

Shoal Creek

Shoal Creek is probably the most exciting and interesting of the fast creeks in the Southwestern Region. It seems to get its name from its numerous fast, rocky riffles, ledges, and actual falls. These include Grand Falls, south of Joplin, which dropped nearly 30 feet through a constricted spot before a dam was built on the spot. There are no other falls this high on any large stream in Missouri. Note: Floating on Kansas waters is considered trespass without owner permission.

Difficulty: II and III.

Gradients: general — 6.5, but this includes Grand Falls; Hwy. 60 to Granby — 6; to Redings Mill — 5.7; base of Grand Falls to Spring River — 5.9.

County: Newton.

- 0.0 Smack-out Access is located east of Granby and south of Hwy. 60 on Ivy Drive. ➡
- 3.1 Newtonia Branch on left.
- 4.9 Ritchey Mill and dam. Portage on right.
- 5.2 Access at Route W Bridge on southeast right-of-way, at Ritchey.
- 6.2 St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Bridge.
- 7.4 Railroad recrosses.
- 8.4 Railroad bridge.
- 8.6 Spring on left.
- 9.2 Railroad bridge and Route E Bridge. Old mill dam short distance downstream with a sudden rocky drop through an opening in the left side. Not runnable in some water. Scout before attempting!
- 11.2 Railroad bridge.
- 11.3 Spring branch on right.
- 11.5 Old Route E or Wagon Wheel Bridge. No access.
- 12.2 Railroad bridge. The next 2-mile section has a

gradient of 11 feet per mile.

- 13.2 Railroad bridge.
- 15.4 Cherry Corner Access on right at old bridge site, south of Diamond off Greenbriar Drive to Otter Drive. Carry in canoe/kayak gravel bar access.
- 15.9 Hwy. 59 Bridge. No access.
- 16.9 Low dam in this area. Approach with caution.
- 17.4 Allen Bridge Access on left below bridge. ➡
- 18.8 Low dam. Approach with caution.
- 19.8 Lime Kiln Access. Parking. Boat ramps above and below dam. ➡
- 19.9 County road bridge.
- 20.1 Hickory Creek on left.
- 20.3 Kansas City Southern Railroad Bridge. Watch for possible trees and log obstructions.
- 27.5 Route VV Bridge.
- 28.0 I-49 Bridge.
- 29.2 Tipton Ford Access on right. ➡
- 33.0 Hwy. 71 Bridge. Watch for possible log obstructions in next 2-mile section.
- 35.2 Rifts at Redings Mill, just above Hwy. 43-86 Bridge. The first drop is over a 2-foot ledge. Walk or line if water is low. Best on right. The second drop is a shelving, jumbled rock falls of 6-foot or more but is runnable on right in good water. Inspect carefully!
- 36.1 Wildcat Access on right. ➡
- 36.2 I-44 Bridge.
- 36.5 Low-water bridge.
- 36.8 Public park on left. Water deepens behind Grand Falls power dam.
- 37.9 Dam at Grand Falls. Portage on left about 200 yards, via road, to base of dam.
- 39.2 Private bridge at quarry. Fast section to next bridge.

- 39.6 Filmore Bridge.
- 39.9 Tanyard Hollow Bridge southwest of Joplin. No access.
- 43.6 Missouri-Kansas state line. Kansas law regarding floating differs from Missouri. Research Kansas law before floating beyond this point.

