



Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Blue Spring Trailhead



Blue Spring is justly regarded as one of Missouri's most beautiful springs. The vivid blue color is caused to some degree by the spring's depth of 310 feet and load of dissolved minerals. It can be influenced by weather, rainfall and other factors, but it is rarely disappointing.

This trail leads about a half mile to the spring. Turn left at the trail junction to reach the spring. A right turn will take you to the Powder Mill Campground where you can connect to the Ozark Trail.

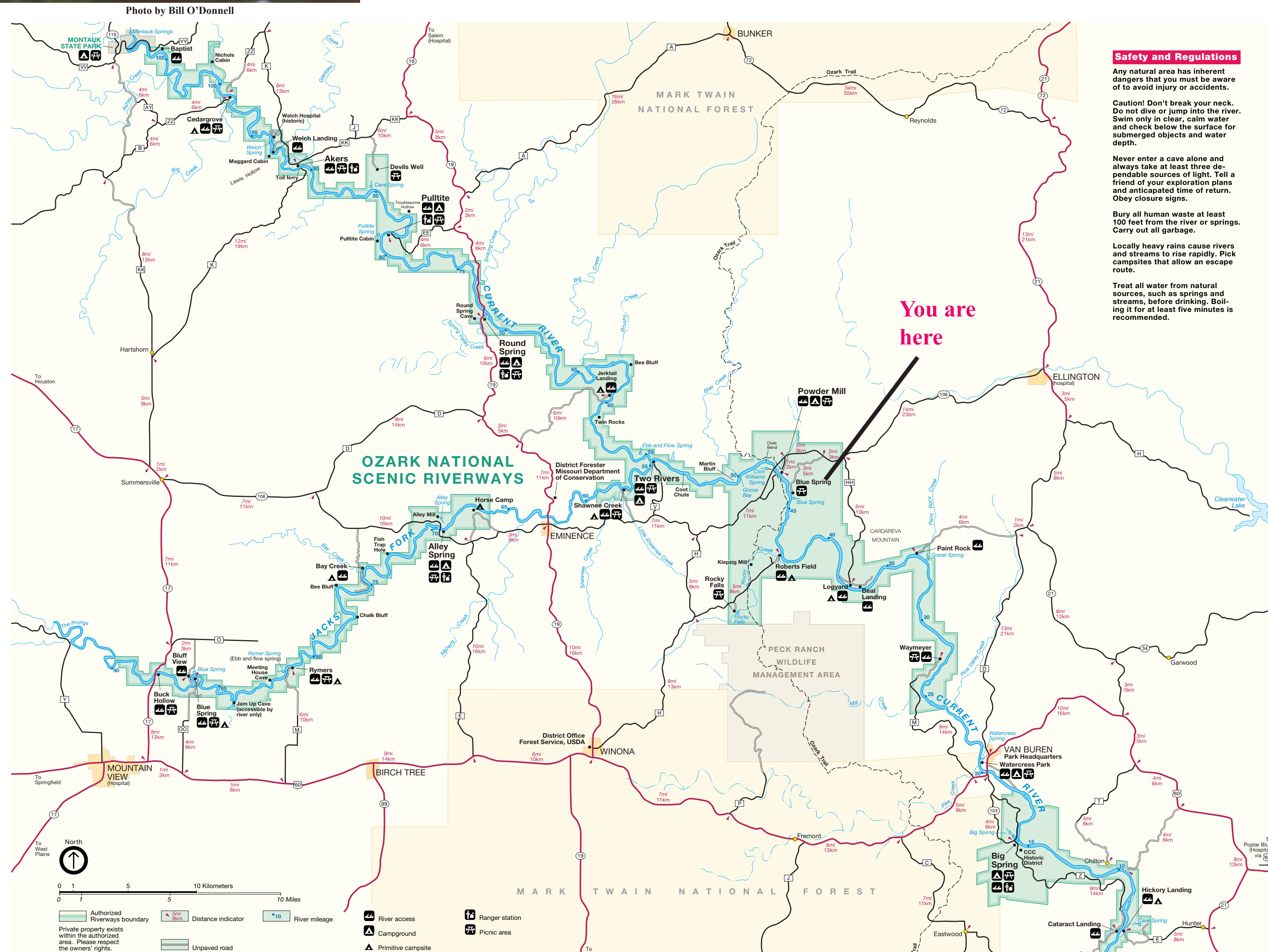
HELP PROTECT THE SPRING

- Please do not swim or wade in the spring. Springs are very delicate ecosystems.
- Carry out any litter, or use the below-ground trash cans at the spring.
- No fishing in the spring.
- Please stay on the trail in the spring area.
- Camping is not permitted in this area.
- Horses and ATVs are prohibited on this trail.
- All pets must be on a leash.

Photo by Bill O'Donnell



The banded sculpin is one of the unusual fish that make their home in the cold water of the spring.



Safety and Regulations

Any natural area has inherent dangers that you must be aware of to avoid injury or accidents. Caution! Don't break your neck. Do not dive or jump into the river. Swim only in clean, calm water and check below the surface for submerged objects and water depth. Never enter a cave alone and always take at least three dependable sources of light. Tell a friend of your exploration plans and anticipated time of return. Obey closure signs. Bury all human waste at least 100 feet from the river or springs. Carry out all garbage. Locally heavy rains cause rivers and streams to rise rapidly. Pick campsites that allow an escape route. Treat all water from natural sources, such as springs and streams, before drinking. Boiling it for at least five minutes is recommended.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
 Shannon County Sheriff 573-226-3615
 Ambulance: 800-262-3477