



THE OZARK TRAIL

Current River Section

The dream of a 500-mile long trail winding through the rugged Ozark terrain is at last becoming a reality. Today approximately 80 miles of Ozark Trail are open in Missouri and an equivalent number of miles is ready in Arkansas.

The maps in this brochure delineate the newly opened 32-mile Current River Section of the Ozark Trail. This section, designed for hiking and backpacking only, crosses land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Pioneer Forest [a privately owned forest], the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Park Service. The Current River Section resulted from the cooperative efforts of these agencies and landowners, the coordination of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the volunteer efforts of citizens - especially members of the Sierra Club and the Ozark Trail Volunteers.

A wide variety of Ozark flora and fauna can be viewed as the trail winds from ridge top to meadow, from north-facing hills to west-facing hills, from stream bottoms to glades, and from sedimentary to igneous bedrock land forms. Hiking during different seasons further reveals the variety of the Ozarks. The Ozark Trail is for long-distance backpacking, half-hour strolls, day hikes, and weekend trips. Some sections will be open to equestrians.

The Current River Section begins in the headwaters of Blair Creek [see top of Map 1]. The trail follows Blair Creek southward as its waters carve a long, deepening valley in their descent to the Current River. The 20 miles of trail from Forest Service Road 2220 to Owls Bend currently includes about four miles of unfinished [but marked and open] trail, making these 20 miles a difficult weekend hike suitable for experienced hikers. The trail access at the 10.2 mile mark allows an easier weekend hike.

The southern 12 miles of the Current River Section also includes some unfinished trail, but it can be hiked comfortably over a weekend. This section parallels the Current River and Rocky Creek, and climbs high on Stegall Mountain for expansive southerly vistas.

At times stream crossings are impossible to negotiate. USE CAUTION. Water is available year-round from streams; all water used for drinking requires treatment.

The official trail marker is a green ♀ on white masonite. A white paint blaze also is used, and special supplemental markers may be used by each agency or landowner. Two tilted markers placed one above the other warn of an abrupt turn in the direction of the tilt. Be alert, and always carry a map and compass.

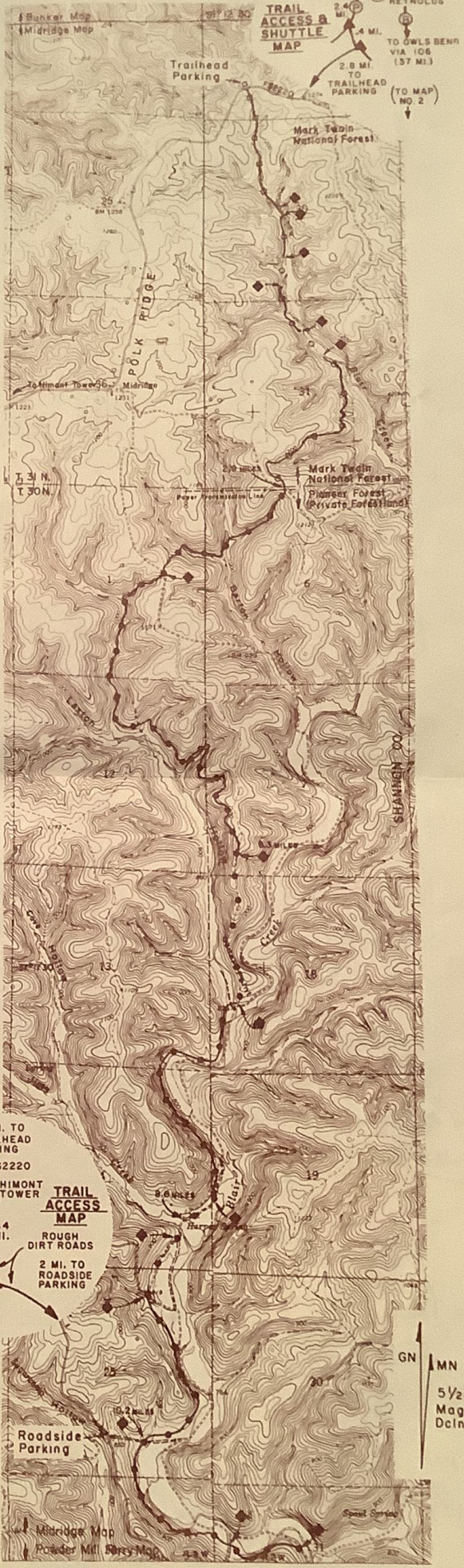
To ensure the continued enjoyment and preservation of the Ozark Trail:

1. Camp and make fires at least 100 feet from the trail, water, and scenic areas. Do not camp or make fires on edges of bluffs or on glades. Leave your campsite so that no one will know you were there.
2. Bury all human waste at least 100 feet from the trail and water. Pack out everything else you packed in.
3. Build fires only after you have cleared the area around and above the fire site of combustible material. Drown and scatter ashes. Do not encircle your fire with rocks or build fires against rocks that will be blackened by carbon for decades. Build a small fire and sit close. Never build a fire in a cave.
4. Do not collect plants; enjoy them in their natural setting.
5. Be considerate of others; remember that solitude is also a resource to be protected.

The Ozark Trail exists for your pleasure. Take all the adventure and inspiration from it that you can.

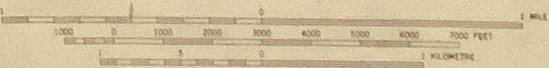
Your comments about the trail and offers of assistance to construct the trail are welcomed. Write: Ozark Trail Coordinator, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. For the Arkansas Ozark Trail, write: Ozark National Forest, P.O. Box 1008, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

Map #1



Continued on Map #2

1 inch = approximately 1/2 mile

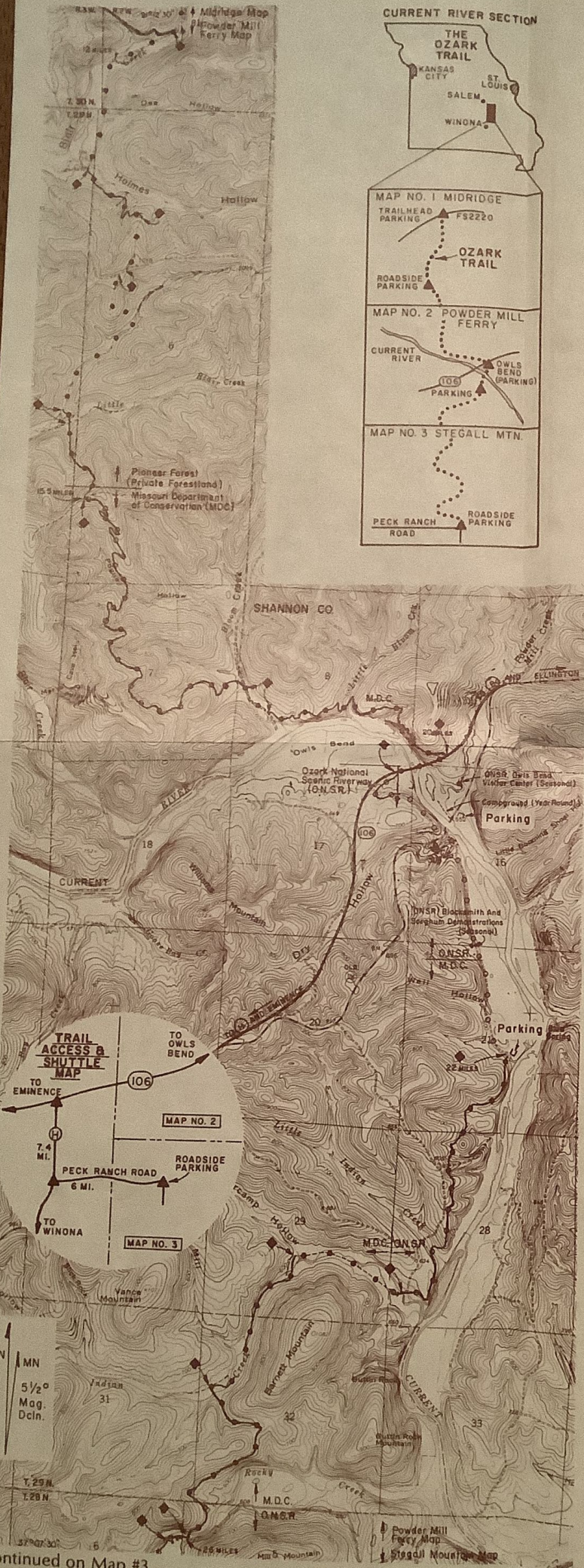


CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

See Legend Inside

Map #2

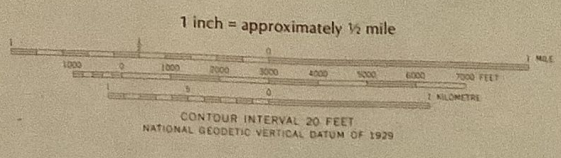
Map #3



LEGEND

- Completed Ozark Trail
- Completed Ozark Trail On Road
- Incomplete Or Temporary Ozark Trail
- Incomplete Or Temporary Ozark Trail On Road
- BE ALERT: Trail/Road Intersection
- Paved Roads
- Graded Dirt Roads
- Unimproved Dirt Roads
- Perennial Streams
- Intermittent Streams

NOTE: Ozark Trail Mileage Is Measured From The Parking Lot On The FS2220 Road On The MIDRIDGE Map



SOURCES:
U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' Quadrangles: Midridge (1966), Powder Mill Ferry (1965) and Stegall Mountain (1965) with adaptations by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Continued on Map #3