

ACTION 5C

Little River Prospectus for Economic & Recreation at Cadiz KY

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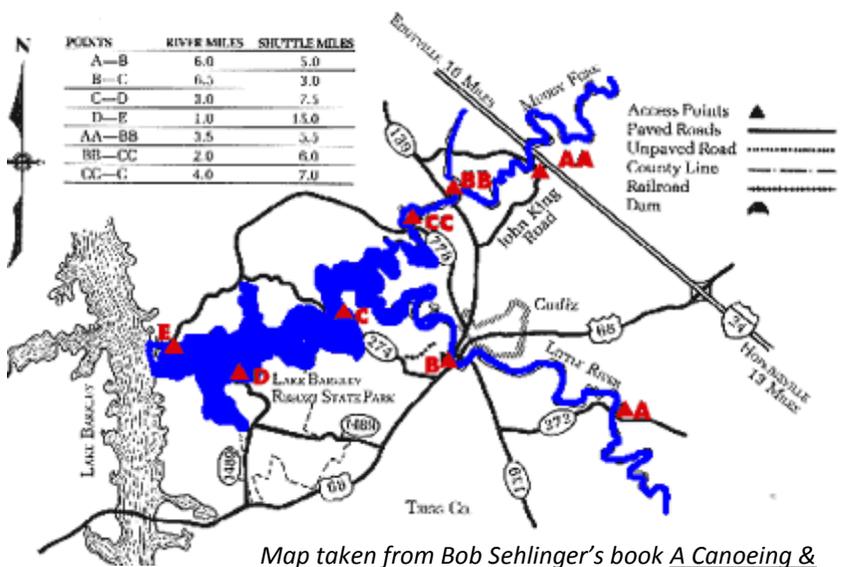
The Little River runs through Cadiz, KY enroute to Lake Barkley. By the time it reaches Cadiz, very little current exists. It is essentially a backwater of Lake Barkley which means it is a very slow-moving stream with little current by the time it reaches Cadiz.



Very little current on the Little River through Cadiz

However, if one accesses the Little River six miles upstream, a nice canoe trip is available most of the year and a mild current aids the paddler on a scenic trip downstream. The upper section of the Little River is winding and tree-lined with some giant, virgin timber. Terrain is hilly and rolling and surrounding hillsides are steep with some exposed rock visible. A few dead-falls exist during this section requiring the boater to get out of their craft and negotiate river-wide strainers (fallen trees). The put-in for this short trip is a steep mud bank near KY 272. And the entire trip to Cadiz may be completed in less than 4 hours (6 river miles).

LITTLE RIVER AND MUDDY FORK



Map taken from Bob Sehlinger's book A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky.



Access from the bank near KY 272 is very steep and muddy.



River Access at Cadiz River Park

A nice access for motorized boat use is available at the Cadiz River Park. This access is also fine for non-motorized craft like kayaks and Stand-Up-Paddle Boards (SUP) which are growing in popularity and fairly inexpensive to purchase. Heading downstream (to the right at the access) one can reach Lake Barkley in less than an hour of paddling. The river widens and flattens as one approaches the lake.

Economic Prospectus

For a business to be viable using the Little River as the paddling resource would require excellent management and salesmanship. This is not a great river to float downstream and paddle because it requires one to paddle continuously to get anywhere. However, the river is a backwater of Lake Barkley which is a great fishing destination. Successful business ventures must capitalize on the fishing.

Fishing Kayaks have become far and away the number one sale items among paddling craft in recent years. A business capitalizing on this mode of paddle craft has a great resource in the Little River and its excellent Cadiz Riverfront Park access. Additionally, the new “hands-free” kayak models work well in rivers with little current. A business that focuses primarily on this type of paddle craft and emphasizes fishing as its selling point could definitely be successful.

Another possible business opportunity would be to “ride the wave” by developing a concessionaire utilizing Stand-Up-Paddle Boards (SUP). This novelty sport is one of the fastest-growing trends in paddle sport. SUP has been growing in popularity in the Midwest but has become well-established as a popular paddling venue on both coasts.



Stand-Up Paddle Boards

In summary, the key to developing a successful business involving any form of paddle sport must capitalize on fishing. This is the way the retail market has headed. Rentals of Kayaks, canoe and SUP are always a possibility but this area has not been a historically good destination for downstream float tripping.

Suggested paddling gear list:

Participants are recommended to bring the following items in a book bag with a garbage bag for waterproofing or waterproof bag:

- Sunblock
- Lunch/snacks
- Water
- Shoes that may be waded in (*flip-flops not recommended*)
- Rain gear & warmth layer



A trolling motor would be nice...