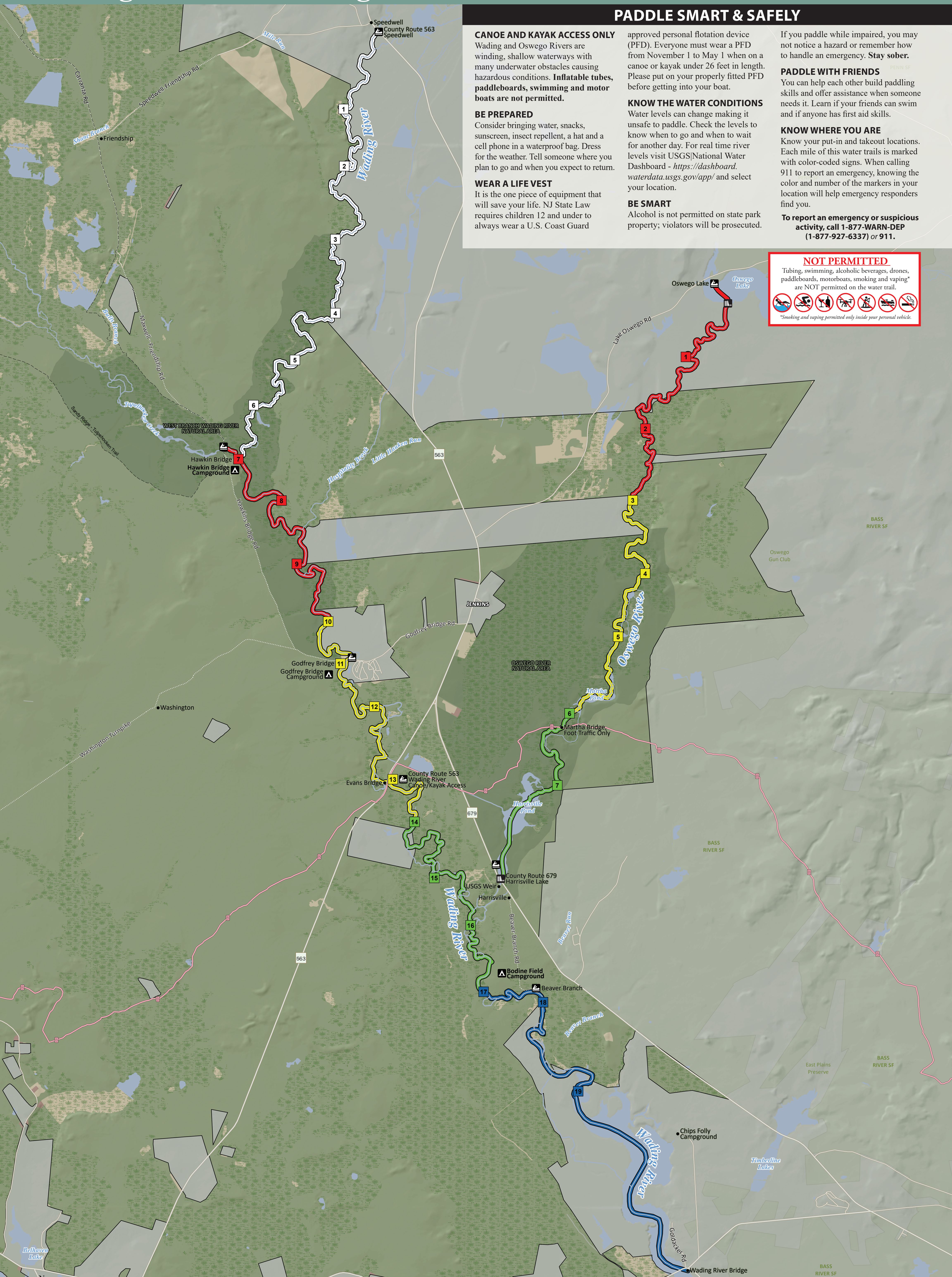
Know your put-in and takeout locations. Each mile of this water trails is marked with color-coded signs. When calling 911 to report an emergency, knowing the color and number of the markers in your location will help emergency responders find you.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.

NOT PERMITTED

Tubing, swimming, alcoholic beverages, drones, paddleboards, motorboats, smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted on the water trail.

*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.



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|---------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Forest | Water | River Mile Marker | Batona Trail | Campground |
| Open Field or Grass | Wetland | Gravel Forest Routes | Trails | Canoe Launch |
| | | | | Dam |
| | | | | Place Name |