Tradewater River Conditions

River depth and flow rates on the Tradewater River vary throughout the year, so always check river conditions before planning your excursion.

Here are some tips to make planning your Tradewater River paddling adventure easier and safer:

- The Tradewater River is generally traversable when water flow is above 250 Cubic Foot Per Second (CFS), with ideal flow being above 400 CFS.
- **Be Advised: If the Tradewater River is out of its banks, please stay off the river due to safety concerns.**
- A large rain in the Crofton, Kentucky area will affect the Tradewater River depth and flow rate in the Dawson Springs area, since most of the feeder creeks are located in the upper river basin.
- The five-mile section from McKnight Road to the Tradewater Canoe and Kayak launch site is very dependent on the runoff from the upper river basin. A minimum river flow of 100 CFS is recommended from McKnight Road to the Tradewater Canoe and Kayak launch site, with a flow rate over 150 CFS being ideal.
- The two-mile section from the Tradewater Canoe and Kayak launch site to the Mill Dam is generally floatable due to the water held bank by the Mill Dam. This is an ideal section of the river to enjoy if you're new at kayaking or if you have small children. The staff at Tradewater Canoe and Kayak are helpful to contact about this section of the Tradewater River.
- If you plan to paddle the Tradewater River below the Mill Dam, please use caution as log-jams are possible and portaging may be required.
- The river widens as you proceed further downstream, so more CFS is necessary. From the Mill Dam to Olney, a minimum of 250 CFS is recommended, with a CFS of 350 preferred. These flow recommendations are preferable all that way to Towery Bridge.
- **Be Advised: The Tradewater Water is in an isolated area with NO CELL PHONE SERVICE being available in some places along the river**.
- The only river gauge on the Hopkins County portion of the Tradewater River is located at Olney; a link the river gauge and CFS information is here: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=03383000