

Jacks Fork River

The Jacks Fork and Current 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 Jacks Fork River is a tributary of the Current River and is one of the wildest and most scenic of the Missouri Ozark streams. Its deep valley is nearly a canyon, with no bottomland fields for the first 25 floatable miles. It is therefore advisable to camp well above river level if there is any chance of sudden rain. Trips with loaded canoes above Alley Spring are recommended only in spring or after good summer rains. The few miles immediately above Alley Spring are especially wide and shallow and may have to be walked in low water. Upper sections of the river provide fine fly fishing water. In general, camping is allowed on gravel bars anywhere along the Jacks Fork River, except private property, or within a mile of developed campgrounds.

Difficulty: I and II.

Gradients: general — 7.3; Prongs to Hwy. 17 — 8.6; to Bunker Hill — 8; to Alley Spring — 7; to Current River — 6.3

Counties: Texas, Shannon.

- 0.0 **South Prong Access** at Route Y Bridge. Beautiful section, but not recommended during low water. Gravel bar access.
- 6.8 Hwy. 17 Bridge at Buck Hollow Access (NPS). Gravel access and parking area.
- 9.2 Bluff View Access (NPS) on left, off Hwy O.
- 9.6 Blue Spring Access (NPS) on right, off Route OO. Blue Spring comes from cave on left nearly hidden

from river by boulders. Narrow run just below spring may be difficult. Primitive camping.

- 12.6 Jam Up Bluff and Cave. River entrance of cave is one of most spectacular cave entrances in state.
- 15.9 Ebb and Flow Spring on left.
- 16.2 Rymers Access and primitive camping (NPS) on right.

- 17.1 Bunker Hill Resort, on left, privately owned by Missouri State Teachers Association. No access.
- 22.2 Leatherwood Creek on left.
- 25.2 Bay Creek Access and primitive camping (NPS) on left.

- 31.0 Alley Spring, 10th largest spring in state. Access, old mill, campground, and store (NPS).
- 32.3 Horse Hollow on left. The old Salem, Winona and Southern R.R. used to run up this hollow and continue up Sinking Branch after following the Jacks Fork from Mahan's Creek.
- 35.3 Mahan's Creek on right. Site of old R.R. river crossing just above mouth of creek.

- 37.3 **Joshua Chilton Access** (Eminence). Boat ramp and canoe launch.
- 41.9 Shawnee Creek Access and primitive camping (NPS) on right.

- 42.3 Little Shawnee Creek on right.
- 44.6 Confluence with Current River. Best take-out 0.75 mile downstream at ferry landing. NPS campground and store.

