

Bull Creek

Bull Creek has similar gradients and a drainage area similar in size to that of Swan Creek, but it carries less water and much less of it is floatable. It is one of the clearest streams in the Ozarks, yet it provides good fishing for both smallmouth and largemouth bass. The latter inhabit the deep pools where spatterdock grows.

Difficulty: mostly I and II.

Gradient: fairly constant at about 10.

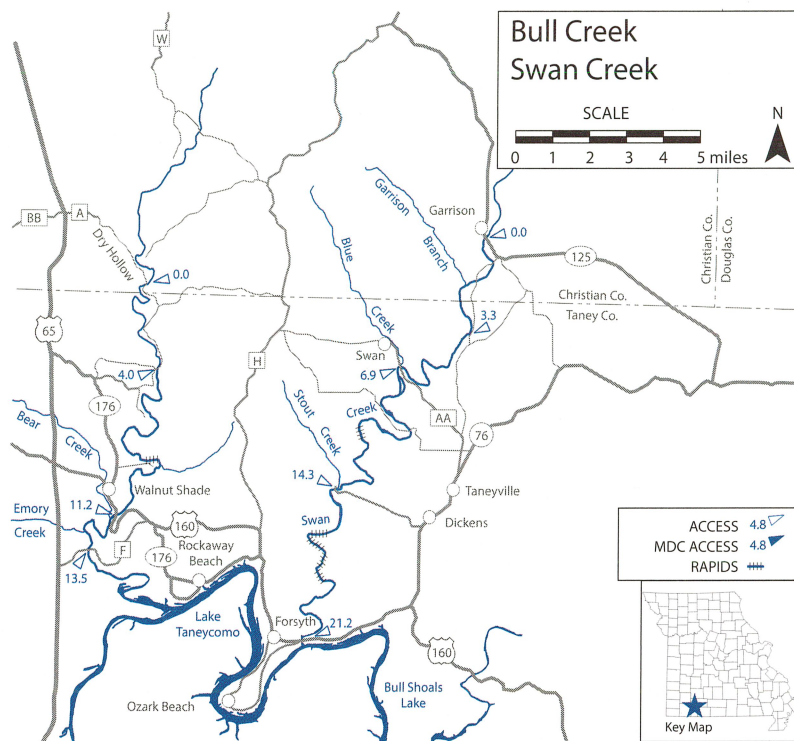
Counties: Christian, Taney.

- 0.0 Access in high water only on Dry Hollow Road off Route A (Chestnut Ridge Road).
- 4.0 Access from north end of Round Mountain Road Bridge. Parking available on access road on east side of Round Mountain Road.
- 8.8 Channel to left bypasses falls, which is runnable only in high water.
- 8.9 Falls. Shady Rapids Road on right off Hwy. 176. Gettman Hollow Creek on left.
- 11.2 Hwy. 160 Bridge at Walnut Shade. No parking allowed on the county road upstream from this bridge.
- 11.4 Bear Creek, a major tributary, on right.
- 12.9 Emory Creek on right.
- 13.5 Route F Bridge. No parking on state highway. Access via drainage ditch on MoDOT property next to bridge.

Swan Creek

Although only about 21 miles of it is navigable, Swan Creek is one of the favorite runs of Missouri whitewater paddlers. In normal summer water, this small creek is more a float-wade-fish stream than a whitewater run, but heavy rain brings it up quickly due to the fact that some of its tributaries drop rapidly. Don't camp on the stream if the weather looks threatening. If you are in the area at the time of a heavy rain, consider a run on Swan. As the creek comes up, it produces heavier waves rather than smoothing out. The day following a heavy rain is often an ideal time to run it, but if you run it in an undecked canoe or open cockpit kayak, plan to do plenty of bailing or dumping out.

A rule of thumb for determining floatability in more normal water would be to inspect the gravel fields upstream from Old Forsyth or at Garrison to see if there is enough water there to float a canoe or kayak. If there is, you can make it; and the fly fishing in this clear stream is surprisingly good. Garrison to Old Forsyth is a long day's run in normal water. For a half-day run start at the low-water bridge at the end of Dickens Road.



Difficulty: normal water I and II; high water II and III.

Gradients: general — 10.2; Garrison to Swan — 10.5; to Dickens Road — 9.8; to Forsyth or lake — 10.5.

Counties: Christian, Taney.

- 0.0 Hwy. 125 Bridge access at Garrison. Creek seldom navigable above this point.
- 0.9 Ford on Peace Road off Hwy. 125.
- 1.6 Ford on Peace Road. Private property. No access.
- 2.0 Garrison Branch on right.
- 3.3 Cromwell Road along creek on left. Access.
- 6.8 Blue Creek on right.
- 6.9 Route AA Bridge access just south of Swan. Creek becomes more challenging below this point in high water.
- 9.2 Ford on Cook Road. Private property. No access.
- 11.5 Riffle. Rough in high water.
- 14.1 Stout Creek on right.
- 14.3 Hull's Ford low-water bridge access at end of county road from Dickens, which is 2.8 miles east. No parking available on the county road. Riffles below bridge.
- 15.2 Rapids in high water.
- 16.9 Stream constricted, producing roller rapids in high water.
- 17.9 Begin series of three "stairstep" rapids when water is high.
- 18.9 Strawberry Road Bridge. Hwy. 160 is 1.5 miles west. Bull Shoals Lake may be backed to this point.
- 21.2 Shadowrock Park (Forsyth). Confluence of Swan Creek and White River. Access. Restrooms. Parking. Camping (fees).