

Meramec River

Fed by Maramec Spring and many smaller springs, the Meramec is floatable most of the year. The floated sections are those between Maramec Spring and Meramec State Park (DNR), although there is still much reasonably attractive river down to St. Clair or even Pacific. Beyond that point, however, real estate developments, railroads, and industry may make the river unattractive to some paddlers. For those who do not mind these distractions, the river is floatable right down to the Mississippi. Floats above Maramec Spring are recommended only for high-water periods.

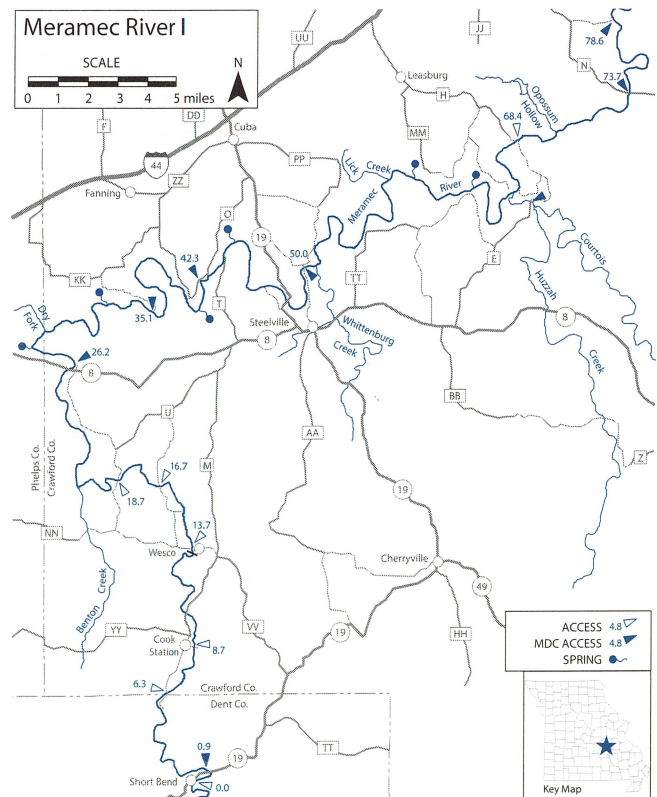
Difficulty: I, seldom II.

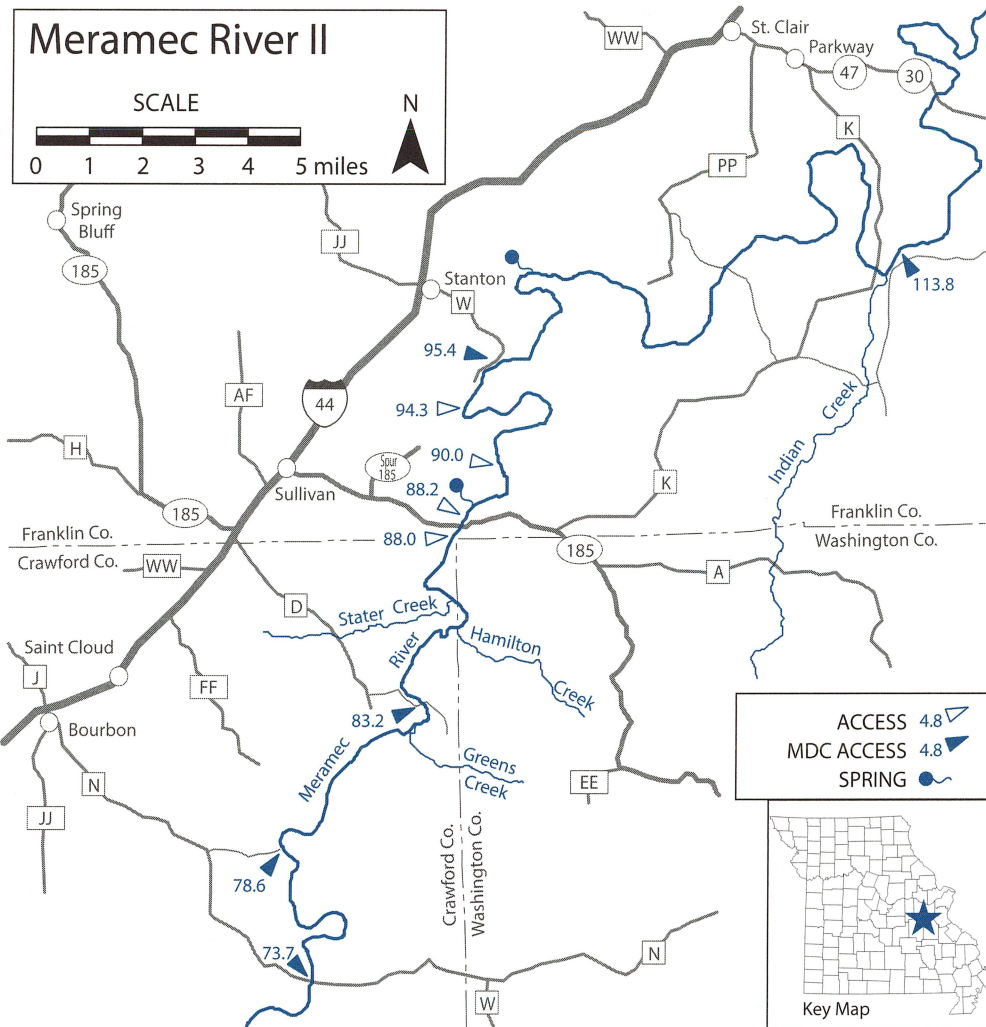
Gradients: general (to Palisades) — 3.4; Hwy. 19 to Route M — 7.8; to Hwy. 8 — 5.3; to Hwy. 19 north of Steelville — 4.2; to Onondaga Cave — 3.2; to Moselle — 2.6; to Palisades — 1.6.

Counties: Dent, Crawford, Phelps, Franklin, Jefferson, St. Louis.

- 0.0 Low-water bridge at Short Bend, just off Hwy. 19.
- 0.8 Hwy. 19 Bridge.
- 0.9 [Short Bend Access](#). Good access for canoes/kayaks.
- 6.3 Low-water bridge access on extension of Route M.
- 8.7 Low-water bridge access at Cook Station.
- 10.1 Route M Bridge.
- 13.4 Low dam. Portage.
- 13.7 Low-water bridge access at Wesco.
- 16.7 Low-water bridge access on road between Wesco and Route U.
- 18.7 Cedar Ford access. Route U 1.3 miles north.
- 20.7 Benton Creek on left.
- 26.1 Hwy. 8 Bridge.
- 26.2 [Woodson K. Woods Memorial Conservation Area](#) on right. Off Hwy. 8. Usually the highest practical put-in. No ramp. Gravel bar.
- 28.1 Maramec Spring branch, on left, is 0.7 mile long and is managed for trout fishing. The spring, with average daily flows of more than 90 million gallons. The park in the area of the spring and branch is owned and maintained by The James Foundation.
- 28.8 Dry Fork enters on left. Although this creek has a drainage as large as the upper Meramec, much of its water is thought to drain into the Maramec Spring system. Consequently, it is seldom floatable. Its gradient for the lower 23 miles from Route F is 5.2.
- 32.8 Richart Spring on left. Not open to public.
- 35.1 [Scotts Ford Access](#) on northwest side of slab bridge. Gravel bar. No ramp. Portage around slab. Private campground across the river.
- 41.0 Indian Spring and private lodge on right.
- 42.3 [Riverview Access](#), on left off Route O.
- 43.9 Pine Branch on left. McIntosh Spring is one of the springs feeding this branch. It has a flow of under a million gallons but once operated a water wheel.
- 44.4 Private cottages on left.
- 46.5 Fishing Spring on right.

- 47.0 Hwy. 19 Bridge. Many private campgrounds in this area.
- 50.0 [Bird's Nest Access](#) (Crawford County) on right. St. Louis-San Francisco R.R. and county bridges. Good rift in river. City park and private campground.
- 50.5 Whittenburg Creek on right.
- 58.3 Lick Creek on left.
- 59.1 Saranac Spring branch on left.
- 62.0 Spring branch on left.
- 65.9 Huzzah Creek enters on right. Section just above Huzzah Creek often has log obstructions. The Huzzah and its companion creek, the Courtois, are floatable and are described separately. [Huzzah Conservation Area](#) extends along right bank for next 1.5 miles.
- 66.2 [Huzzah CA](#) off Route E. Low-water bridge access 1 mile up Huzzah Creek.
- 68.4 Onondaga Cave State Park (DNR), Route H bridge. Canoe launch is located in the picnic grounds downstream from the bridge and the boat ramp is located upstream from the bridge. Onondaga Cave, about a mile up road to left, is one of the outstanding tour caves in the state. Park offers campground. East side of low-water bridge private with camping.
- 70.4 Opossum Hollow Creek on left.
- 73.7 [Campbell Bridge Access](#) on Route N, on left.
- 78.0 Private access canoe rental and campground on left.
- 78.6 [Blue Springs Creek Conservation Area](#) and access on left on Thickety Ford Road. Low-water bridge removed, but pilings still present. Gravel ramp. Must carry boats to river.





Meramec River II

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| 73.7 | Campbell Bridge Access on Route N, on left. ➡ | 90.0 | Boat ramp in Meramec State Park on left. Watch for rock dike on left. |
| 78.0 | Private access canoe rental and campground on left. | 91.0 | Silver Hollow Creek on right. |
| 78.6 | Blue Springs Creek Conservation Area and access on left on Thickety Ford Road. Low-water bridge removed, but pilings still present. Gravel ramp. Must carry boats to river. | 92.0 | Private canoe park on left. |
| 82.4 | Greens Creek on right. | 92.1 | Private concrete boat ramp on left. |
| 83.2 | Sappington Bridge Access on left. ➡ | 92.3 | Private pavilion on left. Bluff on right. |
| 85.3 | Hamilton Creek on right. | 94.3 | Meramec Caverns and LaJolla Springs. Access. This cave is one of the commercial ones in the state. The management provides a park and picnic area for the public along the left bank, below the cave. |
| 85.8 | Picnic shelter on right in Meramec State Park. | 95.4 | Sand Ford Access on left off Route W. ➡ |
| 86.2 | Stater Creek on left. | 98.0 | Twin Springs and private club on left. |
| 88.0 | Meramec State Park boat ramp from Hwy. 185 at state park entrance on left. | 98.7 | Roaring Spring, on left. |
| 88.2 | State park picnic ground along left bank, from bridge to Camper's Spring. Stores for supplies 2.5 miles up road on left or in Sullivan 1.5 miles beyond. Meramec State Park makes an excellent base from which to float the Meramec River and is a fine place to begin or end trips. | 101.7 | Pickle Ford (Huff Ford). No public access to stream. |
| 88.5 | Camper's Spring on left at base of bluff. | 104.9 | Plum Ford. |
| 89.5 | The "lower" state park campground extends along the left bank in this area. | 112.8 | Route K Bridge. |
| | | 113.1 | Indian Creek on right. |
| | | 113.2 | Private access at beach on right. |
| | | 113.8 | Redhorse Access on right, off Route K, Old Route K and Project Road. ➡ |
| | | 118.3 | Hwy. 30-47 Bridge. Private access. |

