

LOCK 6

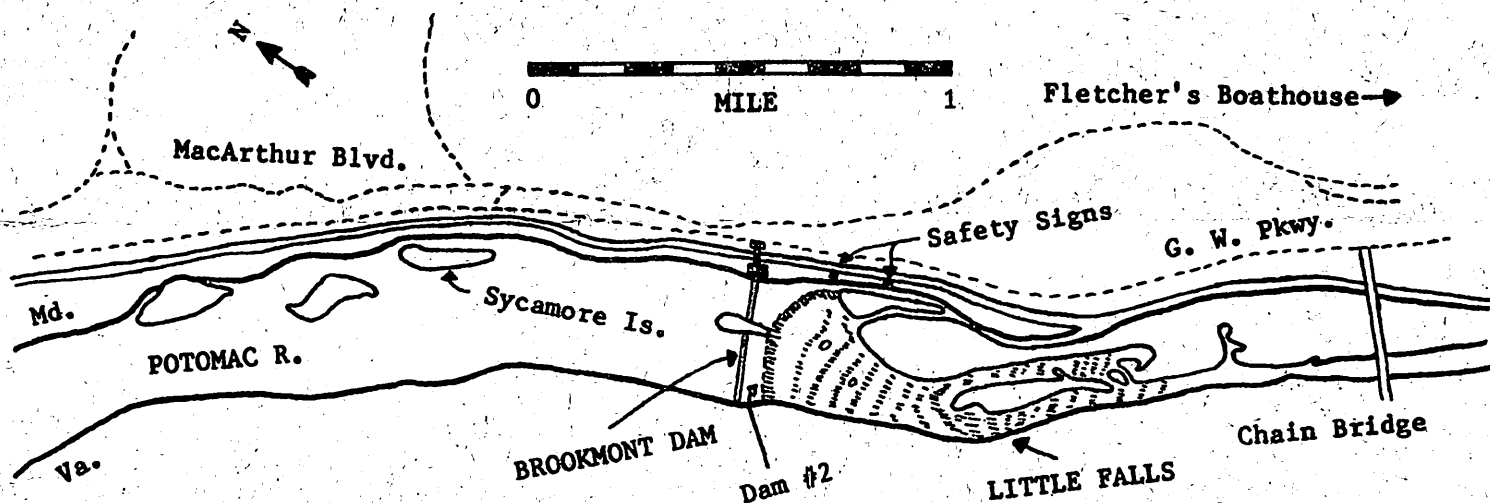
This is one of the most hazardous and potentially DEADLY sections of the Potomac River and accounts for several tragedies and rescues each year.

Immediately upstream is the Little Falls Pumping Station, a massive concrete structure situated between the C&O Canal and Potomac River. Connected to the pumping station and stretching the entire width of the river is BROOKMONT DAM, A DEATHTRAP! Designed as a reversal dam, the inherent danger is not immediately obvious due to the small vertical drop. Reversal currents trap and circulate objects, making self-rescue impossible and assisted rescue extremely perilous. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RUN BROOKMONT DAM AT ANY WATER LEVEL!!!!

Downstream of the pumping station is a rocky low water dam that can be carefully navigated with sufficient water level. If you are unfamiliar with this area, be SURE to first identify Brookmont Dam.

Approximately ½-mile downstream is Little Falls of the Potomac, a major and extremely hazardous section. Due to violent turbulence and irregular hydraulic phenomena, this rapid is NOT RECOMMENDED FOR OPEN BOATS. It should be attempted only by persons with considerable whitewater expertise and only in the company of persons experienced with its changeable character.

Water levels: The Brookmont Dam should not be attempted at any river level! The Little Falls become very hazardous at more than 4.2 feet. At levels of 6.0 feet and above, the risk factor is EXTREME. River level recordings are available in feet, tenths and hundredths by dialing 899-3210.



Most incidents of drowning or what will at best be a harrowing experience are caused by ignoring a few basic tenets of safe boating. An awareness of these concepts will enable you to enjoy and appreciate one of the last bastions of personal adventure, the solitude of tranquil waters or the power of a raging wilderness river.

WEAR A LIFE JACKET !

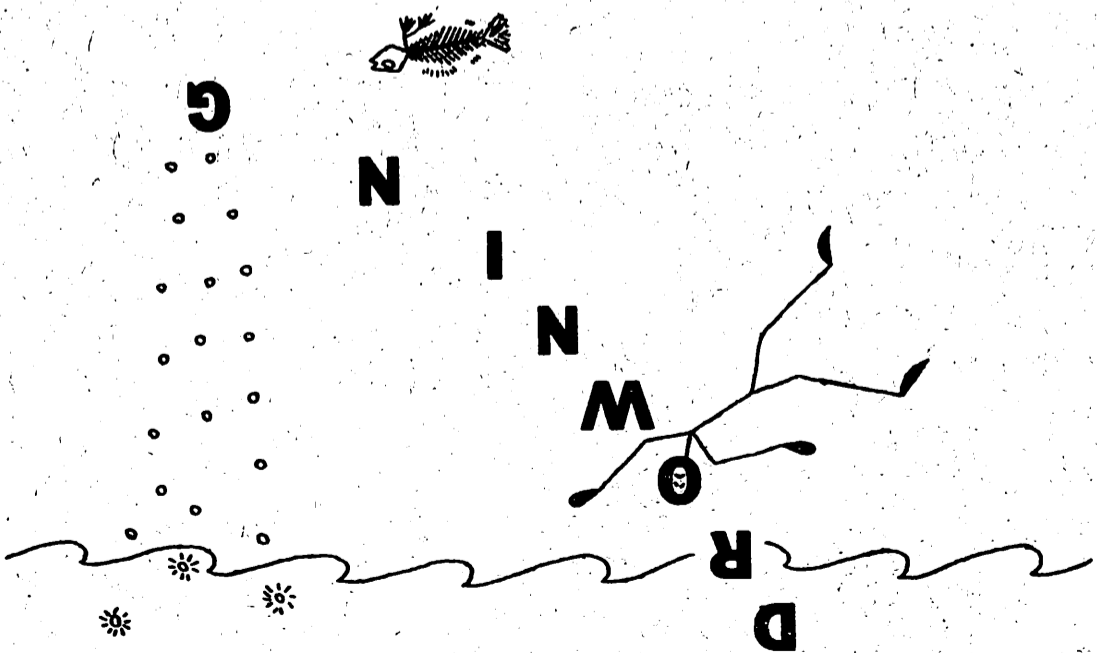
BE A COMPETENT SWIMMER !

BE AWARE OF RIVER HAZARDS !

REMEMBER: COLD WATER KILLS !

For additional information, contact the National Park Service, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, 11710 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, Maryland 20854 (301) 299-3613, -2945 or -4159.

MATTER



SAFETY IS NO