

Current River

The Current and Jacks Fork rivers are protected waterways that make up the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, a national park. This park is operated by the National Park Service (NPS). The Current River may be floated at almost any time of the year, particularly below Welch Spring, because it is the most spring-fed of all the Ozark rivers. On hot summer weekends, the river is usually crowded. Weekdays floats are much more peaceful. The size of the river increases below Big Spring, south of Van Buren, on national park lands. Most canoe and kayak trips are made on the sections above Big Spring due to greater motorized use downstream. In general, camping is allowed on gravel bars anywhere along the Current or Jacks Fork rivers, except private property, or within a mile of developed campgrounds.

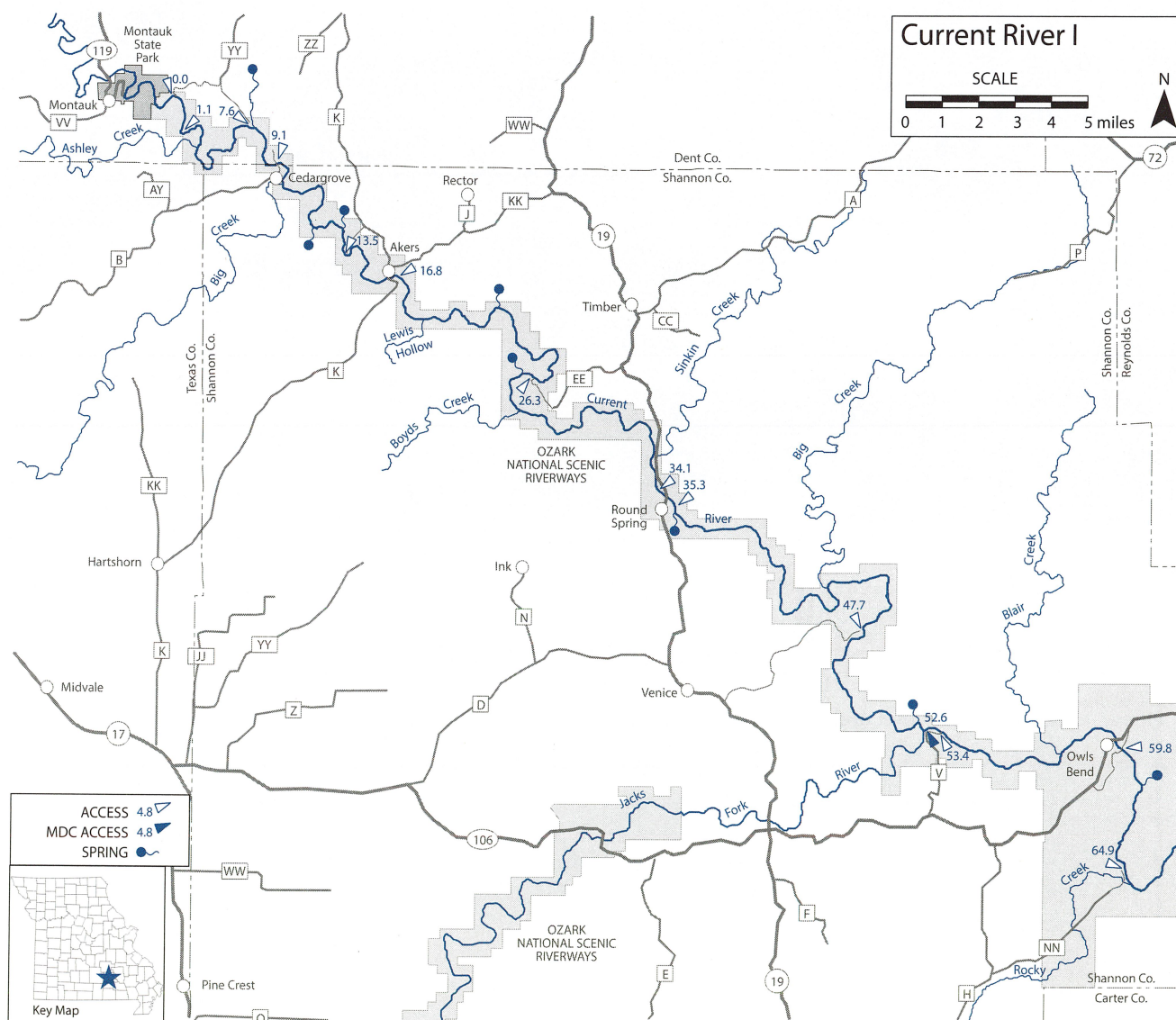
Difficulty: I, occasionally II.

Gradients: general — 4.4; Montauk to Akers — 8.7; to junction of Jacks Fork — 5; to Big Spring — 3.8; to Doniphan — 3.2.

Counties: Dent, Shannon, Carter, Ripley.

Current River I

- 0.0 Tan-Vat River access (NPS) on left off County Road 667.
- 1.1 Baptist Camp access (NPS) on county road off Route YY.
- 4.4 Ashley Creek on right.
- 7.6 Parker Hollow access (NPS) on left, fed by Schafer Spring 1.2 miles upstream.
- 9.1 Cedargrove access (NPS). Low-water bridge and campground.
- 10.0 Big Creek on right.
- 12.7 Medlock Spring on right.
- 13.1 Welch Spring (NPS), sixth largest in state, on left.
- 13.5 Welch Landing access (NPS).
- 16.8 Akers Ferry access (NPS) on Route K. Campground and store.
- 18.9 Lewis Hollow (NPS) on right at ford.
- 22.0 Cave Spring on left. Water at back of cave is 120



feet deep and comes from Devil's Well via nearby Wallace Well Cave. Devil's Well, a sinkhole more than 200 feet deep and partly filled with water, is one mile north of Cave Spring.

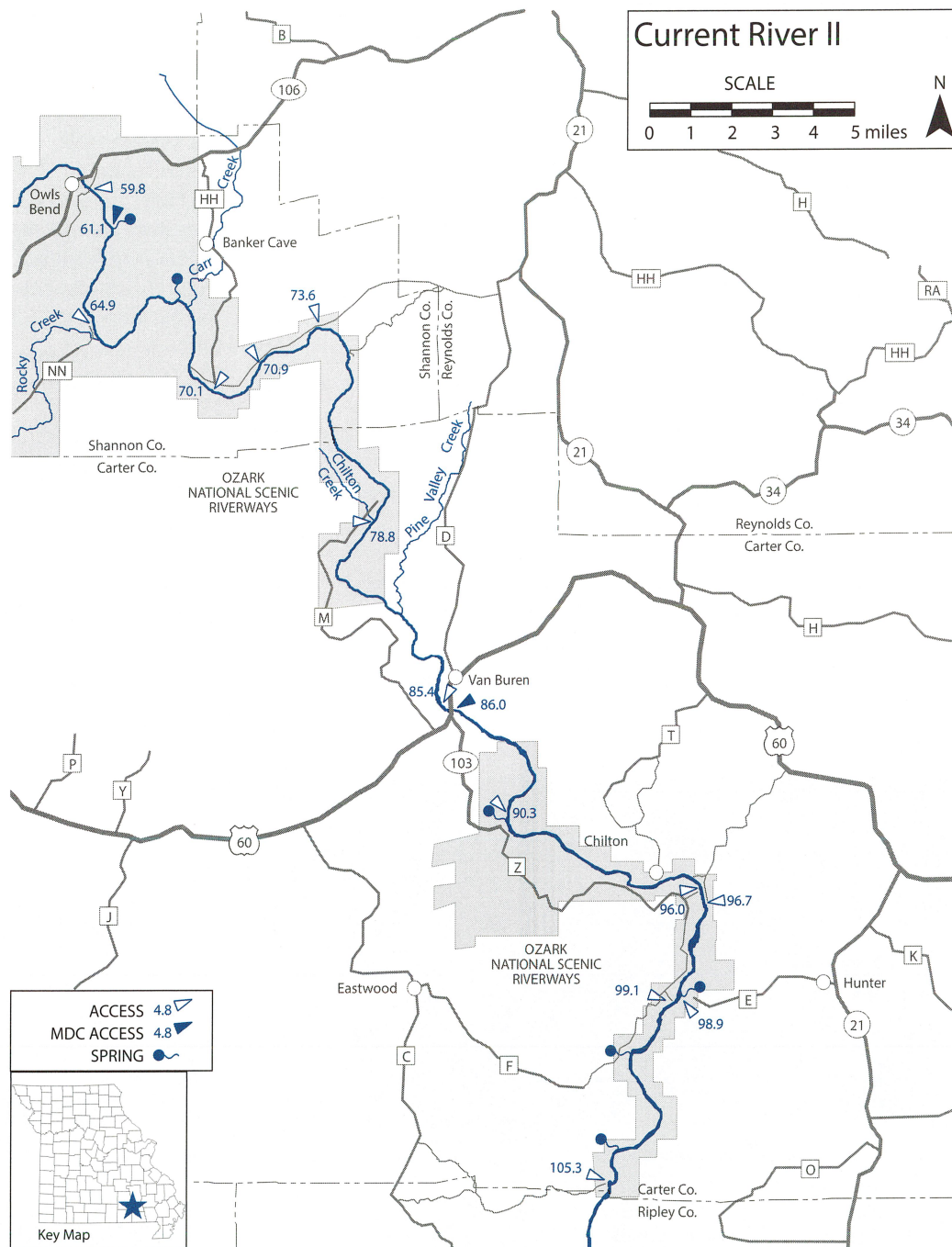
- 24.3 Rock House Cave on right. A meander of a cave, cut off by the deepening river valley, it is now more like a natural bridge than a cave and makes a good shelter.
- 26.3 Pulltite access (NPS). Campground and store.
- 27.1 Pulltite Spring and branch on right. Just below on the same side of the river, are several other minor but interesting springs, one of which is the "Fire Hydrant Spring" gushing from a small cave in the bluff.
- 28.1 Boyds Creek on right.
- 31.3 Current River State Park (DNR) on left. No official access. Park is open in the summer for day-use activities.
- 33.8 Sinking Creek enters on left. By putting in at the low-water slab on County Road 19-252, 1.6 miles east of Highway 19, 3.8 miles of the creek can be floated in good water. Gradient is 10 feet per mile. No public parking area. There is no place to leave your vehicle here without being subject to trespassing.
- 34.1 Upper Round Spring access (NPS).
- 35.3 Lower Round Spring access (NPS), campground, spring and cavern.
- 43.6 Big Creek enters on left.
- 45.8 Bee Bluff on left.
- 47.7 Jerktail Landing (NPS) on right, on county road off Hwy. 19. Access and campsite.
- 52.2 Ebb and Flow Spring, reached by walking 0.25 mile up creek on left.
- 52.6 Jacks Fork River enters on right. [Two Rivers Access](#) (NPS). Campground and store. ▲ ➡
- 53.4 Old ferry site, access and campground.
- 57.3 Blair Creek on left.
- 59.5 Hwy. 106 Bridge.
- 59.8 Powder Mill (NPS), an old ferry site, with access and campground.
- 61.1 Blue Spring, ninth largest in the state, has deepest blue color. Reached by a 0.25 mile walk up its branch on the left.
- 64.9 Roberts Field access and campground (NPS). Rocky Creek enters on right. Rocky Falls, 3 miles southwest of this point, is a scenic attraction of the area.



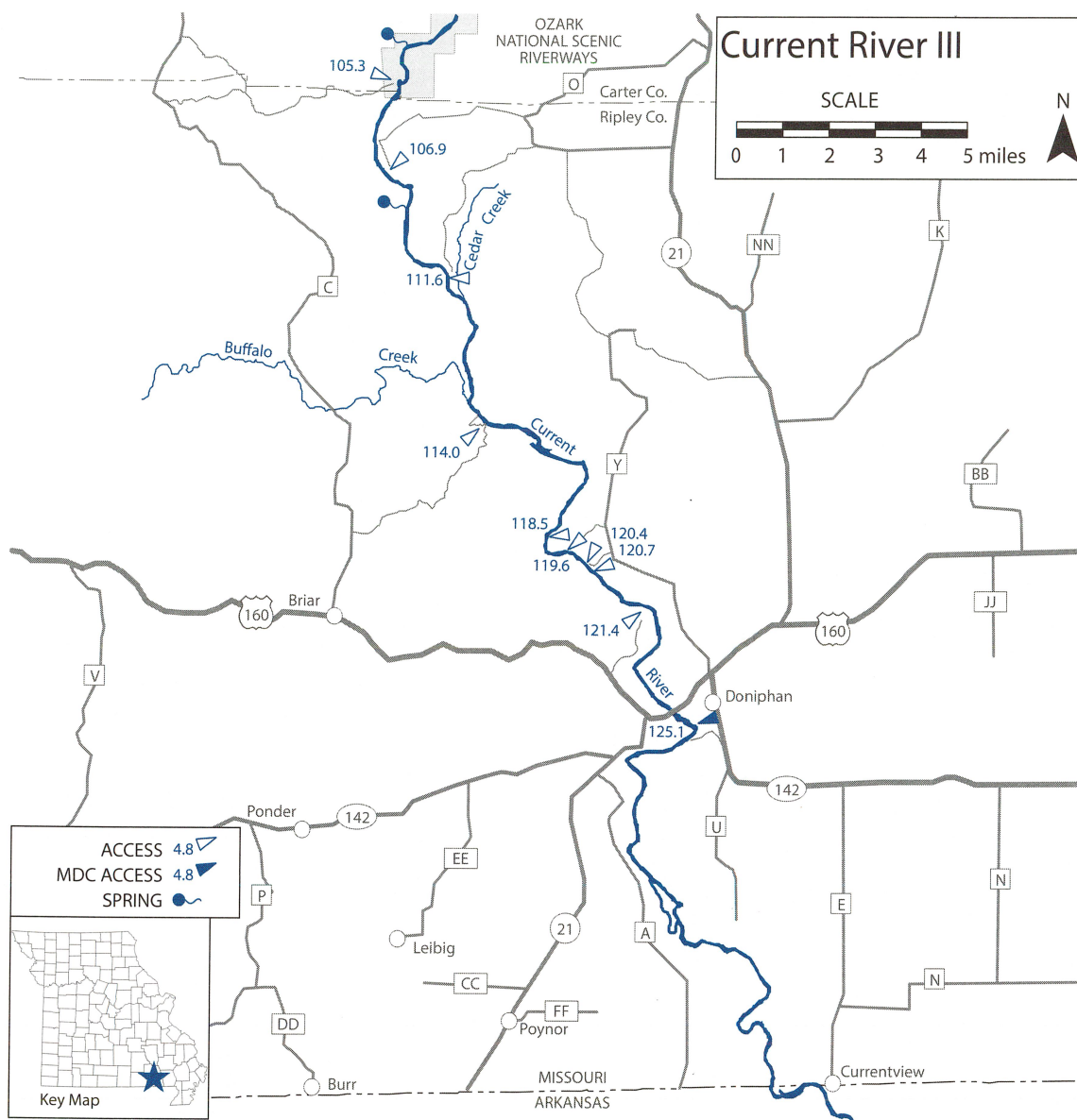
Current River by Jim Rathert

Current River II

- 59.8 Powder Mill (NPS), an old ferry site, with access and campground.
- 61.1 Blue Spring, ninth largest in the state, has deepest blue color. Reached by a 0.25 mile trail along its branch on the left.
- 61.1 Blue Springs/ Rocky Creek Access on right. Gravel bar put-in.
- 64.9 Roberts Field access and campground (NPS). Rocky Creek enters on right. Rocky Falls, 3 miles southwest of this point, is a scenic attraction.
- 67.2 Spring on left.
- 67.7 Carr Creek and Cardareva Mountain on left.
- 70.1 Log Yard (NPS) access and campground on left.
- 70.9 Beal Landing access (NPS) on left.
- 73.6 Paint Rock Bluff access (NPS).
- 78.8 Waymeyer access (NPS) on right at mouth of Chilton Creek, on County Road M-151 off Route M.
- 82.6 Pine Valley Creek, also called Henpeck Creek, on left.
- 85.4 Watercress Recreation Area (Forest Service). Access and campground. Concrete ramp.
- 86.0 [Van Buren Riverfront Park Access](#) (Van Buren) and Hwy. 60 Bridge.
- 90.3 Big Spring access and campground (NPS). One of the largest springs in the world.
- 96.0 Big Tree access and primitive campground (NPS) on right, off Route Z.
- 96.7 Clubhouse Landing access and campground (NPS) on left, on County Road 60-221 off Hwy. 60.



- 98.9 Hickory Landing. Access from Route E at Hunter. Cave Spring-Jordan Spring Branch on left. Jordan Spring, 0.5 mile and Cave Spring, 1 mile up branch.
- 99.1 Cataract Landing (NPS) on right. Access on County Road Z-217, off Route Z and Hwy 103.
- 101.4 Panther Spring on right.
- 104.3 Bog Hollow (NPS). Phillips Bay and Spring on right. Spring about 0.25 mile from river.
- 105.3 Gooseneck campground (NPS) on right. Access on Forest Road 3142-County Road C-10, off Hwy. C. National Park Service management ends at this point.



Current River III

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| 105.3 | Gooseneck campground on right. Access on Forest Road 3142-County Road C-10, off Hwy. C. National Park Service management ends at this point. | 120.4 | Concrete ramp. Access from Ripley County Road Y. Float Camp Recreation Area (Forest Service). Access from Ripley County Road Y. |
| 106.9 | Bay Nothing Access (Forest Service) on left. Primitive camping. Gravel ramp. Access on Forest Road 3140. Bagamaw Bay on right. | 120.7 | Float Camp Recreation Area (Forest Service). Campground. Access from Ripley County Road Y. |
| 108.8 | Big Barren Creek on right. Twin Springs 0.75 mile up creek. | 121.4 | Dunrovin (Forest Service) on right. Primitive camping. Access on Forest Road 4819-Ripley County Road 160 W-7, off Hwy. 160. |
| 111.6 | Cedar Creek (Forest Service) area on left. Primitive campsite. | 124.9 | Hwy. 160 Bridge. |
| 113.8 | Buffalo Creek on right. | 125.1 | T.L. Wright Memorial Access (Doniphan) on left. Private campgrounds nearby. Stores, meals, lodging in Doniphan. |
| 114.0 | Compton Camp (Forest Service) on right. Primitive campsite. Gravel boat launch. | 130.9 | Big Island. |
| 118.5 | Deer Leap Recreation Area (Forest Service) on left. Campground. Access from Ripley County Road Y. | 136.1 | Goose Lake, a lake-like pool of the river. |
| 119.6 | Deer Leap Recreation Area (Forest Service). | 137.4 | Missouri-Arkansas state line. |