

Gasconade River

The Gasconade River, probably named for French settlers from the province of Gascony in southwestern France, is reputed to be one of the most crooked rivers in the world. Located entirely within the State of Missouri, the river winds nearly 300 miles from its source near Hartville to the Missouri River, which is about 120 miles away as the crow flies. In an area near Waynesville, you can float for 15 miles and be only two miles overland from your put-in.

Although it has less gradient than some Ozark rivers, the Gasconade River has some surprisingly fast sections, yet is still a good, safe, family float stream. Because the river flows through the Mark Twain National Forest, contact the

Forest Service for maps showing where camping and other services are available. See Page 99.

Author Dru Pippin describes the Gasconade River well in *The Rivers of Missouri* when he says, "...steep bluffs, gorgeous cuts, hairpin turns, and lazy eddies; hardwoods, softwoods, and dogwoods, hidden logs, protruding boulders that weathering has tumbled from adjacent cliffs, wildflowers and shrubs, birds and bees, four-legged creatures quenching their thirst at my water's edge, while listless white clouds float above as though convoying my trip."

Sections above Competition are suitable only for spring or other high-water periods, unless you want to walk the riffles to fish the inviting pools.



Gasconade River by Jim Rathert

Gasconade River I

Difficulty: I, seldom II.

Gradients: general — 2.6; Hwy. 38 to Grimes Mill — 6.2; Competition — 4.1; to Hwy. 32 — 3.2; to Hwy. 66 — 3.1; to Hwy. 7 — 2.7; to Hwy. 17 — 2.4; to Big Piney River — 2.6; to Indian Ford Bridge — 2.2; to Hwy. 89 — 1.8; to Hwy. 50 — 1.7; to Missouri River — 0.8.

Counties: Wright, Laclede, Pulaski, Phelps, Maries, Osage, Gasconade.

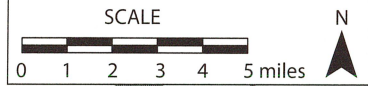
- 0.0 **Camp Branch Access.** Gravel ramp. Two and one-half miles east of Hartville on Highway 38.
- 9.3 Low-water bridge on Route E. Spring in bluff on left, just upstream from bridge.
- 9.8 Whetstone Creek on right.
- 10.4 Grimes Mill. Old milldam makes good rift in medium to high water. Some good, fast water between here and Manes.
- 11.8 **Buzzard Bluff Access,** off Route E. ▲ ➡
- 16.9 Route H Bridge.
- 19.0 **Wilbur Allen Memorial Conservation Area,** off Hwy. 95 on Radford Drive. ▲ ➡
- 22.2 Burney Ford.
- 24.6 Ford access on Kincheloe Drive.
- 25.2 Beaver Creek on right adds a considerable amount of water to river.
- 25.6 Spring branch on left.
- 27.4 Elk Creek on left.
- 28.9 Watch for log jams and for stumps in riffles between this point and Route O Bridge.

- 29.9 Route O Bridge. No access.
- 30.8 Mayfield Spring Access (Forest Service) located off Berry Road off Route Z.
- 32.8 River divides. Left channel usually best, but check.
- 35.2 Dougan Bridge on Route AD.
- 40.3 Dry Branch Access (Forest Service). South of Falcon off Hwy 32, Vintage Road south to Carter Road.
- 42.5 Hwy. 32 Bridge. No access.
- 44.2 Lodge and spring on left. Fast riffle just below.
- 45.8 Spring on right.
- 46.4 Spring at base of bluff on right. Begin long pool.
- 49.1 **Anna M. Adams Access.** East of Lebanon on Hwy. 32, north on Route K, east on Dawn Road. ➡
- 53.1 Forest Service Access on Flagstone Road, off Route K.
- 57.5 Forest Service Access on Forest Road 372.
- 62.7 Barlow Ford, crossable in low water. Gravel access.
- 68.6 Bridge. Road connects Routes K and AB. Private resort on right.
- 72.1 Junction with Osage Fork on left.
- 72.9 Old Hwy. 66 and I-44 Bridge. **Hazelgreen Access.** ➡
- 76.3 Cliff Spring on left shown.
- 77.6 Spring up right bank.
- 81.9 Hwy. 133 Bridge. No access.
- 82.1 Old Hwy. 133 Bridge site. Limited access on left.
- 90.0 Hwy. 7 Bridge. **Mitschele Access.** ➡
- 93.1 Red Bluff on left.
- 94.1 Rochester Road Bridge off Hwy. 7 at Ozark Springs.



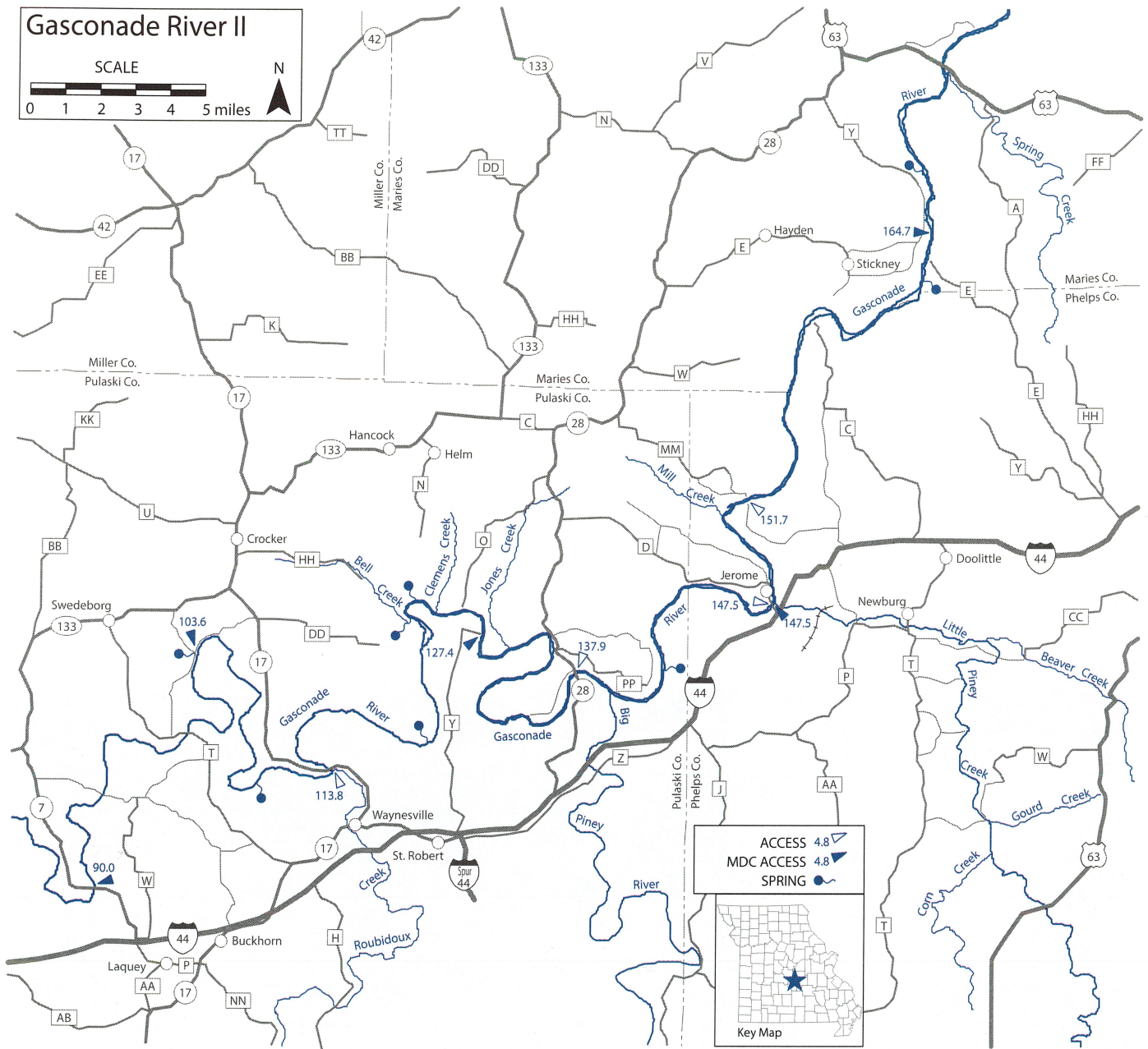
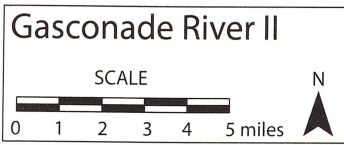
Gasconade River, Pulaski County by Jim Rathert

Gasconade River I



Gasconade River II

- 90.0 Hwy. 7 Bridge. [Mitschele Access](#). ➡
- 93.1 Red Bluff on left.
- 94.1 Rochester Road Bridge off Hwy. 7 at Ozark Springs.
- 98.4 Route T Bridge. Poor access because of steep bank.
- 100.7 The Narrows. Only 0.2 mile across, but 6.5 miles around by river.
- 103.5 Schlicht Spring branch on left is site of former grist mill.
- 103.6 [Schlicht Springs Access](#) on Riverside Road off Hwy. 133. ▲ ➡
- 107.7 East side of The Narrows. Small spring at base of bluff.
- 109.9 Rock slide on right. Bear left. Narrow channel at normal flow. Navigation may be tricky. Possible portage conditions.
- 110.3 Falling Spring, behind rock dam up short branch on right, has flow of 1-5 million gallons.
- 110.7 Creasy Spring (Bubbling Spring), on the left, has a flow of 12-15 million gallons per day, but is flooded when the river is high.
- 111.3 Bartless Mill Spring branch on right. The spring is on the private property and has only about half the volume of Creasy Spring, but was used to operate a grist mill.
- 113.8 Roubidoux Creek on right. Hwy. 17 Bridge. Undeveloped gravel bar access. Roubidoux Creek has been floated in its upper reaches, but much of its water goes underground so that sections above Roubidoux Spring are nearly dry except in times of run-off. The spring has a flow of from 3-47 million gallons. The three miles of creek below it are floatable only during the spring.
- 116.0 Bridge piling in middle of channel.
- 120.6 Harrison Spring 0.3 mile up branch on left. Private.
- 123.1 River divides. Main channel is on left.
- 123.9 Bell Creek on left. Left branch of creek is a spring branch from Wheeler's Mill.
- 124.4 Spring on left at base of bluff.
- 125.5 Clemens Creek on left.
- 127.0 Yellow Bluffs on left.
- 127.2 Private access.
- 127.4 [Riddle Bridge Access](#) on Route Y. ➡
- 129.1 Jones Creek on left.
- 130.4 River divides at Portuguese Point, one of the most scenic areas on the Gasconade. Bluffs along bend are approximately 250 feet high.
- 134.4 Mossy Spring 0.2 mile up branch on right.
- 135.3 Private campground on left.
- 137.9 Hwy. 28 Bridge. Gravel bar access.
- 139.2 Big Piney River confluence on right.
- 141.2 Boiling Spring at edge of river is a second magnitude spring with a flow of 42 million gallons per day but is submerged when the river is high. Pay-per-use access and camping.
- 144.1 Emerald Lake outlet on left.
- 147.5 Route D Bridge. Access on either side of river. Jerome 0.4 mile up road on left. Stores, cabins. Little Piney River enters on right, just below bridge. New [Jerome Access](#) on right between bridge and Little Piney River. ➡
- 147.7 St. Louis-San Francisco R.R. Bridge.
- 151.0 Mill Creek on left.
- 151.7 Table Rock, large mushroom-shaped rock in river. Old Whitehouse Ferry site. Access. End of County Road 8500.
- 153.1 Sugartree Hollow and cottages on right.
- 159.2 Thox Rock, square rock in river.
- 163.2 Private lodge on right. Spring down road.
- 163.7 End of Route E.
- 164.7 [Bell Chute Access](#) on County Road 513, off Route Y. ▲ ➡
- 167.8 Johnson Island. Right channel impassable.
- 168.0 Parker Spring on left.
- 170.3 Spring Creek on right.
- 170.5 Hwy. 63-28 Bridge.
- 172.0 Private access at resort on left.



Gasconade River III

- 172.0 Private access at resort on left.
- 177.0 Indian Ford. Private access. Hwy. 42 Bridge.
- 185.1 [Paydown Access](#) on left. Paydown settlement 0.7 mile up Mill Creek on right. Paydown Spring 0.5 mile farther up the branch, once supplied power for two grist mills and the Bray Woolen Mill. ▲ ➡
- 189.1 Fish Hollow. Private access.
- 191.5 Revis Rock; large rock in river.
- 192.9 Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R.R. Bridge. Private access on County Road 636.
- 194.9 Daggetts Ford. County Road 634 off Hwy. 63 parallels river here. Private access.
- 195.8 Meyers Spring on left. 0.1 mile from river at northeast end of Cave Bluff. Private.
- 200.9 Hwy. 89 Bridge. [Rollins Ferry Access](#) on left. High land at west end of bridge was once encircled by a 9-mile oxbow loop of the river. ▲ ➡
- 206.5 Lovett Island
- 208.3 Owens Creek on left.
- 208.8 [Pointers Creek Access](#) on left. ▲ ➡
- 210.5 Miller Island and Deer Slough (behind island) on left.
- 211.5 Lower end of Deer Slough at Cedar Bluff.
- 213.2 Massie Island.
- 214.1 Third Creek and [Cooper Hill Conservation Area](#) access on right off Route D. Good canoe/kayak access. ▲
- 217.3 Mt. Sterling Bridge on Hwy. 50. River slow below this point.
- 220.3 Contrary Creek on left.
- 226.6 Krueger Ford. Road on right to Hwys. K and 50.
- 228.6 Koelling Islands near right bank.
- 231.6 Feigler Ferry landing. No access.
- 232.2 Church Bluff on left.
- 232.9 [Helds Island Access](#) on right off Route K. Main channel right. ▲ ➡
- 234.3 Lower end Helds Island
- 234.6 Second Creek on right.
- 238.4 Turnpike Bluff on right.
- 242.3 [Fredericksburg Ferry Access](#) on left, on Old Ferry Road off Route J. ▲ ➡
- 249.9 [Gasconade Park Access](#) on Oak Street in Gasconade. Last take-out before the Missouri River. ➡
- 250.2 Missouri Pacific R.R. bridge.
- 250.6 Missouri River.



Gasconade River by David Stonner

