

# EXPLORE Plains



2022



# WELCOME TO WEST PLAINS

There are so many things to see and do within a 75-mile radius of West Plains. Choose West Plains as the place to shop, dine, rest your head, and wake up to begin another adventure!

With West Plains as your hub, venture out to see the beauty of the Ozarks.

- Eleven historic water mills
- Miles of curvy, exhilarating highways
- Crystal-clear rivers and creeks
- Numerous trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding
- More than 350 miles of floatable streams
- 16 city parks for walking, biking, or play
- 63,000 wilderness acres of National Forest

The fun doesn't just begin outside the city limits! West Plains has a rich and interesting history beginning with Josiah Howell who homesteaded in 1838 at the town spring. Today, historic Court Square in downtown West Plains is home to shops and restaurants. Shopping, especially antiques, flea markets and boutiques, is abundant in and around West Plains. A variety of dining is available including home-style cooking, BBQ, American, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, and Thai.

During your stay, enjoy the comfort of one of six hotels available. Feeling adventurous? Pitch a tent at a local campground. RVs and campers will find spaces available close to town or even in the middle of nowhere.

The Ozarks Heritage Welcome Center is your key to adventure! Stop by and take a photo with our 16-foot vintage postcard or our 8-foot tall set of wings! Be sure to check out our mural and display featuring famous West Plainsians Porter Wagoner, Preacher Roe, Jan Howard, Dick Van Dyke, and Bill Virdon.

Since you are reading this guidebook, you are well on your way to exploring West Plains. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Our friendly staff is looking forward to visiting with you!

Melissa Amyx Wharton  
Tourism Coordinator, City of West Plains



Blue Angel Images/Tom Pringle



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



**eclipse**  
**WEST PLAINS**  
*Party in the Path*

**APRIL 8, 2024**  
start of totality  
**1:54:28 PM CDT**  
duration of totality  
**3:01 (min:sec)**

## OZARKS HERITAGE WELCOME CENTER

2999 Porter Wagoner Blvd. | West Plains, MO 65775  
417-256-8835 | [tourism@westplains.gov](mailto:tourism@westplains.gov) | [explorewestplains.com](http://explorewestplains.com)

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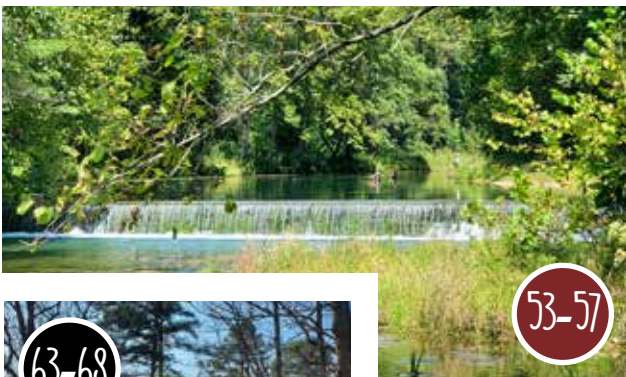
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# WEST PLAINS ☀️ STOP. STAY. EXPLORE.



# EVENT CALENDAR



FEB 19



FEB 25



MAR 4&5



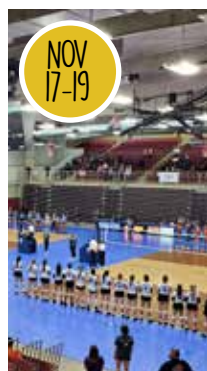
MAR 19



JUNE 3-4



JUNE 3-26



NOV 17-19



AUG 5&6



DEC 9&10 16&17

## January 15-February 19

*Ventures in Art Exhibit*  
West Plains Civic Center

## January 21-February 13

*Annual Fiber & Textile Arts Competition Show*  
Harlin Museum

## January 29

*Ozark Marketing Bridal Expo*  
West Plains Civic Center

## February 11

*Cubanisms Concert*  
West Plains Civic Center

## February 11-12

*TLR Gun & Knife Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## February 12

*Jonathan Erlandson Magician*  
West Plains Civic Center

## February 18-March 13

*Annual High School Art Show / Young Artist Showcase*  
Harlin Museum

## February 19

*Heart of the Ozarks Half Marathon*  
Downtown West Plains

## February 25

*Chris Janson Halfway to Crazy Tour*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 4

*Eimear Arkins Concert*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 4 & 5

*Southern Missouri Home Builders Association Home & Garden Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 12

*West Plains Brewfest*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 12

*Stars Foundation Presents Irish Dancing*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 18-April 3

*Feature Artist Show: Angela Bullard*  
Harlin Museum

## March 25

*Folklorefest*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 19

*Joe Nichols Cystic Fibrosis of West Plains Music Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## March 25-26

*PC Junk Vintage Market*  
West Plains Civic Center

## April 1-2

*Wayward Son Productions Bulls, Broncs & Bands*  
West Plains Civic Center

## April 8-May 1

*Annual Spring Art Show Competition*  
Harlin Museum

## April 17

*First Baptist Church Easter Sunday Service*  
West Plains Civic Center

## April 22-24

*OzCon*  
West Plains Civic Center

## May 6-May 29

*Annual Photography Show Competition*  
Harlin Museum

## May 7

*Ozark County Kennel Dog Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## May 7-June 18

*West Plains Council on the Arts Plein Air Artists Exhibit*  
West Plains Civic Center

## May 27-28

*Scrapin' 40s*  
Legit Speedway

## June 2-4

*HOBAs 39th Annual Spring Bluegrass Festival*  
HOBAs Bluegrass Park

## June 3-4

*Old Time Music Ozark Heritage Festival*  
Downtown West Plains

## June 3-26

*Ozark Heritage Exhibit: Broadfoot Collection on display*  
Harlin Museum

## June 2-4

*HOBAs 39th Annual Spring Bluegrass Festival*  
HOBAs Bluegrass Park

## June 4

*ASCS Sprint Cars*  
Legit Speedway

## June 10, 11, 17 & 18

*Anastasia Ballet*  
West Plains Civic Center

## June 11

*West Plains Car Club Car Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## June 21-23

*International Country Gospel Music Association Awards*  
West Plains Civic Center

## July 1-2

*Firecracker Classic*  
Legit Speedway

## July 8-31

*West Plains Gazette Exhibit*  
Harlin Museum

## August 5-6

*Mega Motorsports Toughest Monster Truck Tour*  
Heart of the Ozarks Fairgrounds

## August 13

*Camber Classic*  
Legit Speedway

## September 9-25

*Multimedia Art Show*  
Harlin Museum

## September 10

*ShowMe Showdown*  
West Plains Civic Center

## September 22-24

*HOBAs 38th Annual Fall Bluegrass Festival*  
HOBAs Bluegrass Park

## September 23-24

*Ozark Studies Symposium*  
West Plains Civic Center

## October 7-30

*47th Annual Fall Art Show Competition*  
Harlin Museum

## October 22-23

*TLR Gun & Knife Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## November 17-19

*NJCAA National Volleyball Championship*  
West Plains Civic Center

## December 2-18

*Welcome to the Wilderness Exhibit*  
Harlin Museum

## December 2-3

*Toys for Tots Concert*  
West Plains

## December 3-4

*West Plains Optimists Arts & Crafts Show*  
West Plains Civic Center

## December 9-10 & 16-17

*The Nutcracker Ballet*  
West Plains Civic Center

## December 10

*Breakfast with Santa*  
West Plains Civic Center

## December 10

*Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade*  
Porter Wagoner Blvd.



Visit the Explore West Plains Facebook page weekly for a list of upcoming events.

**VISITING WEST PLAINS** is made easy with our infrastructure and amenities:



### OZARKS HERITAGE WELCOME CENTER

We are happy to assist travelers with area maps, brochures, and event information. Also at the center is a gift shop, RV dump station, and water fill. Hours of operation, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located at 2999 Porter Wagoner Blvd. in West Plains. For more information, email [tourism@westplains.gov](mailto:tourism@westplains.gov) or call 417-256-8835.



### WEST PLAINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

(FAA identifier UNO) – 4523 County Road 2340, Pomona, MO 65789. The airport is full service with an 18/36 5102x75 ft. asphalt runway. Amenities include pilot's lounge/quarters, unisex shower, kitchen area, spacious lobby, conference room and Wi-Fi. Hangar rental available. The airport is located 11 miles north of West Plains. Courtesy cars are available. Office hours of operation, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone number 417-257-1530. After hours, contact airport manager, 417-257-1539. For more information visit [westplains.gov/west-plains-regional-airport](http://westplains.gov/west-plains-regional-airport) or email [airport@westplains.net](mailto:airport@westplains.net).

### CITY BUS SERVICE

Hours of bus operation are M-F, 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. No service on 11 major holidays. Affordable fares and passes with group discounts. For information about schedules and routes, visit [westplains.gov/transit-department](http://westplains.gov/transit-department) or contact the City of West Plains Transportation Dept., 417-256-1241.



### CITY HALL

Tucked in the Ozark Mountains, near pristine wilderness areas and spring-fed streams, the City of West Plains attracts nature lovers, entrepreneurs, and families searching for a small-town feel with big-city conveniences.

As the largest city within 100 miles of south central Missouri, West Plains provides the most options for lodging, dining, outfitting, and other services unavailable at the final destination.

Make It Happen Here is more than just a slogan to us. Thousands of people enjoy the comforts of great schools, quality healthcare, higher education, and the progressive spirit of entrepreneurship to make their own lives happen here.

We hope you enjoy your visit to West Plains, truly a place where you can experience life on your terms.

City Hall is open Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone number 417-256-7176. For more information, visit [westplains.gov](http://westplains.gov).

### ABOUT WEST PLAINS

The largest city in Missouri within a 100-mile radius, West Plains is the trade center for the south-central region of the state. While agriculture has always been and continues to be a main driving force in the local economy, the healthcare industry has grown to be the largest employer in the region. Aside from the public sector, the next biggest economic driver in the area is retail. While West Plains maintains a small-town atmosphere, it serves more than 150,000 people from throughout the region and beyond who shop in the city as it continues to provide more and more goods and services with each passing year.



### SOLAR FARM

In an effort to help curb future costs of electricity, the City of West Plains is completing work on a new solar farm that will provide roughly 7 percent of the City's electricity needs. This equates to saving over 1.3 million gallons of gasoline and recycling 3,908 tons of waste to avoid greenhouse gas emissions. When completed, it will be the largest municipal-owned solar farm in the state of Missouri.



### WHAT IS A ZIZZER?

Neighboring communities are Bears, Eagles, and Bobcats, but West Plains is famous for being home to the Zizzers, the only ones in the whole country! But what is a Zizzer? It all started in 1907 when the senior class put together an eight-page commemorative booklet for the junior class, presented on Class Day. The juniors loved the idea, so they put together their own booklet in 1908. This was the beginning of an annual yearbook tradition at the school. When they presented the book to faculty member Phoebe Davidson, she exclaimed, "What a Zizzer!" a term which is said to have been a colloquialism for lightning or a flash from the sky. The name was put on the 1908 edition, and it stuck. It continues to be the name of the West Plains High School yearbook, as well as academic and sports teams across the district. A lightning bolt is the school logo/mascot. In recent years, school officials have coined another definition of a Zizzer: an expert in any activity, a winner!



# MURAL TOUR OF WEST PLAINS

## A COCA-COLA MURAL

### Ozarks Small Business Incubator (OZSBI)

408 Washington Ave.

This Coca-Cola sign was brought back to life in 2021. (Artist: Sandra Pemberton)



A

Melissa Wharton

## B GREETINGS FROM WEST PLAINS MURAL

### Ozarks Heritage Welcome Center

2999 Porter Wagoner Blvd.

Features images in and around West Plains and the Missouri State Bird and motto. (Artist: Melissa Wharton)



B

Melissa Wharton

## C ICE CREAM MURAL

### Spring Dipper | 675 Missouri Avenue

Spray paint graffiti art. (Artist: Mike Devine)



C

Melissa Wharton

## D BLOOM MURAL

### Bloom Day Spa | 631 Missouri Avenue

An abundance of flowers. (Artist: Laura Bales)



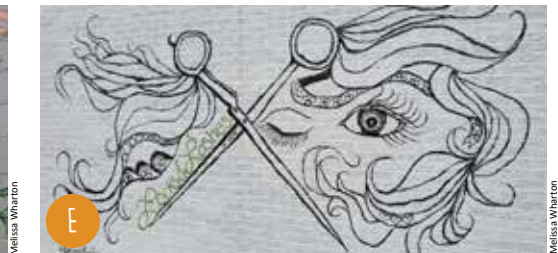
D

Melissa Wharton

## E LOCKS & LASHES MURAL

### Locks & Lashes Salon | 133 Jefferson Avenue

Line art whimsy. (Artist: Laura Bales)



E

Melissa Wharton

## F GREETINGS FROM WEST PLAINS MURAL

### The Heights | 2105 Hubert Redburn Drive

Bright and trendy and seen from over a mile away! (Artist: Cory McMahon)



F

Melissa Wharton

## G ABSTRACT ART & BIKE MURAL

### BURO | 202 West Main Street

Art deco pays homage to the West Plains Bike Route. (Artist: Laura Bales)

## H OZARKS' MUSICAL HERITAGE MURAL

### Missouri State University-West Plains

211 West Main Street

This mural recently found a new home on the wall of the Creative Discovery Center at Drago Hall. (Artist: Michael McClure)

## I FAMOUS WEST PLAINSIANS MURAL

### Ozarks Heritage Welcome Center

2999 Porter Wagoner Blvd.

Mural is located inside the Welcome Center. (Artist: Michael McClure)

## J HOWELL COUNTY TRIBUTE MURAL

### Rocky Burgess property

Highway 63, Pomona

Sign of gratitude to those who serve our country. (Artist: Sandra Pemberton)

## K TIMELINE OF HOWELL COUNTY MURAL

### Historic Downtown

West Main Street & Court Square

See the history of Howell County through art. (Artist: Michael McClure)

## L THE SOURCE MURAL

### The Source | 1636 Bruce Smith Parkway

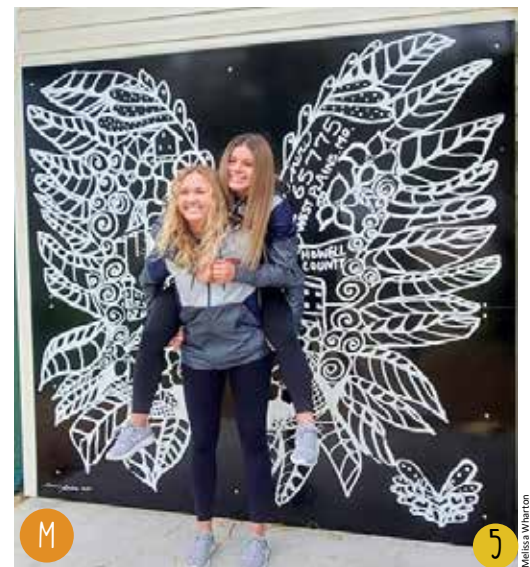
Psychedelic theme. (Artist: Sasha Rayevskiy)

## M WINGS MURAL

### Ozarks Heritage Welcome Center

2999 Porter Wagoner Blvd.

Look closely for images relating to West Plains. (Artist: Laura Bales)



## THINGS TO DO IN WEST PLAINS

Descriptions on pages 7-11.



# THINGS TO DO IN WEST PLAINS

**A Avenue Theatre**  
307 Washington Ave. | (417) 256-4420



MeLisa Wharton

The Avenue Theatre, featuring Art Deco details, originally opened in 1950 as a movie house. The very first film shown was *Fancy Pants*, starring Bob Hope and Lucille Ball. After closing in the early 1980s, the building sat empty for several years until a group of local citizens formed a not-for-profit organization, Arts on the Avenue, to oversee its renovation and to repurpose it, hoping to bring it back to life. The building had been purchased by a local family and was donated to the organization. Starting in the 1990s, with minimal renovation, a homemade light-board, and tin-can footlights, plays and talent shows were held in the auditorium.

Over the years, renovation and upgrades have continued – no more homemade lights! – and now the building is home to community theater and hosts other events. Stage plays are held throughout the year, with a major musical production each summer.

<https://theavenuetheatre.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueTheatre>

**B Butler Children's Park**  
On the corner of Broadway and Halstead | (417) 256-7304

A music-themed splash pad, installed and opened to the public in 2021, is the centerpiece of this park which is dedicated



MeLisa Wharton

to children's activities and good times for families. In addition to this wonderful, water-fun feature, the park has playground equipment which was installed in 2006 when the park was remodeled. There is also a large pavilion, available on a first come, first serve basis, which is great for parties and get-togethers. Other amenities include restrooms, picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles.

More upgrades are coming soon, including walking trails and a comprehensive, all-inclusive playground.

**C "Go Farm" Farmers Market**  
805 Worley Drive | (417) 293-0590  
Endurance Church Parking Lot



MeLisa Wharton

Go Farm Farmers Market came about from The Ozark Farmers Agricultural Cooperative (OFAC) mission to develop agricultural enterprises and market products produced by its members in the Ozarks. In addition to hosting regular market days, it accomplishes this by coordinating the marketing of member products and providing members with ongoing education for the purpose of increasing production or accessing larger markets. OFAC's mission is to develop sustainable agriculture practices and markets for the area served by OFAC, to encourage local food production, and encourage healthy eating. Support local farmers and sustainability by shopping at Go Farm!

<https://www.ozarkfarmers.org/?fbclid=IwAR10Huf-Pn2m7GM7l1h9Ql84Qoqu5ur10x58d2UgHnA4Hh6Vh-1H9263AzHw>  
<https://www.facebook.com/gofarmwestplains>

**D Galloway Creek Nature Park**  
2804 County Rd. 1770 | (417) 256-7176

Galloway Creek Nature Park is a 40-acre tract owned by the city, used for recreational purposes. Galloway Creek, a 5.3-mile-long tributary creek, runs through the property. The park was developed/continues to be maintained by various civic organizations, local Boy and



MeLisa Wharton

Girl Scout troops, environmental agencies, and the City of West Plains.

Areas in the park serve as a "green area" for wildlife, maintaining the natural habitat of native plants and animals. A covered bridge crosses the creek as part of the walking trail through the park. Other amenities include a restroom, a play area, barbecue grills, and picnic tables. A large pavilion is available for reservation. The park is a great place for families to spend quality time together, enjoying the outdoors and learning about nature.

From Holiday Lane, go east on Girdley Street, continue under railroad bridge until you see Galloway Nature Park sign (County Road 1770) then take a left. Park will be 1/4 mile on the left.

**E Georgia White Walking Park**  
Thornburgh Street | (417) 256-7176  
Between Minnesota St. & Missouri Ave.



Bob Anderson

The Georgia White Walking Park features a 2.4-mile blacktopped walking track and greenspace. Decorative light poles provide LED lighting along the track and in the parking lot, making the area well-lit and suitable for early morning and evening strolls. The park is named in honor of Georgia White, who in 1989 donated a portion of the land behind her home to the city of West Plains to develop a walking park.

As an interesting historical note, included in the park's tree population is a special tulip popular. One of the largest native trees in North America, the tulip poplar

can reach heights of 150 feet. A member of the magnolia family, the tulip poplar is named for its distinct tulip-shaped leaves and flowers. These showy, goblet-shaped, green, orange, and yellow flowers appear in late spring. Standing tall in the middle of the Georgia White Walking Park is an offspring of a tulip poplar that George Washington planted in 1775 at Mount Vernon, Virginia. The Missouri Department of Conservation, with assistance from the West Plains Rotary Club, planted the offspring tree April 3, 1991.

**F Glass Sword Cinema**  
Lanton Rd. & S. Hwy. 63 | (417) 256-8686

The Glass Sword is a locally owned and operated movie theater which has been in operation for over 40 years. Starting out as the "Glass Sword Twin Cinema" with only two screens, the theater has expanded and been renovated over the years. It is now home to six screens, and as always, shows the latest releases. With upgraded seating and sound systems, the Glass now has not only 2-D, but 3-D capabilities. A clean facility and friendly staff make your bigscreen, moviegoing experience lots of fun.

<https://glasswordcinema.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/glasssword>

**G Harlin Museum**  
405 Worcester Ave. | (417) 256-7801



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton

The Harlin Museum is a cultural arts center that has been telling the story of the Ozarks through art and history since 1972. The museum, a not-for-profit organization, is the exclusive owner

of the L.L. Broadfoot art collection, which includes the original artwork and background notes of Lennis L. Broadfoot who published a book in 1944, "Pioneers of the Ozarks," a unique portrayal of early Ozark residents. The museum offers historical artifact and art preservation, instructional workshops in fine art and folk art subjects, competition art shows, and historical exhibits, as well as educational programming for youth and adults.

The original Harlin House, which served as the initial museum space, was built in 1889. It was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Harlin. James Harlin served as mayor of West Plains for 32 years. There is a modern two-story addition which serves as exhibit, classroom, and gallery space. A small gift shop on the main floor of the gallery offers unique art, books on regional history, and other locally made gifts such as jewelry, ornaments, scarves, repurposed wood décor signs, and candlesticks.

<https://harlinmuseum.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/HarlinMuseumWP>

**H Heart of the Ozarks Fairgrounds**  
2205 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
(417) 256-2198



Heart of the Ozarks Fairgrounds

The Heart of the Ozarks Fairgrounds is the site of our community's annual summertime fair which features carnival rides on a midway and good old-fashioned country fun. But the fairgrounds hosts many other events as well. Truck and tractor pulls, rodeos, monster trucks, and demolition derbies are the kinds of attractions that you might catch at the fairgrounds. Indoor facilities are also available with occasional craft shows and other events.

<https://heartoftheozarksfair.net/>

**I HOBA Bluegrass Park**  
1138 Bluegrass Lane | (417) 257-2154

The HOBA (Heart of the Ozarks Bluegrass Association) Bluegrass Park is an outdoor, live music venue, which was founded in 1980 to further the education and en-

joyment of bluegrass music. HOBA hosts bluegrass concerts on a periodic basis, with three-day, annual spring and fall festivals as its two main events.



HOBA

The park has approximately 130 RV sites, with plenty of 30-amp plug-ins and limited 50 amp. The park is open the Saturday before festivals begin, but for those who might need in sooner, call to make arrangements. HOBA does not take reservations. Sites are on a first come, first served basis. All the RV sites have electric and access to water. Many have sewer in addition to electric, and water. A dump station and shower house/bathroom facilities are available. Concession stand is open during festivals, serving up "home cooked" menus.

The performance stage is covered, but the audience area is open air. Shows are held rain or shine but postponed during extreme weather. Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy great bluegrass music!

[https://hobabluegrass.wixsite.com/mysite?fbclid=IwAR-1j7\\_63w-5xIUWWJeVa\\_CukulpoQqSGvYFFmTHWmXf5M-2RoGg2SQZFyls](https://hobabluegrass.wixsite.com/mysite?fbclid=IwAR-1j7_63w-5xIUWWJeVa_CukulpoQqSGvYFFmTHWmXf5M-2RoGg2SQZFyls)  
<https://www.facebook.com/bluegrass.hoba/>

**J JMB Park/Disc Golf Course**  
BB Highway | (417) 256-7176

The park has one small pavilion available on a first come, first serve basis, and a larger, 3,500-square-foot pavilion which can be reserved. Other amenities include picnic tables, barbecue grills, and restroom facilities.

The JMB Park's main attraction is a disc golf course. For those unacquainted with



Melissa Wharton

disc golf, it is played like traditional golf but with flying discs and specially designed large, metal “baskets” instead of balls, clubs, and holes. The flying discs for disc golf are different than a typical, classic Frisbee®. They are smaller and heavier, designed to go further and with greater accuracy. Like regular golf, there are putters and drivers and other discs for in-between. However, even though “serious” disc golf players discourage the idea, if you don’t want to make an investment in equipment just to try out the course, a classic flying disc can be used to get a feel for the sport.

As for the rules, just like regular golf, the goal is to play each hole in the fewest strokes possible, and the player with the lowest total strokes for the entire course wins. At JMB Park, there is a 9-hole recreational course with one pin position, approximately 2,200 feet. The 18-hole championship course has two pin positions, approximately 7,650 feet to 9,150 feet. The course was professionally designed by HB Clark and is located in mature woods in moderately hilly terrain with well-defined fairways throughout.

<https://westplainsparksandrec.com/jmb-park/>

**K Johnny Hatchets Axe Throwing**  
47 Court Square | (417) 274-0160



Johnny Hatchets

Test your skill (or luck) throwing sharp objects and making them stick! Johnny Hatchets offers a safe, fun, family environment for throwing axes of all shapes and sizes along with hatchets, tomahawks, knives, and even throwing stars. There are several lanes, just like a bowling alley, but shorter and with a big, wooden bullseye target to hit (like an oversize dart board) instead of pins to knock down.

Individuals and groups are welcome. It’s a great place for parties, events, date nights, and celebrations. Expertise and prior experience not required. Call to schedule your throwing time and for pricing.

[www.facebook.com/Johnny-Hatchets-Axe-Throwing-100645255072532](https://www.facebook.com/Johnny-Hatchets-Axe-Throwing-100645255072532)

**L Legit Speedway Park**  
10603 S. US Hwy. 63 | (417) 469-4749



Legit Speedway

Legit Speedway Park is an 80-acre motorsports facility six miles south of West Plains. The complex accommodates over 12,000 fans, racers, and crew members and is rated as one of the finest dirt track facilities in the nation. Fans can enjoy the action from their choice of molded-contour seating, ground-level bleachers, high-rise stadium-style seating, or in a tailgate area. On-site camping is available free of charge offering clean restrooms, showers, water fill, and a dump station for motorhomes. Full-service food and souvenir concessions are also conveniently located within the facility, along with acres of free parking.

Divisions featured on the weekly racing card are the Super Late Model, A-Modified, B-Modified, Super Stock, Hobby Stock, and Bone Stock classes, giving motorsports enthusiasts the opportunity to experience the excitement of grass roots racing on the 3/8-mile red clay oval track. See the website for ticket pricing and information and schedule. Races typically start in March or April and go into the first part of October.

<https://www.legitspeedway.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LegitSpeedwayPark>

**M Lightning Bowl**  
1711 West US Hwy. 160 | (417) 255-2695



Lightning Bowl

Lightning Bowl offers a great opportunity for family fun. Open bowling is typically available on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with limited open play on Mondays and Thursdays to accommodate leagues.

Glow bowl on Friday and Saturday nights starting at 8 p.m. until 10:30. They do not reserve lanes, but you can call ahead to confirm open bowling times and lane availability.

Their concession stand food and drink menu includes pizza, burgers, sandwiches, nachos, hot dogs, and sides. Soft drinks, hot beverages, and beer are available. Check out their Facebook page for any updates in schedules and new events.

[lightningbowl.wixsite.com/wp-lightningbowl](https://lightningbowl.wixsite.com/wp-lightningbowl)  
<https://www.facebook.com/lightningbowlwestplainsmo>

**N McWilliams Pumpkin Patch**  
4007 County Road 6920 | (417) 256-6470



McWilliams



McWilliams

This locally owned and operated farm offers seasonal family fun for all ages. They are open for a few weeks in the fall, typically starting in late September and continuing through October. Before visiting, be sure to check their schedule by messaging on Facebook or calling.

The McWilliams Family started small over a decade ago, selling pumpkins and offering a few things to do on their farm. Through the years they have added more activities. Now, in a typical season, they have corn mazes, a corn hut, mini zip line, barrel train, and hayrides. They also have giant slides and recently added a “Jumbo Jumper” big bouncer. There are farm animals to look at, a sunflower patch, concession stand, and of course, they still sell pumpkins! All sizes and shapes are available.

[https://www.facebook.com/McWilliams-Pumpkin-Patch-190366094351940/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/McWilliams-Pumpkin-Patch-190366094351940/?ref=page_internal)

**O** **Missouri Department of Conservation**  
(MDC) – Ozark Regional Office  
551 Joe Jones Boulevard  
(417) 256-7161



Terry Hampton

The MDC Ozark Regional Office and recreational area is a 20-acre hidden gem right in the city limits of West Plains. It features a park, walking trails, a nature area that includes an educational pond, with a catch-and-release fishing opportunity for children 15 and younger from May to September. In addition to the trail and pond, the area has a backyard feeder/bird viewing area and pollinator-benefiting landscaping surrounding the building, with a picnic table and benches. Nets, jars, and magnifying glasses are provided in the equipment bucket to assist children in capturing insects for close-up study. A map and compass course is also available on the property.

In the office lobby, children can interact with a life-sized tent, draw and color outdoor photos at a picnic table, and view the native fish aquarium. Free MDC publications are available at this location.

Office open M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The outside area is open seven days a week, 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/ozark-regional-office>

**P** **North Terra Golf Course**  
1724 N. Terra St. (off BB Highway)  
(417) 256-9824



Melissa Wharton

North Terra is an 18-hole, public golf course owned and operated by the City of West Plains. Call for information about greens fees and hours of operation. Driving range and pro shop available.

**10** <https://www.facebook.com/NorthTerraGolfCourse/>

**Q** **People's Park/Aquatic Center**  
1136 W. Broadway St.  
(417) 256-7176 *Park/Pavilion rental information*  
(417) 255-2963 *Aquatic Center information*



Zeb Cheek

A large pavilion – 4,500 square feet – is at the heart of People's Park, but there are also picnic tables, barbecue grills, a short walking trail, a tennis court, and a basketball court. Restroom facilities are available. There is no charge to use park facilities, but there is a fee to reserve the pavilion for organized events.

The West Plains Aquatic Center is the main feature of People's Park. Open to the public seven days a week during the summer season, the aquatic center consists of two swimming pools, including a large lap pool. The smaller pool is a zero-entrance pool and equipped with a mother's bench in the water, a mushroom waterfall, a frog slide for smaller children, and a large water slide located at the opposite end of the pool with a 3-foot, 6-inch depth. The larger pool includes two diving boards with a depth of 12 feet. Both pools are surrounded by concrete leisure areas filled with lawn chairs. There is a dining area outside of the concession stand complete with umbrella-covered tables for guests to sit and eat. Admission rates depend on age. Please call for current information.

<https://westplainsparksandrec.com/aquatic-center/>

**R** **Robert Neathery Skate Park**  
349 E. First Street | (417) 256-7304



Curt Sammers

The Robert Neathery Skate Park provides in-line and skateboard enthusiasts a layout designed especially for their sport, offering features to match all skill levels. In addition to the concrete skate areas, the park has a small pavilion.

**S** **S&S Skateland**  
1649 West US Hwy. 160 | (417) 372-8055



S&S Skateland

S&S Skateland is a family friendly skating rink that offers open skate times and special events. They have a small rink for young children and beginners, with a large rink for more experienced skaters. Fun lighting and music. Concessions with seating area and pool tables available.

At the time of printing, Skateland is operating with temporary hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Give them a call or message on Facebook for pricing and hours of operation.

<https://www.facebook.com/sandsskateland>

**T** **West Plains Civic Center**  
110 St. Louis Street | (417) 256-8087



City of West Plains



Melissa Wharton



City of West Plains

The West Plains Civic Center is a popular multi-purpose facility which hosts everything from concerts to circuses, stage shows to athletic events, and much more. With a 3500-seat arena, a 10,000-square-foot exhibit hall, and a performing arts theater, the Civic Center has a full schedule. Local art exhibits are frequently on display at the mezzanine "Gallery at the Center," and programs around holidays – such as Christmas craft shows, Veterans Day salutes, and musical tributes – are common. It is also home to various events which extend to its outdoor spaces, including the annual Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival. Be sure to call ahead for information and updates.

The Civic Center is also the site for many meetings, conferences, and conventions. It has multiple large and small rooms which are available for rent by individuals for a variety of purposes, including reunions and parties.

<https://civiccenter.net/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/wpciviccenter>

Through partnership with Missouri State University-West Plains and its University/Community Programs Department, activities at the Civic Center for visitors range from Grizzly Basketball and Volleyball games to periodic stage shows which are as varied as magic acts, kids' entertainment, and comedy. There is also an



Eryn Walters

indoor pool and fitness center available. For information about usage of pool and exercise amenities and university-sponsored events, contact the Community Programs office, (417) 255-7966 or email [WPUnivCommunityPrograms@MissouriState.edu](mailto:WPUnivCommunityPrograms@MissouriState.edu). Visit them on Facebook for event updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriStateWPUCP>

**U** West Plains Country Club  
 1402 Country Club Drive  
 (417) 256-7197



West Plains Country Club

The West Plains Country Club was established in 1926 and has undergone multiple renovations and upgrades through the years to become a full-service event center. There are a variety of membership categories available ranging from golfing on an individual or family basis to different levels of involvement in social activities. There is a non-resident member opportunity. Amenities include an 18-hole golf course, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and two regulation-size tennis courts.

<https://wpcountryclub.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/wpcclub>

**V** Yellow House  
 209 W. Trish Knight Street  
 theyellowhousewp@gmail.com



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The Yellow House is a volunteer organization devoted to promoting the arts and education in the Ozarks. As a venue for local art and music, check the Yellow House Facebook page for upcoming events.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheYellowHouseWP>

## WHERE TO STAY

- W** **Baymont by Wyndham**  
 1605 Imperial Drive | (417) 204-5114
- X** **Hampton Inn**  
 1064 London Lane | (417) 255-0442
- Y** **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**  
 1301 Preacher Roe Blvd. | (417) 257-3000
- Z** **Quality Inn**  
 220 Jan Howard Exp. | (417) 257-2711
- AA** **Super 8 by Wyndham**  
 1210 Porter Wagoner Blvd. | (417) 204-5728
- BB** **West Plains Motel**  
 505 Porter Wagoner Blvd. | (417) 256-4105

## FAMOUS WEST PLAINSIANS

### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

**Porter Wagoner** achieved fame as a country music singer, songwriter, and musician. Born on Aug. 12, 1927, and raised on a farm south of West Plains, Porter started his public music career while he worked as a meat cutter after his family moved to town in the early 1940s. As a popular local entertainer, he did live performances on radio station KWPM-AM from the butcher shop where he worked. In 1951 he was hired to perform on KWTO in Springfield, Mo., which led to a contract with RCA Victor. In 1953, his song "Trademark" became a hit for Carl Smith. Beginning in 1955 he was featured on Ozark Jubilee, a Springfield-based television show with a national audience. He joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1958. He would go on to have 81 charted records and his own syndicated television program, *The Porter Wagoner Show*, which aired from 1960 to 1981. The show introduced Dolly Parton who was part of the show, and Porter's vocal partner, from 1967 to 1976. With his flashy, custom-made suits and blond pompadour, Porter was a popular performer in Nashville for many years where he was known informally as "Mr. Grand Ole Opry." The longest street in West Plains is "Porter Wagoner Boulevard," named for our beloved native son who died on Oct. 28, 2007.



countrymusicalliance.org

**Jan Howard** made her mark on the country music industry as a recording artist and songwriter. She was born in West Plains on March 13, 1929, with the given name Lula Grace Johnson. It was her second husband songwriter Harlan Howard who encouraged her career, which took off in 1960 with her first major hit "The One You Slip Around With." She signed with Decca Records and continued to have hit singles beginning in the mid-60s, eventually placing 30 songs on the Billboard Country Charts. She teamed up with Bill Anderson, and the duo also charted with several songs and toured together until the mid-1970s. Several tragic life circumstances nearly led her to give up her career, but she released more albums into the 1980s. She also took up writing, including publication of her autobiography *Sunshine and Shadow*. She became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1971 and continued to perform there until 2019. Jan died on March 28, 2020.



wikipedia.com

**Dick Van Dyke**, a well-known, award-winning actor, comedian, writer, singer, and dancer, is perhaps the most famous West Plains son, however, his tenure in our town was the briefest. He was born here on Dec. 13, 1925, but he and his parents stayed only until the next spring when they moved



wikipedia.com

back to their hometown, Danville, Ill., where Dick would grow up and attend high school before joining the US military in 1944, serving stateside entertaining troops as a member of the Special Services. During the late 1940s, he launched an award-winning career which has spanned seven decades in film, television, and the theatre. Dick is the recipient of five Primetime Emmys, a Tony, and a Grammy Award, and was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1995.

### Gilbert Ray "Speck" Rhodes

was a country music comedian and entertainer best known for his appearances on Porter Wagoner's television show. He was born July 16, 1915, on a farm which is now the location of the Heart of the Ozarks Fairgrounds, and coincidentally, adjacent to the Welcome Center. Speck was from a musical family. He and his three siblings toured the RKO vaudeville circuit and barnstormed throughout north central Arkansas where the family had moved following the 1918 influenza epidemic. Speck played banjo and bass fiddle, and it was during the 1930s that he developed his comic character. Through no connection of mutual birthplace, in 1960 Speck auditioned in Nashville for Porter Wagoner's TV show. He landed the gig which led to a lasting friendship between the two men. He and Porter were the only two original members when the show stopped airing in 1981. Speck died March 19, 2000.



pintrrest.com

### SPORTS

#### Elwin "Preacher" Roe

was a professional baseball player who started his career as a St. Louis Cardinal in 1938 and who would go on to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1944-47 and finally, for the legendary Brooklyn Dodgers from 1948-54 where he had a stellar career, including in 1951 when he posted a 22-3 win-loss record. He was a five-time All-Star and, along with the rest of the Dodgers team, is immortalized in Roger Kahn's book *The Boys of Summer*. Born on Feb. 26, 1916, in Ash Flat, Ark., Preacher grew up in Viola, Ark. However, after he retired from baseball, he moved to West Plains where for many years he operated a grocery store and was – and still is – claimed and revered as our town's very own "boy of summer." Preacher died on Nov. 9, 2008.



wikipedia.com

**Bill Virdon** is a former professional baseball outfielder, manager, and coach. He was born June 9, 1931, in Michigan to parents who were originally from Missouri but who had moved away to find work during the Great Depression. In 1944 the Virdons moved to Howell County where



billvirdon.com

Bill would attend West Plains High School, excelling at sports and graduating with

the class of 1949. He started his Minor League Baseball career in 1950 as part of the New York Yankees organization. His Major League career began in 1955 with the St. Louis Cardinals where he was named National League Rookie of the Year. The next year Bill was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates where he remained through his playing years and was part of the team as it won the 1960 World Series. Retiring as a player after the 1965 season, he went on to coach and manage with several organizations and continued to be involved in baseball through the years. Bill passed away on November 23, 2021.

**Tedd Gullic** was an outfielder for the St. Louis Browns from 1930 through the 1933 season. He was born Jan. 2, 1907, in the neighboring community of Koshkonong, Mo., and died Jan. 28, 2000, in West Plains where he had made his home as a successful businessman after retiring from baseball.



imggraves.com

## HISTORY TOUR OF WEST PLAINS

### SELF-GUIDED TOUR

*Take a drive around our town and learn about some of the pivotal events and people who are part of our past, present, and future. Begin at the East Maple and Evans Street entrance to Oak Lawn Cemetery.*

#### Oak Lawn Cemetery "Rock of Ages" monument

This marker was erected Oct. 6, 1929, for the unidentified dead from the Friday the 13th, April 1928, West Plains Dance Hall Explosion. Thirty-seven people were killed and at least 23 were injured. The resulting property damage was estimated at the time to be \$250,000, which is over \$4 million in today's currency. The disaster made news across the U.S. After extensive investigation, no exact cause was determined for the massive blast, but the Bond Dance Hall was located above a garage owned by J.N. Weiser who was found dead behind the building with the doorknob to the garage in his hand, which only added to the mystery.



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**Cemetery Scavenger Hunt: Civil War Cannon Ball, Grave of Polly the Parrot, and Civil War Nurse. See the descriptions below and see if you can find these unique memorials.**

#### Alice Farmer Risley, Civil War nurse and teacher (concrete bench, east of the south cemetery entrance)

Before she died in 1931, Alice Farmer Risley was the last known surviving Civil War nurse. Alice had volunteered as a nurse for the Union in New Orleans. Following the war's end, she married former patient, Samuel Risley, and the two moved to West Plains where Samuel established the South Missouri Journal newspaper. Samuel and Alice also served as Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster. Alice wrote of her days

in West Plains, and much of our early history is preserved because of her.

### Civil War cannon ball

Local legend has it that this cannon ball is the one that struck the original Howell County Courthouse during the West Plains Civil War skirmish in February 1862. During the war, West Plains was completely abandoned by its inhabitants, and only a handful of people remained in the entire county. Most who left the area returned to rebuild when the war was over.

### Langston Family Plot and Polly the Parrot

This oldest area of the cemetery is the final resting place for many of the prominent early citizens of West Plains, including the Langstons and their parrot, Polly, the only known non-human buried in Oak Lawn. Polly was the pet of Dr. Thomas and Laura Bradford of Marshfield, Mo. On April 18, 1880, a tornado killed nearly 100 people in Marshfield, including Dr. Bradford. Following his death, Polly would so often ask, "Hey, ma. Where's pa?" that the grief-stricken widow sent the parrot to live with her daughter, Sallie Bradford Langston, in West Plains where Polly lived out her days as a well-known, local "celebrity."

*Exit the Cemetery and continue traveling north on Evans Street then turn left on Grace Avenue. Although time has taken its toll, in its heyday in the early 1900s, Grace Avenue was known as "Professional's Row" with local doctors, pharmacists, bankers, and other prominent residents living along the street.*

### Evans House

Built in the 1880s, six generations of the Evans family have lived, and continue to live, in the Evans house.



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### Knoerle/Hogan House

This house was completed in 1897 by Joseph Knoerle, the superintendent of a nearby 114-acre peach orchard. The next owners were Dr. Robert Hogan and his wife. One street over, north of Grace Ave., was the Christa Hogan Hospital. Named in honor of his mother, Robert established the hospital in a building that had formerly housed West Plains College. That structure is gone – Ozark Action is now located on the site – but it is where Dr. Hogan delivered Dick Van Dyke on Dec. 13, 1925.



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### McFarland House

Built by John Henry McFarland and his wife, Egbertine Green McFarland, granddaughter of Union Brigadier General Egbert B. Brown who died in the McFarland home on Feb. 12, 1902. Current owners are in the process of restoring the home.

*At the end of Grace, turn right on Curry Street.*

### All Saints' Episcopal Church

Built in 1888, little has changed since the cornerstone of All Saints' was laid. One of the oldest public buildings in the area, the church is considered second in West Plains public building age only to the First Presbyterian Church.



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### Turn left on East Main Street.

#### Town Spring

Under the Historic Post Office building (which previously also served as the town library and is currently a privately owned event center) runs the spring where Josiah Howell settled in October of 1839. West Plains is the county seat of Howell County, namesake of that pioneer family. In the early to mid-1800s "hardly a stick of timber grew within sight of the spring, only tall blue stem prairie grass." This historical note offers the reason for our town's eventual name, based on "the plains west of Thomasville," a neighboring Oregon County community which was established with a post office in 1846, two years before West Plains gained its post office in 1848.



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### Turn left on Walnut Street, then right on East Leyda Avenue.

#### First Presbyterian Church

On the right is the First Presbyterian Church, believed to be the oldest public structure in Howell County. The front portion of the church is original, built in 1885 at a cost of \$4,000. In 1910, the back portion of the building was added, with a further addition on the north side in 1978. The stained glass, original to the building, underwent restoration in 2018 as part of an extensive preservation project by the congregation.



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#### Zorn Building

On the left is the W.J. Zorn building, built in 1912 by Will Zorn, publisher of the Howell County Gazette newspaper. The newspaper work was done downstairs, and the family lived upstairs. This arrangement continued over the years as the building changed hands, housing different businesses and families, including long-time owners Russ and Shirley Cochran. Russ, who died in 2020, was a noted publisher in the comic art industry and of the West Plains Gazette historical magazine. The family also owned several chimpanzees over the years and had large exterior cages installed to house them. The building is currently owned by a local attorney.



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### Turn right on Aid Avenue to Historic Downtown West Plains Square.

#### Courthouse Square Historic District

The entire Historic District sits on approximately 11.5 acres and contains 46 historic buildings, ranging in age from 1881-1950. Not all are included on the route of this tour. The average age of the court square buildings, not including the courthouse or the newer bank building and county office building, is 115 years.



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#### Aid Hardware/ Downtown Antiques

The Aid building was built in 1914 after the first one was destroyed by fire. After the fire, the 42,000-square-foot structure was built with a state-of-the-art sprinkler system on every floor, designed to be as fireproof as possible. Records show the construction cost to be \$25,000, a huge sum in 1914. After 105 years in business, Aid Hardware closed in 1990, and the Aid family opened an antique mall in the building which continues in operation today.



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#### Catron Opera House

Built in 1893, the Opera House served as the cultural and entertainment center for the town, including plays, music, and in later years, as an upstairs basketball court. Its construction followed the prosperity of the railroad. The first train arrived in West Plains on Christmas Day 1883 and ushered in a population explosion. In 1880, West Plains had a population of 350. Over the next decade the population grew to 2,091.



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#### Civil War Skirmish Site Historical Marker

The only confrontation which occurred between Union and Confederate regulars in Howell County was at this site on Feb. 19, 1862. Six Confederate infantrymen were killed, eight wounded, and 40 taken prisoner. There were no Union casualties. The population of West Plains at that time was 150. By 1863 West Plains was burned to the ground by guerilla fighters. Information about the skirmish can be found on the marker or from official Civil War records, available in an exhaustive Civil War history on the Ohio State University website: <https://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/008/0067>



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### Howell County Courthouse

This courthouse, completed in 1937, is the fourth courthouse for the county. The first courthouse was destroyed during the Civil War. The second one burned, taking with it the county records that had been hidden and protected throughout the war. The third courthouse was damaged so badly in the Bond Dance Hall explosion that it had to be torn down.



David Johnston

### Head east on East Main Street.

#### Sheriff Kelly's murder by the Barker Gang

On Dec. 19, 1931, Sheriff C. Roy Kelly was shot and killed minutes after exiting the brand-new West Plains Post Office which had opened just days before the tragic incident. As he left the building, the sheriff was quietly tipped off by the owner of Davidson Motor Company, located across the street, that three men having tires repaired seemed suspicious and were wearing clothes that looked like items taken from a recent robbery from C.C. McCallon's store. Sheriff Kelly stepped to his car to get his gun, slipping it under his coat. As he crossed East Main to question the men, Alvin Karpis, a member of the Ma Barker Gang, shot Sheriff Kelly, and the gang members fled in their car. It would be four and a half years before FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.



David Johnston

# UNLOCK THE OZARKS

START EXPLORING THE OZARKS TODAY!  
Combining Traditional Ozarks Storytelling and Modern Technology.

1. Scan a Key with your smartphone and a QR Reader App.
2. Learn about the site you're visiting through historical and modern images, stories, audio, and video.
3. Add your own piece to the story or start a new Key!



ADVENTURE AWAITS!  
START EXPLORING OUR BEAUTIFUL  
OZARKS USING THE SUGGESTED DAY  
TRIP ROUTES ON PAGES 15–19 OR  
PLAN OUT YOUR OWN ADVENTURE  
USING THE MAP AND KEY ON PAGES  
20–23. NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF  
YEAR OF YOUR VISIT, YOU ARE SURE  
TO SEE WHY WE CALL THIS  
BEAUTIFUL PLACE HOME.

## DAY TRIP ROUTES

Take the roads less traveled through our beautiful Ozarks to explore historic mills, crystal-clear springs, scenic byways, and miles of trails. No matter what the season, you are sure to be amazed at the natural splendor around you.

Choose from several Day Trip Routes listed on pages 15-19 or make your own path using the map on pages 20-21 and the information about all there is to see and do on pages 22-65.

Happy exploring!

### EASTERN MILLS 158.2 total miles



**50 miles to Boze Mill:** Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. Stay on Highway 160 in Alton and travel 14 miles. Turn left on County Road 152. Boze Mill will be ahead in 2.4 miles.

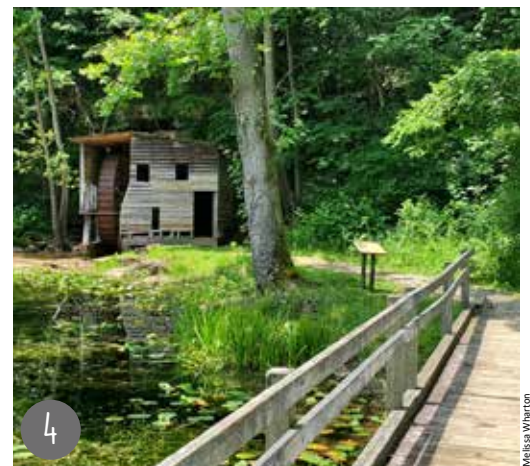
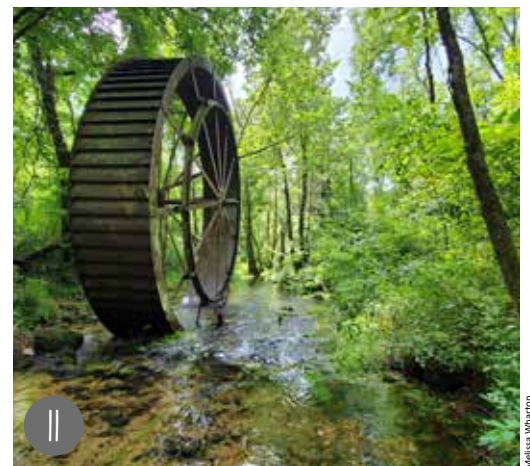
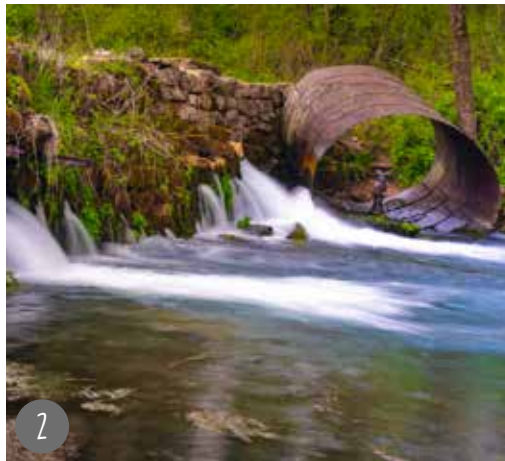
**24.4 miles to Greer Spring Trail:** Leave Boze Mill and take County Road 152 back to Highway 160. Turn right on Highway 160 and drive to Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north. Go 8 miles and the parking area for Greer Spring and Trail will be on your left. (It is a 0.9 mile hike to the spring.)

**.5 miles to Greer Mill:** Continue on Highway 19 to the mill. It is on the left and easy to miss. There is not much of a parking area at the mill.

**13.6 miles to Turner Mill:** Continue on Highway 19 for 3 miles. Turn right on County Road 3152. Go 6 miles then turn right on County Road 3190 for another 2.6 miles to a small parking area.

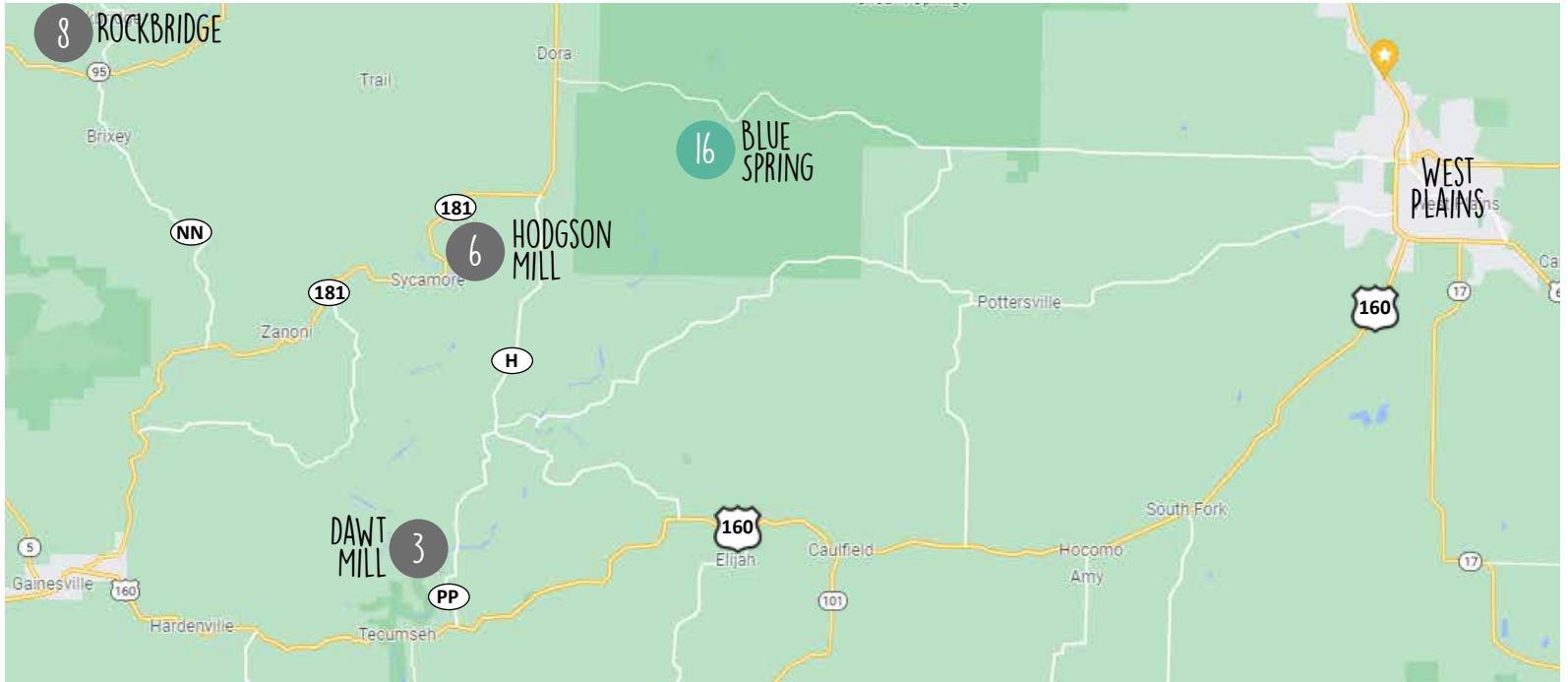
**16.7 miles to Falling Spring Mill:** Backtrack to Highway 19 then turn right. Travel for 5.5 miles to County Road 156 and turn right. Go left at the fork and in 2.6 miles, the parking area will be on your right.

**53 miles to West Plains:** Continue on Highway 19 to Highway 60. Turn left on Highway 60. In 34 miles, take left ramp for Highway 63 South.



"TAKE THE BACKROADS INSTEAD OF THE HIGHWAYS." ~Minnie Pearl

# WESTERN MILLS 110.7 total miles



**32 miles to Dawt Mill:** Take Highway 160 west toward Caulfield. Stay on 160 and travel approximately 11 miles past Caulfield then turn right on PP Highway. In about one mile, turn left on County Road 318 to Dawt Mill.

**15.3 miles to Hodgson Mill:** Leave Dawt Mill and go back to PP Highway. Turn left and go 4.3 miles then turn left on H Highway. Go 6 miles then turn left on Highway 181. Hodgson Mill will be on your left in 4 miles.

**17.2 miles to Rockbridge:** Continue on Highway 181 and go 7.2 miles then turn right on NN Highway. Go 8 miles and cross over Highway 95. The entrance to Rockbridge is 2 miles ahead on the left.

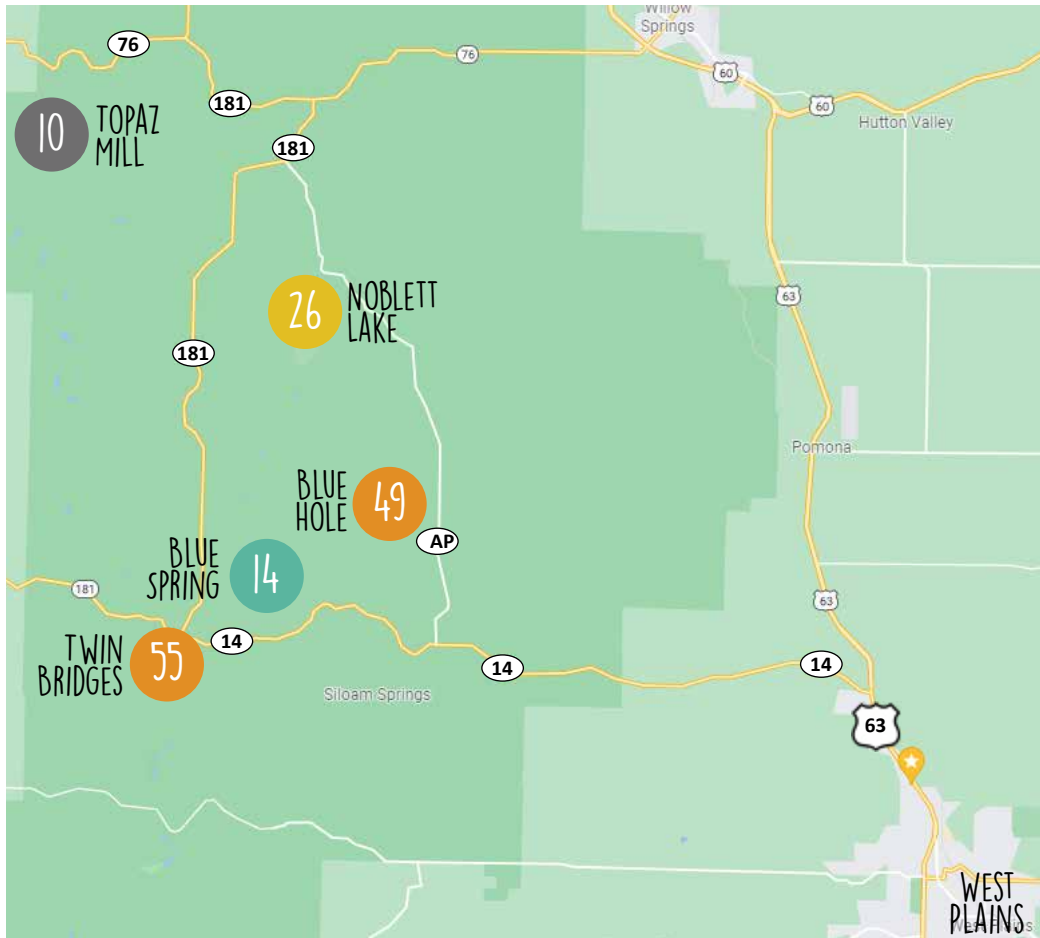
**28.2 miles to Blue Spring:** Leave Rockbridge and turn right on NN Highway. Cross Highway 95 and continue on NN Highway to Highway 181. Turn left on Highway 181. At junction of Highway 181 and H Highway, turn left. In 2.8 miles, turn right on CC Highway. In 4.2 miles, the entrance to the North Fork Recreation Area is on your right. The Blue Spring trail will be about a half mile from the entrance. There is a parking area at the trailhead.

**18 miles to West Plains:** Turn right on CC Highway from North Fork Recreation Area. Highway 63 in 17.5 miles ahead.



Not all who WANDER are lost. ~ J.R.R. Tolkien

# GEMS OF THE FOREST 74.7 total miles



**13 miles to Blue Hole:** Take Highway 63 north. In 2 miles, turn left on Highway 14 and go 9.5 miles then turn right on AP Highway. The entrance to Blue Hole will be on the left in less than 2 miles.

**6.5 miles to Noblett Lake:** Continue on AP Highway. In 6.5 miles, the entrance to Noblett Lake will be on your left.

**13.8 miles to Topaz:** Continue on AP Highway and travel 3.1 miles to Highway 181. Turn right and go 1.4 miles then turn left onto Highway 76/181. Go 4 miles then turn left on E Highway. Go 4 miles and continue straight on County Road E-276. Go 1.3 miles and Topaz Mill will be on the left.

**21.9 miles to Twin Bridges:** Go back to Highway 76 and turn right. In 4 miles, turn right on Highway 181. In 12.6 miles, you will arrive at Twin Bridges.

**3 miles to Big Spring:** Go west on Highway 14. In 2 miles, turn left on County Road 292. Big Spring will be 1 mile on the left.

**16.5 miles to West Plains:** Go back to Highway 14 and turn left. In 13.5 miles, turn right on Highway 63.



49

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26

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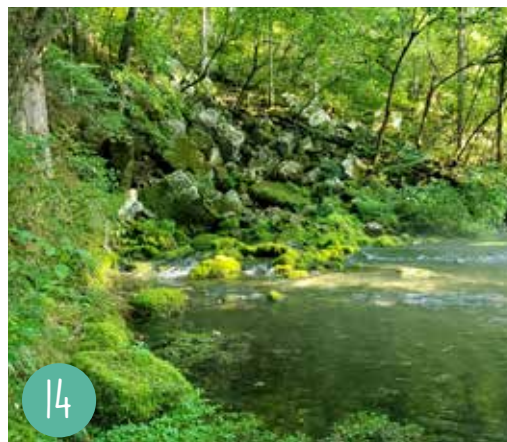
10

Melissa Wharton



55

Melissa Wharton



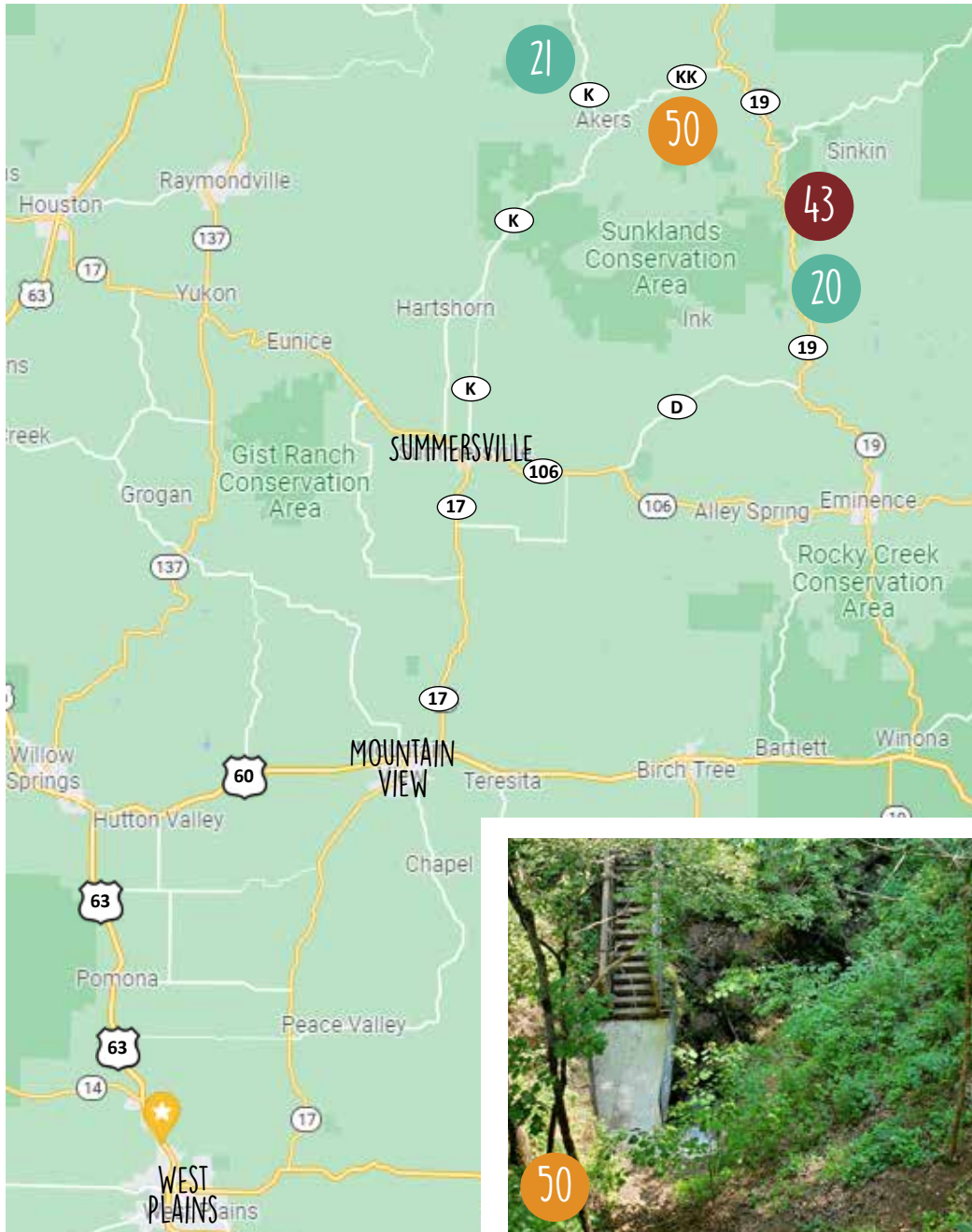
14

Melissa Wharton

"OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO."

~ Dr. Seuss

# OUR UNUSUAL OZARKS 145.4 total miles



**63 miles to Round Spring:** Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, continue straight on D Highway. Go 9 miles then turn left on Highway 19. In 5 miles, the entrance for Round Spring will be on your right.

**2.2 miles to Echo Bluff:** Continue on Highway 19 to the entrance of Echo Bluff State Park.

**13.2 miles to Devil's Well:** Continue on Highway 19 for 9.2 miles then turn left on KK Highway. In 2 miles, turn left on Devil's Well Road. Devil's Well will be ahead in 2 miles.

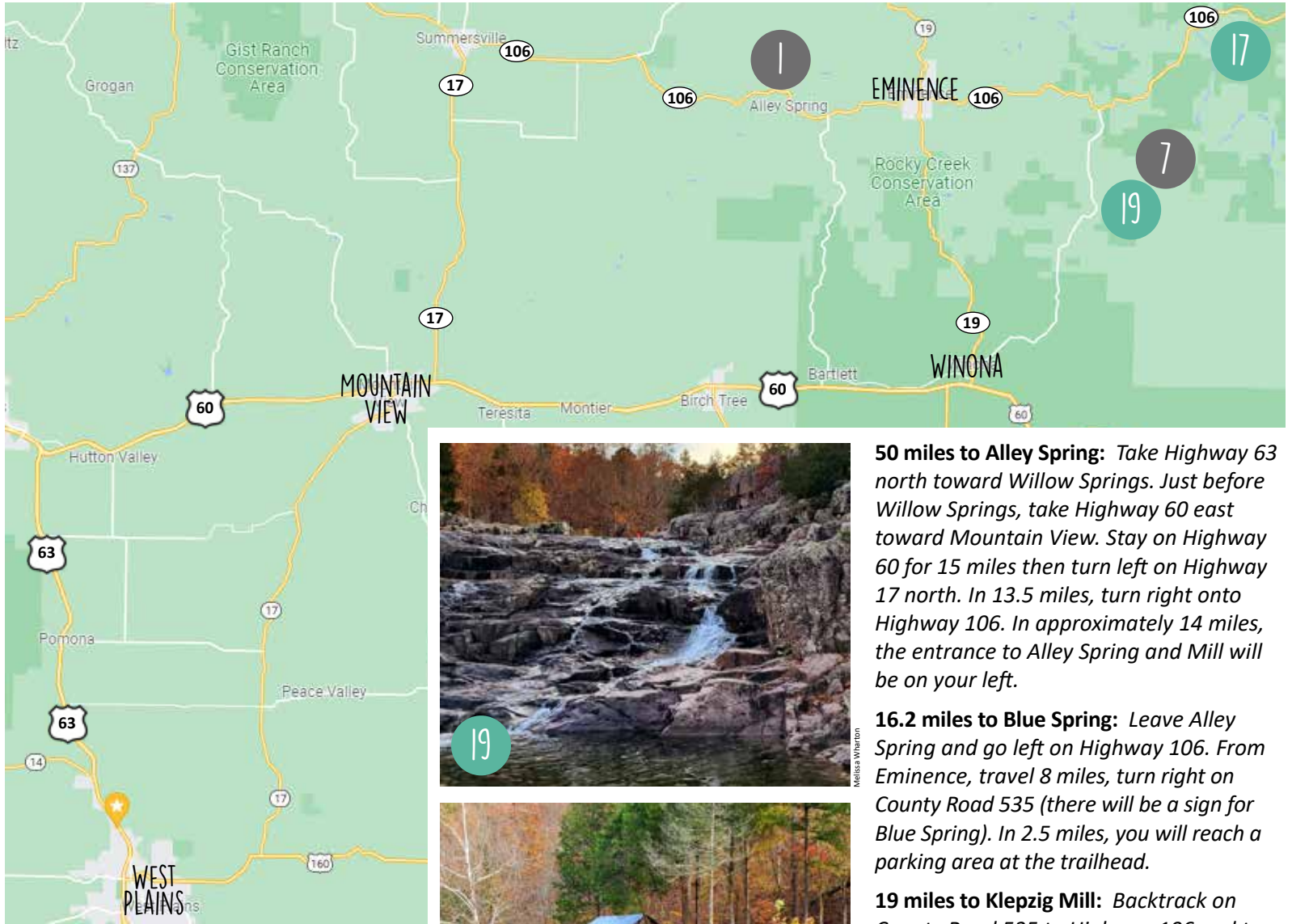
**7 miles to Welch Spring:** Backtrack to KK Highway and turn left. Go 3.8 miles then turn right on K Highway. Turn left on the first gravel road past the Akers Group Camp. At the end of the road, park next to the river and walk a trail north along the river for about a half mile. At the end of the trail you will be able to see the hospital ruins, although you will be across the river from it.

**60 miles to West Plains:** Backtrack on K Highway and cross the Current River on Akers Ferry. Stay on K Highway for 19 miles. Turn left on Highway 17. In 13 miles, turn right on Highway 60. In 14.5 miles, take the left ramp onto South Highway 63.

(Note: Occasionally Akers Ferry is closed due to gravel deposits on the river. If it is closed, you will need to return to West Plains from the way you came.)

"SO MUCH OF WHO WE ARE IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN."  
~ William Langewiesche

**MILLS, SPRINGS & FALLS, OH MY** 149.2 total miles



**50 miles to Alley Spring:** Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 15 miles then turn left on Highway 17 north. In 13.5 miles, turn right onto Highway 106. In approximately 14 miles, the entrance to Alley Spring and Mill will be on your left.



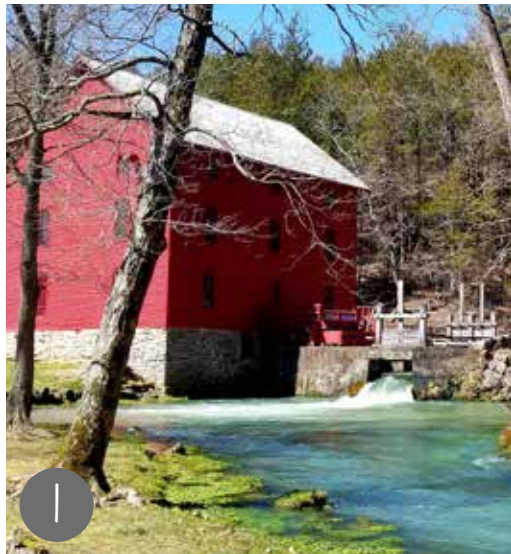
**16.2 miles to Blue Spring:** Leave Alley Spring and go left on Highway 106. From Eminence, travel 8 miles, turn right on County Road 535 (there will be a sign for Blue Spring). In 2.5 miles, you will reach a parking area at the trailhead.

**19 miles to Klepzig Mill:** Backtrack on County Road 535 to Highway 106 and turn left. In 7.6 miles, turn left on H Highway. In 4 miles, turn left on NN Highway. In 4 miles, turn left on County Road 522. The mill is less than a mile on the right. (Not recommended for motorhomes or trailers.)

**3 miles to Rocky Falls:** Go back to Highway NN Highway and go 2 miles. Turn left on County Road 526.

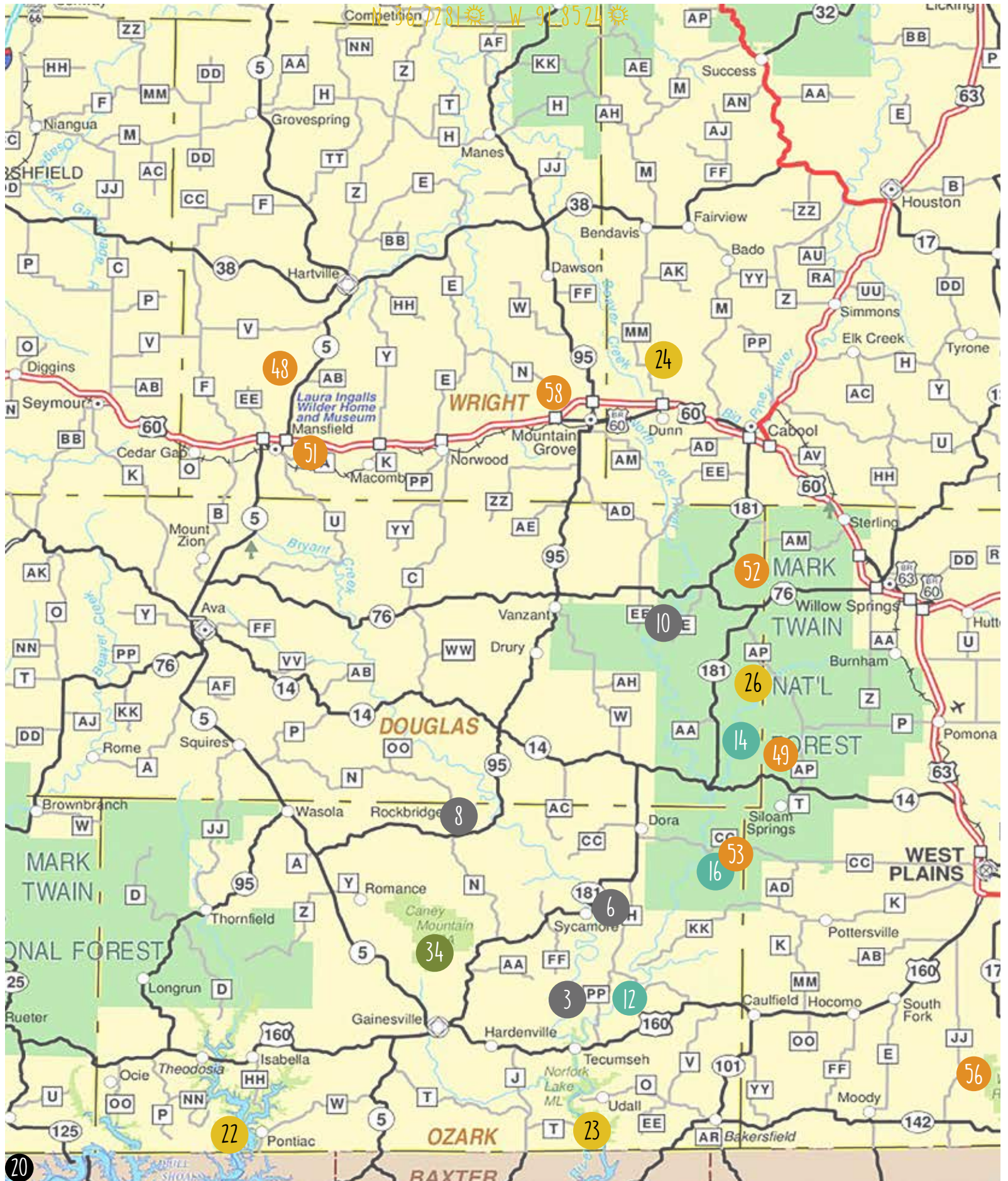


**61 miles to West Plains:** Go back to Highway NN Highway and turn left. In 8.5 miles, turn left onto Highway 19. At Highway 60, turn right. Stay on Highway 60 for 36 miles then take the left ramp onto South Highway 63.



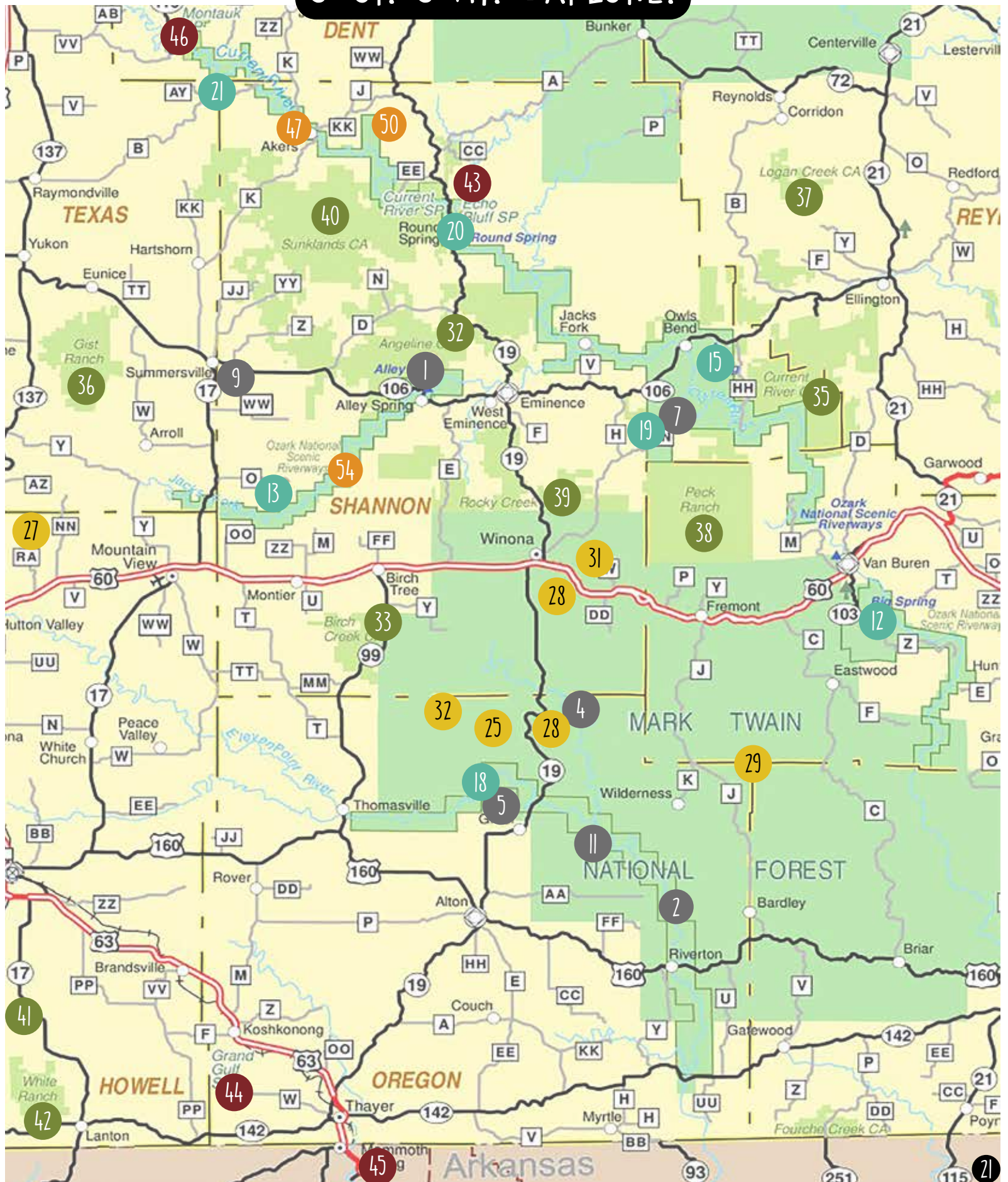
"ONCE A YEAR, GO SOMEPLACE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE."  
~ Dalai Lama

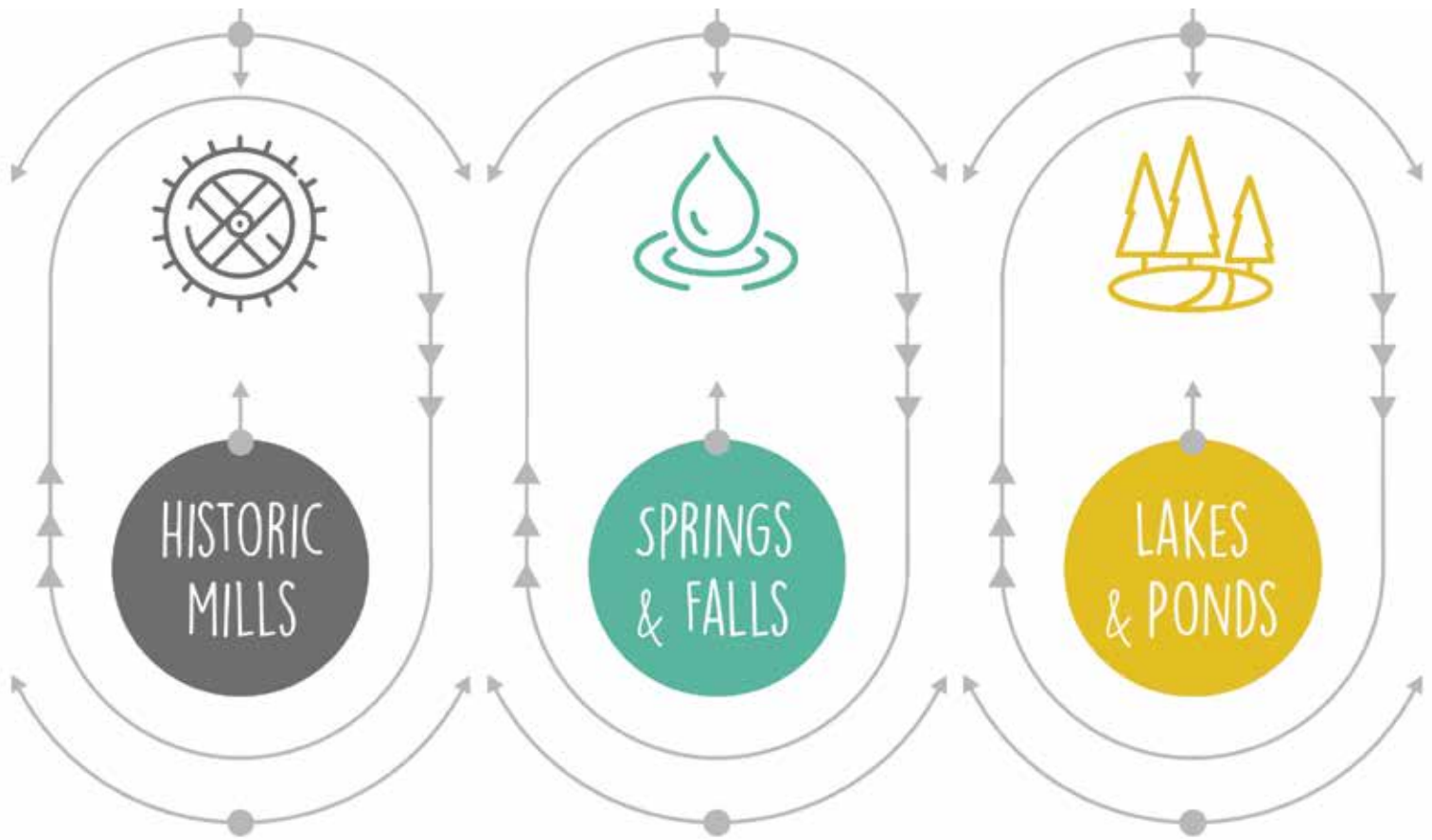
# EXPLORE Plains



# STOP. STAY. EXPLORE.

SEE KEY ON PAGES 22-23

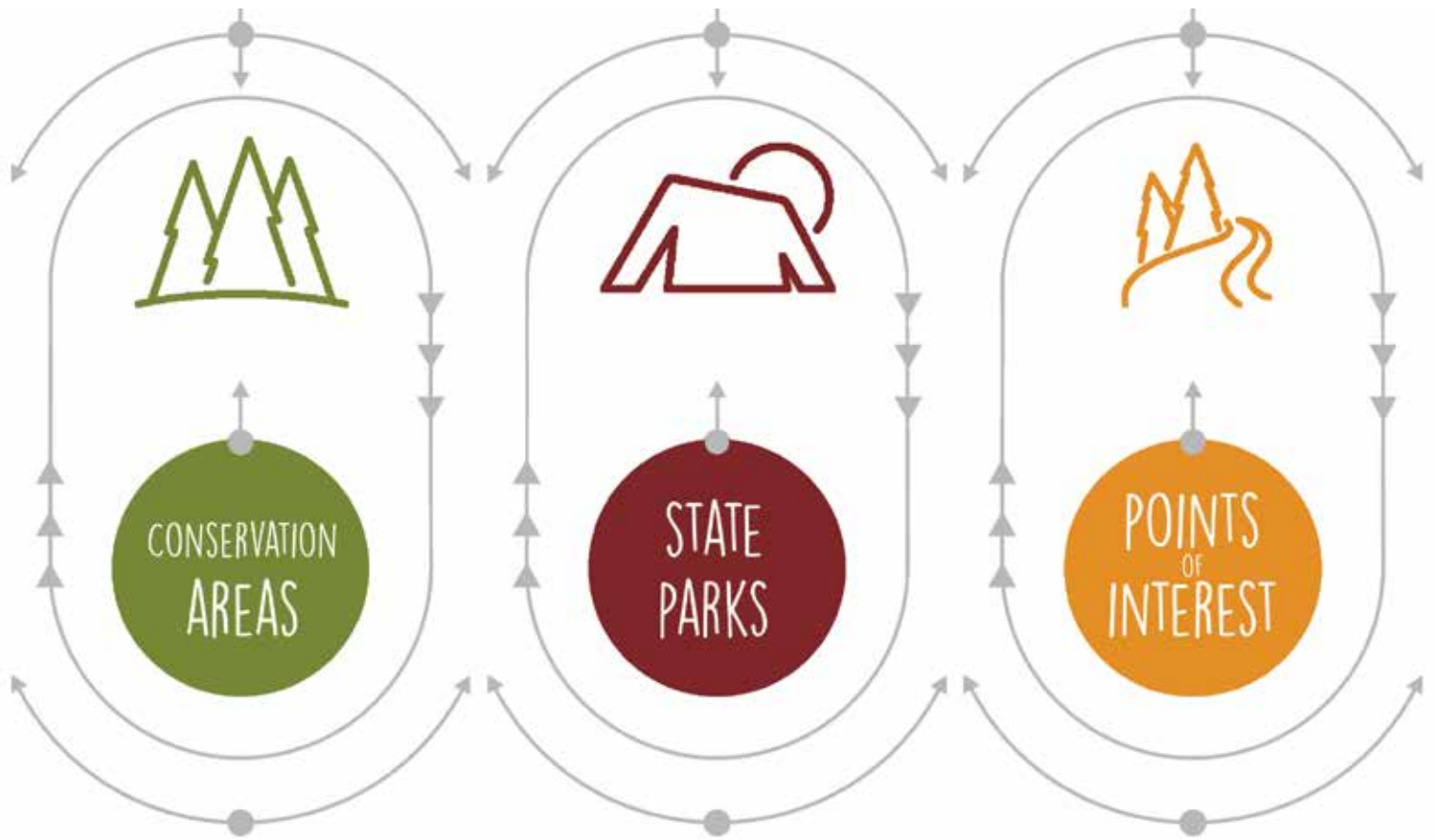




- 1 ALLEY PG. 25
- 2 BOZE PG. 26
- 3 DAWT PG. 27
- 4 FALLING SPRING PG. 28
- 5 GREER PG. 29
- 6 HODGSON PG. 30
- 7 KLEPZIG MILL PG. 31
- 8 ROCKBRIDGE PG. 32
- 9 SUMMERSVILLE PG. 33
- 10 TOPAZ PG. 34
- 11 TURNER PG. 35

- 12 ALTHEA SPRING PG. 37
- 13 BIG SPRING PG. 38 (CURRENT RIVER)
- 14 BIG SPRING PG. 39 (SPRING CREEK)
- 15 BLUE SPRING PG. 40 (JACKS FORK RIVER)
- 16 BLUE SPRING PG. 41 (NORTH FORK RIVER)
- 17 BLUE SPRING PG. 42 (CURRENT RIVER)
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- 21 WELCH SPRING PG. 46

- 22 BULL SHOALS LAKE PG. 48
- 23 NORFORK LAKE PG. 48
- 24 AUSTIN LAKE PG. 48
- 25 MCCORMACK LAKE PG. 48
- 26 NOBLETT LAKE PG. 49
- 27 SIMS VALLEY LAKE PG. 48
- 28 BRUSHY POND PG. 50
- 29 CUPOLA POND PG. 50
- 30 GRASSY POND PG. 50
- 31 MARG POND PG. 50
- 32 TUPELO GUM POND PG. 50



- 32 ANGELINE PG. 52
- 33 BIRCH CREEK PG. 52
- 34 CANEY MOUNTAIN PG. 52
- 35 CURRENT RIVER PG. 52
- 36 GIST RANCH PG. 52
- 37 LOGAN CREEK PG. 52
- 38 PECK RANCH PG. 52
- 39 ROCKY CREEK PG. 52
- 40 SUNKLANDS PG. 52
- 41 TINGLER PRAIRIE PG. 52  
(NATURAL AREA)
- 42 WHITE RANCH PG. 52
- 43 ECHO BLUFF PG. 54
- 44 GRAND GULF PG. 55
- 45 MAMMOTH SPRING PG. 56
- 46 MONTAUK PG. 57
- 47 AKERS FERRY PG. 59
- 48 BAKERSVILLE PIONEER VILLAGE PG. 59
- 49 BLUE HOLE PG. 60
- 50 DEVIL'S WELL PG. 60
- 51 LAURA INGALLS WILDER HISTORIC HOME & MUSEUM PG. 61
- 52 MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST PG. 61
- 53 NORTH FORK RECREATION AREA PG. 62
- 54 OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS PG. 62
- 55 TWIN BRIDGES PG. 62
- 56 VANDERHOEF FOREST PG. 62
- 57 WILD HORSES OF SHANNON COUNTY PG. 62
- 58 WORLD'S LARGEST CONSTITUTION PG. 62



RUSHING WATER WAS THE POWER THAT TURNED GRAIN INTO FLOUR AND TIMBER INTO LUMBER AT THE MANY HISTORIC MILLS THAT YOU CAN VISIT AROUND WEST PLAINS. SOME MILLS PROVIDE AN INTERPRETIVE HISTORY ABOUT LIFE IN THE 1800S, WHILE OTHERS SIMPLY PROVIDE A PLACE TO WALK, TAKE PHOTOS, OR JUST ENJOY THE BEAUTY AND HISTORY OF THE OZARKS.

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

Your guide to adventure! Use this key for the symbols on pages 25-67.

- |   |           |   |                  |
|---|-----------|---|------------------|
|  | Camping   |  | Horseback Riding |
|  | Dining    |  | Lodging          |
|  | Fishing   |  | Mountain Biking  |
|  | Floating  |  | Picnic Area      |
|  | Gun Range |  | Restrooms        |
|  | Hiking    |  | Swimming         |



## ALLEY SPRING MILL

37.1442141-91.4615359

- 7th largest spring in Missouri
- 81 million gallons per day
- Spring conduit extends at least 3,000 feet underground
- Spring lake approximately 155 feet deep
- Mill was built in 1894

*"A mill was vital to community life, where grain was ground to provide the daily bread. The present building was constructed during 1893-1894 by George Washington McCaskill as a merchant mill. It was larger than most mills in the Jacks Fork area and replaced an earlier mill on this same site that was built by 1868. Originally unpainted, it was first painted white with green trim, then later the famous red color associated with Alley Mill today." ~ Cindy Von Halle*

There are several things to see and do at Alley. Alley Mill is open to visitors. (Check days and times using links below). Informal tours are available upon request.

Storys Creek One Room Schoolhouse is within walking distance of the mill and has limited hours. A pavilion and public restrooms are available on the property.

Two hiking paths begin at the mill. One is a 1.8-mile loop that goes up the bluff to a breath-taking view of the mill. The other is a short walk around the mill pond and alongside the Alley Branch. It ends at a foot bridge leading back to the parking lot.

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/historyculture/alley-mill.htm>  
<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/alley-spring>



50 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 15 miles then turn left on Highway 17 north. In 13.5 miles, turn right onto Highway 106. In approximately 14 miles, the entrance to Alley Spring and Mill will be on your left.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Echo Bluff State Park
- Klepzig Mill
- Rocky Falls
- Round Spring
- Summersville Mill



# HISTORIC MILLS

## 2 BOZE MILL 36.6436819, -91.8062252

- 12-14 million gallons of water per day
- 1880s turbine and rock wall still exists

Once the site of the Lucas Boze Grist Mill, the area was an important center of commerce where farmers had their wheat and corn ground into flour. All that remains is the historical 1880s turbine and hand-layered rock wall.

Boze Mill Spring forms a sparkling blue pool that runs into the spring branch above the remnants of the mill. Aquatic plants add many shades of green to the spring branch. Boze Mill is nestled in a beautiful glen beside the Eleven Point River just above Riverton.

Access from trailhead or from the Eleven Point River.



Melissa Wharton




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50 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. Stay on Highway 160 in Alton and travel 14 miles. Turn left on County Road 152. Boze Mill will be ahead in 2.4 miles.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Greer Mill
- Greer Spring
- Turner Mill



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### 3 DAWT MILL 36.7108421-92.3383248

- Original mill established in 1866
- Current mill built in 1909
- Now home to Dawt Mill Resort

With a rich history dating back to 1866 and a rumor of a young boy being paid \$10 to burn down the mill in 1893, Dawt Mill has survived many changes in ownership and floods in its 155-year history.


*"In 1995 Dawt Mill was purchased by Dr. Ed Henegar, an Oklahoma native, who was drawn to the Ozarks by the people and the natural beauty. Henegar was then, and would continue to be, the only physician in Ozark County for more than 20 years. Henegar continues to own and operate the mill.*

*The first improvement made to the mill property under Henegar's ownership was the construction of the Cotton Gin Inn, near the site of the original cotton gin. It is a modern facility of rustic design with eight suites, wrap-around porches and a conference room. Chairs line the wrap-around deck of the Inn and offer a wonderful view of the property. The Grist Mill is just a short foot path away."* ~ dawtmill.com/about-us/history/

Today, Dawt Mill Resort offers various dining and lodging options; outfitting for canoes, kayaks or rafts; and has RV and camping sites, too.

<https://dawtmill.com>





32 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 west toward Caulfield. Stay on 160 and travel approximately 11 miles past Caulfield then turn right on Hwy PP. In about one mile, turn left on County Road 318 to Dawt Mill.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Norfolk Lake
- Patrick Bridge
- Althea Spring
- Blair Bridge
- Caney Mountain Conservation Area
- Hodgson Mill



# HISTORIC MILLS

## 4 FALLING SPRING MILL 36.8680167-91.2951167

- 500,000 gallons per day

The Falling Spring area was homesteaded in 1851 by Thomas and Jane Brown of Tennessee. One of four houses built at this site, today, the Thomas Brown Cabin still stands. The current mill was constructed in 1927. Its overshot wheel was used for power to grind corn, saw shingles and firewood, as well as generate electricity. Looking inside the mill, one can still see some of the original machinery in place.

The spring provides 500,000 gallons of water per day. During the Civil War, it is believed that soldiers camped in the area. Falling Spring was so busy at times that 10 to 12 wagons would be camped alongside the road in front of the spring.

The area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and is a day-use area with picnic tables and pedestal grills.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnf/recarea/?recid=21730>



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Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



53 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 34 miles then turn right on Highway 19 south. In 8 miles, turn left onto County Road 3170 then left on County Road 3164. Travel 2.6 miles on gravel road and the parking lot for Falling Spring Mill will be on the right.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Greer Mill
- Turner Mill
- Rocky Falls



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# HISTORIC MILLS

## 5 GREER MILL 36.786558-91.3423582

- Constructed in 1883
- Restored in 2016
- Sits on ridge above Greer Spring

In 1859, Samuel Greer, for whom the spring is named, purchased the spring. In 1860, Greer built a gristmill at the spring.

After returning from the Civil War, he found his mill burned. He rebuilt and resumed milling operations. Around 1870, he enlarged the mill, constructed a dam at the spring, installed a turbine waterwheel, and built a three-story mill building. The mill was used to grind corn, saw lumber, gin cotton, and card wool. He trained oxen to haul loads up and down the steep slope above the spring without a driver.

As more people settled in the area, the need for flour, lumber, and other milled products increased. In 1883, he rebuilt the dam and began construction of a new roller mill on top of the ridge above the spring. Materials and equipment were used from the old mill to construct the new mill. A unique cable system was used to transfer power from the turbine wheel at the spring to the new mill on top of the ridge. This is the mill that stands today.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/mtnf/recrea/?recid=21722>



41 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north.

Go 8.5 miles to Greer Mill. It is on the left and is easy to miss. There is not much of a parking area at the mill.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Cupola Pond
- Falling Spring Mill
- Klepzig Mill
- McCormack Lake
- Rocky Falls
- Turner Mill



# HISTORIC MILLS

**6** **HODGSON MILL**  
36.7095031-92.2843352

- Original mill built in 1861
- Current mill constructed in 1897
- 28 million gallons per day

Hodgson Mill was built in 1861 by William Holeman at the base of the cliff where Hodgson Spring discharges. The spring produces 28 million gallons of water per day. The mill closed during the Civil War and it is unclear whether Holeman reopened the mill or had to build a new one after the war. Holeman operated the mill until his death in 1879.

In 1884, the mill was purchased for \$500 by Alva Hodgson and his mother, Mary. Hodgson upgraded the machinery which made the mill capable of producing a high-quality "white" flour.

At the time, the mill building housed a general store, the Sycamore Post Office, sawmill, and cotton gin. Farmers visited the mill to have their grain (corn and wheat) ground into flour or meal.

A new mill was completed around 1897. This is the structure that stands today. Alva Hodgson's brother, George, bought 1/3 interest in the mill and by 1901, had purchased the mill entirely from his brother. Alva Hodgson went on to build nearby Dawt Mill, completed in 1909. Alva died in 1921 and George continued to operate the mill until his death in 1927.

Ownership of the mill passed to Fred O. Foster from 1927-1934. In 1934, the mill was purchased by businessman Charles Theodore Aid. The mill remained in the Aid family until 1998.

The mill suffered flood damage in 1982 when water rose into the main milling room.

Between 1985 and 1993, Herbert Smith (great-nephew of Alva Hodgson) and his wife leased the mill and provided tours, a store, resort cabins and campground.



In 1998, the mill was sold to Hank and Jean Macler who registered it in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2011, the mill was sold to John and Gwen Deakle.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnf/recarea/?recid=21730>



29 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
From Hwy 63 take CC Highway west for 21 miles. At Highway 181, turn left.

In 2.75, stay on Highway 181 by turning right at the Junction of H Highway. Stay on 181 and in 4 miles, Hodgson Mill will be on your left.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Althea Spring
- Blair Bridge
- Caney Mountain Conservation Area
- Dawt Mill
- Patrick Bridge
- Warren Bridge
- Zanoni Mill

# HISTORIC MILLS

## 7 KLEPZIG MILL 36.786558, -91.3423582

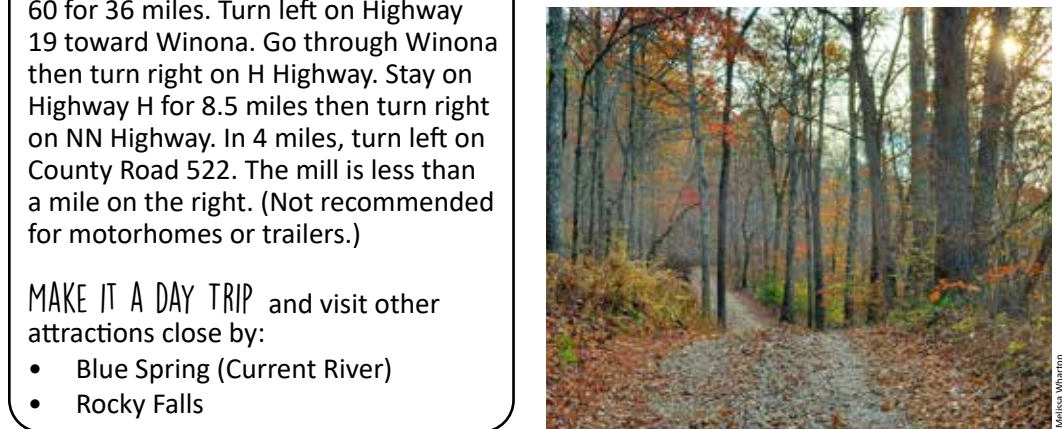
- Constructed in 1928


A small turbine mill built in 1928 by Walter Klepzig sits alongside Rocky Creek. Son of a Prussian German immigrant, Walter was a forward thinker, introducing barbed and woven fence wire and a refined breed of milk cow to the area. He sawed his own logs into boards to build his house and out-buildings. He even saved good boards to build coffins for neighbors. He would grind corn for free for neighbors who could not afford to pay.

Klepzig Mill was a sawmill house built by nailing vertical planks to a hand-hewn sill at the bottom and a sawn two-by-four plate at the top, replacing the customary log built structure of its time. Its foundation is piers of uncut and unmortared native stone.

*"In a spectacular setting, surrounded by the rhyolite rock of the 'shut in' canyon made by Rocky Creek. It is a lasting testament to the hardships of every day life in the Ozarks in a time not so long ago." ~ National Park Service*

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/historyculture/klepzig-mill.htm>





62 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 36 miles. Turn left on Highway 19 toward Winona. Go through Winona then turn right on H Highway. Stay on Highway H for 8.5 miles then turn right on NN Highway. In 4 miles, turn left on County Road 522. The mill is less than a mile on the right. (Not recommended for motorhomes or trailers.)

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Blue Spring (Current River)
- Rocky Falls

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Sawyer Smith



8 **ROCKBRIDGE MILL**  
36.7894064-92.4095865

- Mill built in 1868
- Now a resort and rainbow trout and game ranch

*“Late in the summer of 1841 a group of families left Marion County, Kentucky, in three ox and horse drawn wagons led by Captain Kim Amyx. Their destination would require some 500 miles and six months of challenging travel. They were searching the unknown for a new life in the virgin wilderness of the Ozarks, and would end their journey near present-day Hodgson Mill.*

*It is reported that members of this wagon train, along with other previous settlers, set about to establish a new community known as Rockbridge. The original town and mill site was located near the confluence of Spring Creek and Bryant Creek. It was the county seat of Ozark County, and encompassed what today is three separate counties: Douglas, Howell, and Ozark. After a few short years, the town and mill were destroyed by fire during a civil war battle.*

*In 1868, B.V. Morris rebuilt the original mill on its present day location. The mill’s reconstruction was followed by the reinstatement of the post office, a general store, Masonic Lodge, bank, church, school, blacksmith shop, and a large farmhouse. The village of Rockbridge was a gathering place for people from the countryside. A trip to the mill was a great occasion, enabling people to visit old friends and neighbors, to get their meal and flour, to utilize the post office, to vote on Election Day, and to get news of the outside world.*

*Activity flourished during the latter years of the 19th century and continued until the 1920s and 1930s, but as gasoline power and better roads came along, the need for the mill and the blacksmith shop gradually declined. Eventually there was not a need for the general store. The world changed and Rockbridge was almost aban-*



done. Only the post office remained to mark the existence of this once bustling community.

*In 1946, the Amyx family moved to Rockbridge. Lile and Edith Amyx had a saw mill on the lower part of the stream. In 1954, the family began to develop the Rockbridge Rainbow Trout & Game Ranch.” ~ <https://www.rockbridgemo.com/>*



43 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north to Highway 14. Turn left on Highway 14 and travel 30 miles to Highway 95. Turn left and go 9 miles to N Highway. Turn right on N Highway and the entrance to Rockbridge will be on your left in 2 miles.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Caney Mountain Conservation Area
- Hodgson Mill
- Sycamore Access
- Twin Bridges

# HISTORIC MILLS

## 9 SUMMERSVILLE GRIST MILL 37.1792267, -91.6538368

- Began operating in 1886

*“The mill dates to 1886, when Jim McCaskill purchased and installed machinery for the mill. The mill produced soft wheat flour and provided a place for farmers to have their wheat ground without having to travel.”*

*The Summersville Mill has undergone a huge restoration in the last few years, thanks to the Revitalization and Action Board of Summersville and the many volunteers from the community who have worked on the project.” ~ visitmo.com*

Mill tours are offered by appointment. Email [tourism@westplains.gov](mailto:tourism@westplains.gov) for more information.

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/summersville-mill>  
<http://summersvillemill.org/>



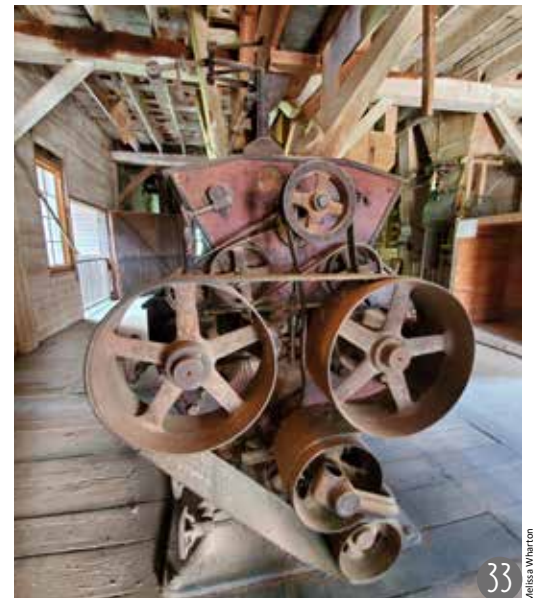
43 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS

Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs.

Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 15 miles then turn left on Highway 17 north. In 13.5 miles, turn right onto Highway 106. In less than a half mile, the mill will be the right.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring Mill
- Blue Spring (Jacks Fork)
- Round Spring





10 TOPAZ MILL  
36.9462381, -92.2029418

- 10 million gallons per day
- Mill built in the mid-1800s

*“Little is known about Topaz’s early years. It’s believed that Henry Schoolcraft initially discovered the settlement’s spring in the early 1800s, which he dubbed Elkhorn Spring. Unfortunately, many other details around Topaz’s existence are piecemeal.” ~ <https://ozarksalive.com/topaz-a-spring-fed-time-capsule/>*

Topaz Mill was built sometime between 1840 and 1850. Information shows that John Talley was the first to set up a store at the mill area. Richard Hutcheson bought the store from Talley around 1890, after which his brother Robartus relocated with his family from the St. Louis area.

Richard eventually became discouraged and sold out to his brother and moved away. Robartus saw the need for a bigger store and a post office. His wife was the postmistress at Topaz all the years they lived there.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a new mill and a new way to harness power for the mill was implemented. By raising the level of that spring 12 feet, running the spring water down a raceway, dumping it down a boiler flue on to a turbine, there was more power than with just the waterwheel.

Topaz grew and as is common in the Ozarks, became the gathering place of the locals. At one point there was a blacksmith, tomato canning factory, a garage, general store, and a barber shop.

By the 1940s, the town was almost gone. The mill made flour through the 1920s and ground corn through the 1930s. The post office closed in 1943 and the general store closed in 1945. The O’Neal family purchased the property in 1957. The third generation of the O’Neal family cares for the mill.



34 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north to Willow Springs. Take the 2nd Willow Springs exit for Highway 76. Turn left at the top of the ramp. Stay on Highway 76 for 11.5 miles. Turn left on E Highway. Stay on E Highway for 4 miles then continue straight on E-276. The mill will be on your left in 1 mile.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Noblett Lake



# HISTORIC MILLS

## II TURNER MILL 36.7664442-91.2752775

- 1.5 million gallons per day from bluff wall
- 1915 25-foot steel overshoot wheel

What remains of Turner Mill is where the now extinct town of Surprise, Missouri, had its own post office from 1895 until 1925. In the early 1850s, G. W. Decker operated the original mill utilizing a wooden overshoot wheel. In 1891, Jesse L. (Clay) Turner bought the mill. He refurbished the four-story mill building, rebuilt the wheel, and added a system of belts, pulleys and drive shafts. The mill had various types of saws for lumber and also equipment for grinding wheat and corn. Turner abandoned the wooden wheel for a turbine which furnished power until 1915. Then the turbine was replaced with the 25-foot steel overshoot wheel that is visible today. The wheel was hauled to the site in sections by oxen. Logs were brought to the mill by floating them down the Eleven Point River. Teams of oxen hauled the logs out of the river and to the mill. At that time, roads were almost non-existent or in very poor condition.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/mtnf/recrea/?recid=21684>



50 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
(In inclement weather, a 4WD vehicle is recommended.) Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north. Go 11.5 and turn right on County Road 3152. Go 6 miles then turn right on County Road 3190 for another 2.6 miles to a small parking area. To find the wheel, take the trailhead just past the restrooms and follow that along the creek.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Greer Mill
- Greer Spring
- Falling Spring
- McCormack Lake



THE OZARKS REGION IS KNOWN FOR ITS MANY SPRINGS AND WATERFALLS, AND YOU'LL ENCOUNTER THEM FREQUENTLY AS YOU EXPLORE THE NATURAL AREAS AROUND WEST PLAINS. THIS SCENERY IS THE BACKDROP FOR QUIET REST AS WELL AS OUTDOOR RECREATION.



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12 ALTHEA SPRING  
36.6417376, -92.2279011

- 12 million gallons of water per day

Althea Spring is the 23rd largest spring in Missouri. It was named for the daughter of Dr. Paul Patrick who was an early owner. The spring was used to power a domestic power plant from 1958 to 1977. It comes up from rocks in the hillside and then runs downhill into the North Fork River.

Althea Spring is a popular stopping spot for floaters and is located in the Patrick Bridge Conservation area. It is accessible by land, too. Parking is available at Patrick Bridge then it's a short walk to the spring.



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28 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 west toward Caulfield. Four miles past Caulfield, turn right on H Highway. In 4 miles, you will reach Patrick Bridge. Park before crossing the bridge then look for the trail to Althea Spring.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Dawt Mill
- Norfolk Lake
- Blair Bridge
- Caney Mountain Conservation Area
- Hodgson Mill



### 13 BIG SPRING (CURRENT RIVER) 36.9490813, -90.9899613

- America's biggest spring
- Largest spring in Missouri
- 286 million gallons of water per day
- One of Missouri's first state parks

Big Spring was established as a state park in Missouri in 1924 and was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression era of the 1930s. The people of Missouri donated it, Alley Spring, and Round Spring to the National Park Service to become a part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1969.

Big Spring ranks up there with Idaho's Snake River Spring Complex and Florida's Silver Spring as the biggest spring in America. With an average daily flow of 286 million gallons of water, the water from Big Spring travels from as far as 45 miles away through a series of underground passages. Divers have discovered that the spring is at least 80 feet deep. As much as 70 tons of dissolved limestone is in the spring water each day. This is what gives the spring water its turquoise blue color.

The spring discharges from the base of a bluff and flows into the Current River.

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/planyourvisit/big-spring.htm>  
<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/big-spring>




Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



Bob Anderson



67 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 55 miles then turn right on Highway 103 in Van Buren. Big Spring State Park will be ahead in 4.25 miles. Highway 103 ends and turns into County Road 60-102.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Falling Spring
- Klepzig Mill
- Rocky Falls



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Bob Anderson



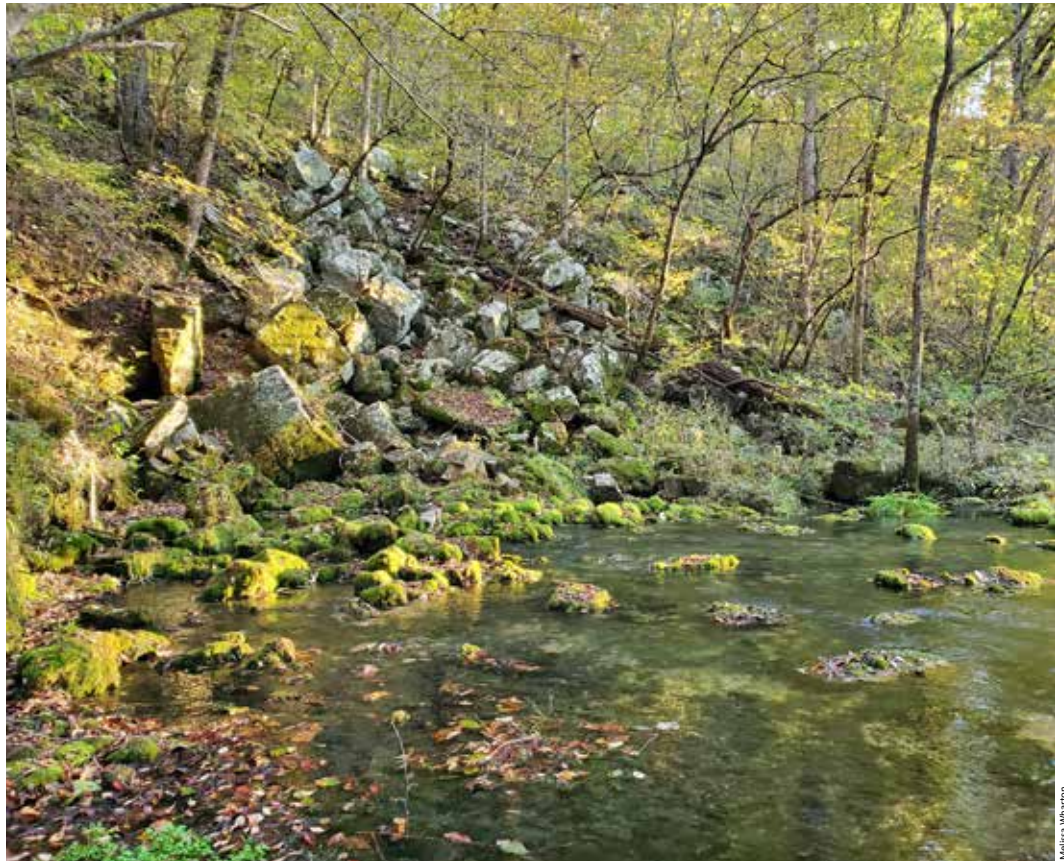
SPRINGS  
& FALLS

14 BIG SPRING (SPRING CREEK)  
36.821717, -92.127829

- 6.5 million gallons of water per day

Big Spring is located down a small path in the Mark Twain National Forest. It flows from beneath a large pile of sandstone blocks at the base of a hill and flows into Spring Creek.

<https://share.mo.gov/nr/mgs/MGSDData/Books/Volumes/The%20Large%20Springs%20of%20Missouri/V-029.pdf>



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16.5 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north and turn left on Hwy 14. In 13.5 miles, turn right on County Road 292. In 1 mile, there is a small parking area at white cornerposts.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Noblett Lake
- Topaz Mill
- Twin Bridges



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# SPRINGS & FALLS

**15** BLUE SPRING (JACKS FORK)  
37.0383573, -91.6358402

- Good wading and fishing site

Blue Spring, located on the Jacks Fork River, gets its color from dissolved minerals in the water. The Blue Spring area is a wonderful stop to explore caves and bluffs along the river. There is river access to the Jacks Fork.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/jacks-fork>  
<https://www.scenicusa.net/060212.html>



35 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS

Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs.

Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on OO Highway and go 2 miles to County Road OO-493. Turn left on County Road OO-493. Follow it for 1.5 miles. When the road T's, turn left and follow it until it ends. It is a short walk to Blue Spring.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Summersville Mill



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



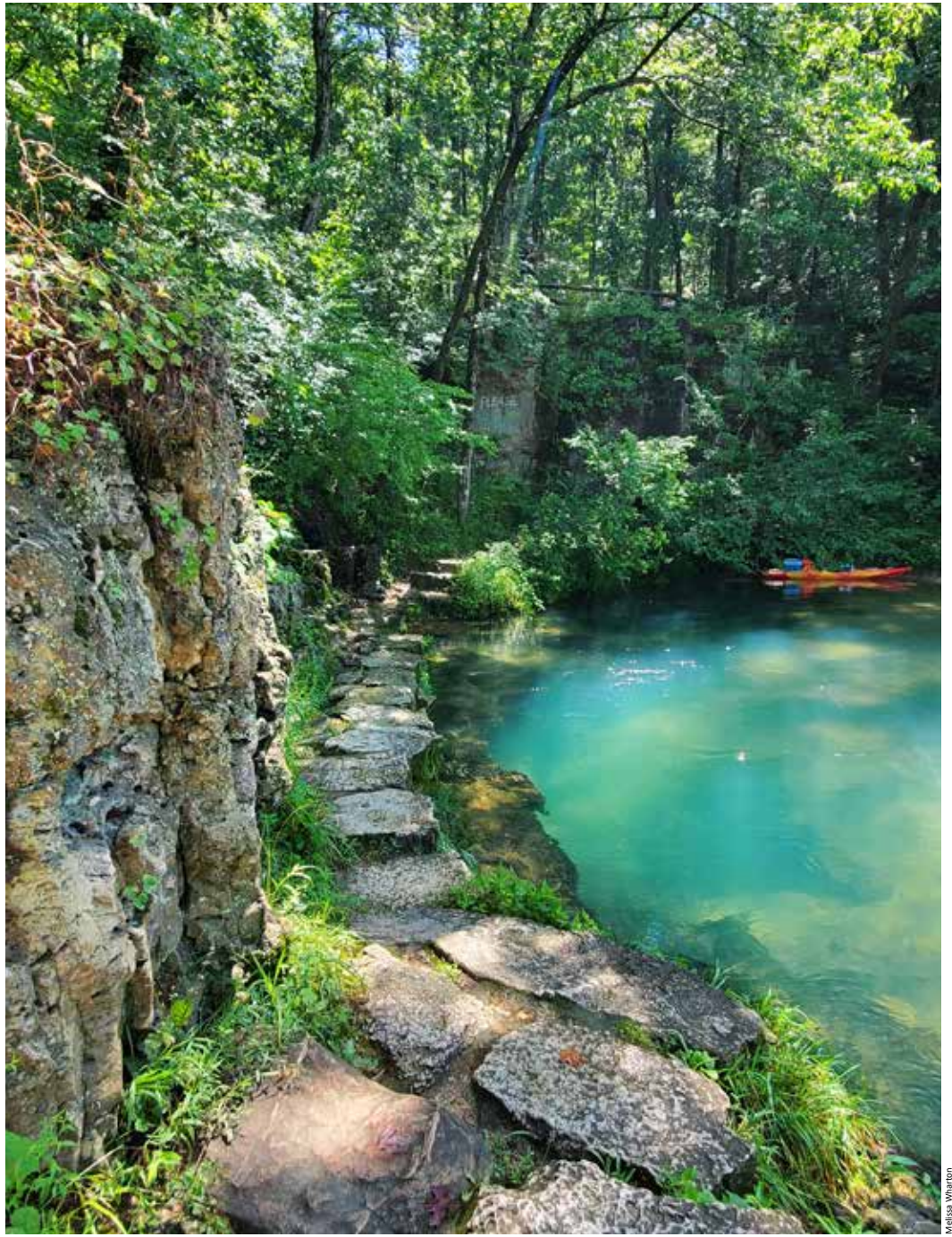
SPRINGS  
& FALLS

16 BLUE SPRING (NORTH FORK)  
36.7485735, -92.1646827

- 7 million gallons of water per day

Blue Spring is located at the North Fork River Recreation Area. The trail to the spring follows along the river and is a fairly easy hike. The colorful oval spring is about 30 feet in diameter. It is surrounded on three sides by a stone wall and bluffs, and it flows into the North Fork River.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/mtnf/recreation/recrea/?recid=21750>



18 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take CC Highway west from Highway 63 in West Plains. In about 17.5 miles, the turn in for the North Fork Recreation Area will be on your left. The Blue Spring trail will be about a half mile from the entrance. There is a parking area at the trailhead.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Hodgson Mill
- Althea Spring
- Dawt Mill



17 BLUE SPRING (CURRENT RIVER)  
36.767649, -91.8786504

- 310 feet deep
- 90 million gallons of water per day

The spring was called “Spring of the Summer Sky” by Native Americans. It is 310 feet deep! That is what gives it the vivid blue color. It is one of the deepest springs in the United States. How deep is 310 feet? You could put the Statue of Liberty in Blue Spring and her torch would be five feet below the surface of the water! Blue Spring is the 6th largest spring in the state with a daily discharge of 90 million gallons of water per day.

The spring is accessible by a short trail that, at times, runs alongside the Current River. The spring itself is owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation, but the land surrounding it belongs to the National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/blue-spring.htm>

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/blue-spring>



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71 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 34 miles then turn left on Highway 19 at Winona. In a half mile, turn right on H Highway. In 12.5 miles, turn right on Highway 106. In 8 miles, turn right on County Road 535 (there will be a sign for Blue Spring). In 2.5 miles, you will reach a parking area at the trailhead.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Klepzig Mill
- Rocky Falls
- Round Spring



Melissa Wharton

# SPRINGS & FALLS

## 18 GREER SPRING 36.793448, -91.3423582

- Second largest spring in Missouri
- 222 million gallons per day

*“The spring flows from two outlets about 250 feet apart at the bottom of a steep, shaded ravine at the terminus of the trail. The spring run drops 62 feet in elevation for 1.25 miles where it runs into the Eleven Point National Scenic River. Access to Greer Spring is via a 0.9 mile trail that descends about 250 feet in elevation along a gentle gradient from the trailhead at Missouri Highway 19.” ~ fs.usda.gov*



41 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north. Go 8 miles and the parking area for Greer Spring and Trail will be on your left.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Blue Spring (Current River)
- Falling Spring Mill
- Klepzig Mill
- McCormack Lake
- Rocky Falls
- Turner Mill



## 19 ROCKY FALLS 37.093381, -91.2270849

- A shut-in formed 1.5 billion years ago
- Rocky Falls is made of rhyolite, a hard rock. Typically, a stream erodes softer dolomite (a type of limestone) and makes a wider valley to travel through. Since the rhyolite is harder, the stream tends to stay within whatever cracks that it finds, deepening them only a little by erosion. This is how a “shut in” is formed. Rocky Falls can be visited year round and is a popular swimming hole in the summer.

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/nature/rocky-falls.htm#mill.htm>



61 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS

Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway

60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 36 miles. Turn left on Highway 19 toward Winona. Go through Winona then turn right on H Highway. Stay on Highway H for 8.5 miles then turn right on NN Highway. In 2 miles, turn right on County Road 526. The falls is just a short walk beyond the parking area.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Blue Spring (Current River)
- Falling Spring Mill
- Greer Mill
- Greer Spring
- Klepzig Mill
- McCormack Lake
- Turner Mill



Melissa Whorton



Melissa Whorton



Melissa Whorton

SPRINGS  
& FALLS

20 ROUND SPRING  
37.2802091, -91.4109827

- 26 million gallons of water per day

Round Spring is a nearly circular pool of water that flows under a natural bridge into the Current River. The spring is 55-feet deep.

*“Round Spring was a Missouri State Park from 1932 until 1964 when the people of Missouri donated it to the National Park Service to become part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Like Alley and Big Spring, it was a gift from Missouri to the nation.”*

~ National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/playourvisit/round-spring-and-round-spring-cave.htm>



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



63 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, continue straight on D Highway. Go 9 miles then turn left on Highway 19. In 5 miles, the entrance for Round Spring will be on your right.

MAKE IT A DAY TRIP and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Devil's Well
- Echo Bluff State Park
- Summersville Mill



21

## WELCH SPRING

37.3004033, -91.6684652

- 75 million gallons of water per day
- 5th largest spring in Missouri

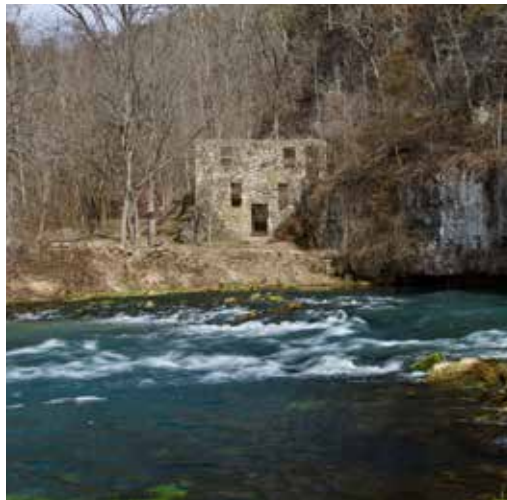
Welch Spring was named after Current River Welch who was born in 1859 and died in 1912. The Welch family ran a grist mill at the property until nearly 50 years after the Civil War.

In 1913, an Illinois doctor named C.H. Diehl bought Welch Spring for \$800 from Current River and Martha Welch's sons, James and Arnold. Dr. Diehl built a hospital over the mouth of Welch Cave believing that the cool, pollen-free air coming from the cave and the spring water had healing properties. Welch Spring, which flowed from the cave, was dammed up so the water would close off the entrance. This forced air from the cave opening into the hospital. Unfortunately, the hospital was not a success. Dr. Diehl died in 1940 and his family was not interested in keeping the property up. They sold the property and it was run as a trout fishing resort until the National Park Service purchased it in 1967.

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/historyculture/welch-hospital.htm>



Barry Reich



Bob Anderson



Bob Anderson



Barry Reich



60 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north  
toward Willow Springs.  
Just before Willow

Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. Just past Summersville, turn right on K Highway. Stay on K Highway for 19 miles. You will cross the Current River on Akers Ferry. Turn left on the first gravel road past the Akers Group Camp. At the end of the road, park next to the river and walk a trail north along the river for about a half mile. At the end of the trail you will be able to see the hospital ruins, although you will be across the river from it.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Devil's Well
- Echo Bluff State Park
- Round Spring
- Summersville Mill



SEVERAL LAKES AND PONDS ARE  
CLOSE BY FOR WATERSPORTS AND  
FISHING.

# LAKES & PONDS

## 22 BULL SHOALS LAKE

Accesses available in Ozark County are:

- Pontiac (W Highway)  
53 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS
- Spring Creek Public Use Area  
55 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS
- Theodosia  
55 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS

Bull Shoals Lake is located in Missouri and Arkansas. With its hundreds of miles of coves and lake arms, common activities include boating, water sports, swimming and fishing. Best bet on fishing is for Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Walleye, and Crappie. Be sure to visit the Missouri Department of Conservation website for regulations and more information.

<https://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/bull-shoals-lake>



Rob Jekabait

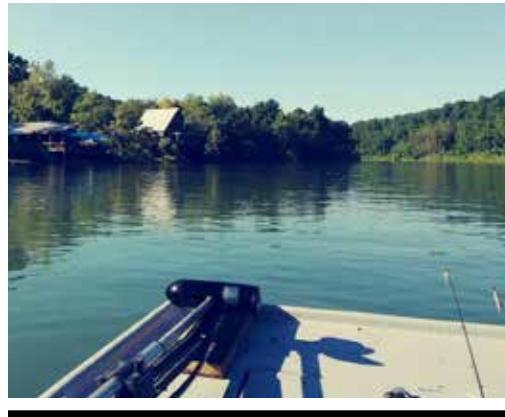
## 23 NORFORK LAKE

Accesses available in Ozark County are:

- Bridges Creek (Ozark County Road 551)  
30 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS
- Liner Creek (T Highway)  
44 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS
- Tecumseh (Highway 160)  
31 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS
- Udall (O Highway)  
34 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS

Most of Norfolk Lake is located in Arkansas but there are four accesses available in Missouri. Norfolk Lake has more than 550 miles of shoreline and covers 22,000 acres. Water activities include boating, water skiing, swimming, and fishing. Best bet on fishing is for Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Walleye, and Crappie. Be sure to visit the Missouri Department of Conservation website for regulations and more information.

<https://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/norfork-lake>



Rob Jekabait


## 24 AUSTIN LAKE

37.1579455, -92.177752

- 20-acre lake
- Bluegill & Redear Sunfish

<https://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/austin-lake>



 37 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Stay on 63 North and 60 West at the junction. Continue on Highway 60 west at Cabool. At the first Mountain Grove exit, take the ramp for MM Highway and turn right. In a little less than one mile, turn right on County Road 5526.

## 25 MCCORMACK LAKE

36.822513, -91.351175

- 15-acre lake
- Panfish and Bass

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnrf/recarea/?recid=21708>



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45 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north. Go 13.5 miles then turn left on County Road 3155. The lake is 2 miles ahead.

## 27 SIMS VALLEY LAKE

36.9517691, -91.9375983

- 41-acre lake
- Redear Sunfish, Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass & Channel Catfish

<https://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/sims-valley-lake>

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/sims-valley-community-lake>



27 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. In 5 miles, turn left on RA Highway. Sims Lake is 2 miles ahead.

# LAKES & PONDS

## 26 NOBLETT LAKE 36.8214493, -92.0082295

- 26-acre lake
- Bluegill, Sunfish, Bass & Catfish

Noblett Lake was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The area boasts a 26-acre lake for fishing, picnic area and pavilion, and a primitive camping area. There is a trailhead for the 22-mile Ridge Runner Trail through the Mark Twain National Forest.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnf/recarea/?recid=21748>



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21 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north to Pomona. At Pomona, turn left on P Highway. In 7 miles, turn right on AP Highway. The entrance to Noblett Lake will be on your left in 8.5 miles.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Blue Hole
- Twin Bridges



Melissa Wharton

# LAKES & PONDS

## 28 BRUSHY POND 36.80124, -91.5388127

- Sinkhole marsh
- Wild hibiscus in the summer
- Unusual wetland plants

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/brushy-pond>



48 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. In Alton, turn left on Highway 19 north. Go 15 miles and turn right onto Forest Service Road 4220. Brushy Pond is just north of the pull off.

## 29 CUPOLA POND 36.79922, -91.1070838

- 5-acre swamp
- Water Tupelo trees usually found in the Mississippi delta
- Sediments dating back 23,000 years

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/cupola-pond>



70 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. At Fremont, turn right on J Highway. In 14 miles, turn left onto Forest Service road 3224. Travel 1 mile then turn left onto Forest Service road 4823 (CR C-7Ab). Continue 1 mile. The road will dead-end. Park at the turn-around. The trailhead is on the northwest corner of the parking area. A map and compass is recommended to explore the area.

## 50

## 30 GRASSY POND 36.9718708, -91.2997299

- Sinkhole pond
- Typically wet in winter and spring and dry in summer and fall

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/grassy-pond>



53 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Past Winona, turn right on County Road 583 (Forest Road 4261). In one mile, the pond will be on your right.

## 31 MARG POND 36.8211917, -92.0814191

- Sinkhole pond
- Surrounded by Sphagnum Moss
- Typically wet in winter and spring and dry in summer and fall

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/marg-pond>



54 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Marg Pond is on County Road 60-A. Past Winona, make a U-turn at W Hwy and head back west on Highway 60. (County Road 60-A cannot be accessed from the eastbound lane.) County Road 60-A will be the next road to the right. Marg Pond is on the left in less than a half mile.

## 32 TUPELO GUM POND 36.8712038, -91.9477773

- Ancient sinkhole pond, swamp and marsh
- Water Tupelo trees usually found in the Mississippi delta
- Typically wet in winter and spring and dry in summer and fall
- In wet years, blooms of American lotus and rose mallow

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/tupelo-gum-pond>



37 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 160 east toward Alton. Turn left onto Highway 99 toward Thomasville. From Thomasville, go 3.25 miles to County Road 3173. Go approximately 8 miles then turn right on Forest Service Road 3239. In 2 miles the road will Y, go to the left. Park and head south to the pond. A map and compass are recommended to explore this area.



NEARBY CONSERVATION AREAS  
OWNED BY THE MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
OFFER PROTECTED LANDS FOR  
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE.



## 32 ANGELINE

- 39,590 acres

Points of interest include a scenic overlook on Highway 19, Flat Rock Lookout Tower, Lick Log Hollow Nature Trail, and a 9.5 mile Equestrian loop trail.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/angeline-conservation-area>



## 33 BIRCH CREEK

- 5,645 acres

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/birch-creek-conservation-area>



## 34 CANEY MOUNTAIN

- 7,899 acres

The hills are remnants of an old elevated plateau that has been cut into by numerous streams. View surrounding peaks of Bear Cave Mountain, High Rock Mountain, Morrison Knob, Long Bald, and Tater Cave Mountain.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/caney-mountain-conservation-area>



52

## 35 CURRENT RIVER

- 29,290 acres

Places of interest include Paint Rock Bluff, Deer Run Fire Tower, and Elk Driving Tour.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/caney-mountain-conservation-area>



## 36 GIST RANCH

- 11,240 acres

The area has small springs and wetlands.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/gist-ranch-conservation-area>



## 37 LOGAN CREEK

- 12,341 acres

Popular place for hunters seeking deer, turkey and squirrel.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/logan-creek-conservation-area>



## 38 PECK RANCH

- 23,763 acres

Rugged, forested hills and hollows and the area's highest point Stegall Mountain at 1,348 feet above sea level. Home to Missouri's wild elk.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/peck-ranch-conservation-area>



## 39 ROCKY CREEK

- 39,546 acres

The area contains many springs, caves, and karst features that contain some of the rarest plants and animals in the state.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/rocky-creek-conservation-area>



## 40 SUNKLANDS

- 6,295 acres

At the center of this natural area is a complex of sinkholes. What is known as the "sunkland" is the longest sinkhole in Missouri, nearly a mile long, 200 feet deep and 600 feet wide.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/sunklands-conservation-area>



## 41 TINGLER PRAIRIE

- 240 acres

The area has three maintained trails: the Woodland, the Wetland, and the Prairie trails and is just 13 miles from West Plains.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/tingler-prairie-conservation-area>



Courtesy Higgins

## 42 WHITE RANCH

- 6,703 acres

Approximately 11 miles south of West Plains, White Ranch has an abundant population of deer, turkey, and other forest wildlife species.

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/white-ranch-conservation-area>





MISSOURI'S STATE PARK SYSTEM, WHICH ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS HAS BEEN RANKED AS ONE OF THE TOP FOUR STATE PARK SYSTEMS IN THE NATION, CONTAINS 91 STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES. WEST PLAINS IS FORTUNATE TO BE CLOSE TO FOUR STATE PARKS.



## 43 ECHO BLUFF 37.3158922, -91.4116711

- 476 acres
- Opened to the public in 2016

A year-round outdoor destination for adventurers and nature lovers. The park features a lodge, cabins and campground. Other amenities include a restaurant, a gift shop, bluff-top shelter for special events, a 50-seat amphitheater, and hiking and mountain biking trails.

Echo Bluff State Park gets its name from the massive cliff towers rising above Sinking Creek. The state of Missouri acquired the former Camp Zoe, a summer camp for children that opened in 1929.

<https://mostateparks.com/park/echo-bluff-state-park>



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



66 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, continue straight on D Highway. Go 9 miles then turn left on Highway 19. In 8.5 miles, the entrance for Echo Bluff will be on your right.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Alley Spring
- Devil's Well
- Round Spring
- Welch Spring



Melissa Wharton



# 44 GRAND GULF

36.5739011, -91.7798014

- Formed 10,000 years ago
- Cave system with collapsed roof

Known as Missouri's "Little Grand Canyon," Grand Gulf State Park is breathtaking. Grand Gulf is a collapsed dolomite cave system that stretches about three-quarters of a mile between 130-foot-high walls. One can view Grand Gulf from trails on top or venture down to the floor to meander under a natural bridge which spans 250 feet with a 75-foot opening.

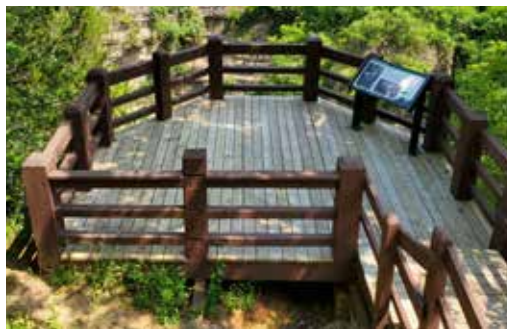
Water from Brussell Branch drains into Grand Gulf where it flows under the natural bridge before entering the mouth of an underground cave system. It then travels 9 miles underground and re-emerges at Mammoth Spring in Arkansas.


One of the earliest writings of exploring the area was from Luella Agnes Owen. From her book "Cave Regions of the Ozarks and Black Hills" (1898), she recounted her explorations of Grand Gulf including seeing numerous, small, eyeless fish that were pure white. In the 1920s, a severe storm washed many downed trees and other debris into the gulf, filling the cave.

Today, heavy rains fill the gulf to depths exceeding 100 feet. The water slowly drains out over a period of several weeks.

In 1971, Grand Gulf was designated a National Natural Landmark, and in 1984, the property became a Missouri State Park.

<https://mostateparks.com/park/grand-gulf-state-park>





25 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 south toward Thayer. At Koskonong, turn right on F Highway. After crossing the railroad tracks, turn left on County Road 377. Stay on CR 377 for 3.75 miles. This will be a dirt road. At W Highway, turn right. The entrance to Grand Gulf will be on the right in less than a half mile.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Mammoth Spring State Park
- Tingler Prairie
- Vanderhoef Forest



Melissa Wharton

Melissa Wharton

Bob Anderson

Melissa Wharton

Melissa Wharton



## 45 MAMMOTH SPRING (ARKANSAS) 36.5170074, -91.5960565

- 216 million gallons of water per day
- 10-acre lake
- 1886 Frisco Train Depot & Museum
- Arkansas Welcome Center

Mammoth Spring State Park, a National Natural Landmark, is Arkansas' largest spring and one of the world's largest springs. It forms a 10-acre lake then runs over a dam to start the Spring River.

*Native Americans, particularly the Osage, inhabited the Mammoth Spring area for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans. Recorded local history dates to the early 1800s, when settlers called the spring "Head of the River." In 1850, geologist David Dale Owen examined the spring itself, and the area became a tourist attraction. The first industry in the region was a simple wooden-wheel gristmill. While settlement was slow, a town did emerge just west of the spring, and the coming of the St. Louis–San Francisco Railway (Frisco) in 1883 launched an era of progress.*

*The 225-foot milldam provided power for a large flour production company, and the railroad brought tourists. A fifty-six-room resort and many cabins welcomed summer guests. One of the earliest national fish hatcheries was established there in 1903.*

*In 1925, the Arkansas-Missouri Power Company bought rights to the dam and built a hydroelectric plant there that provided power until 1972. Mammoth Spring was approved as a state park in 1957. ~ <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/mammoth-spring-state-park-1238/>*

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/mammoth-spring-state-park>



Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



31 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 south toward Thayer. Just past the Arkansas state line, the entrance to the park is on the left.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Grand Gulf State Park
- Tingler Prairie
- Vanderhoef Forest



**46** MONTAUK  
37.1169771, -92.154219

- 40 million gallons of water per day
- Located at headwaters of Current River
- Famous opening trout day on March 1


*The valley surrounding the springs that form the Current River attracted settlers in the early 1800s. Early residents came to the area from New York and named their first post office after Montauk in Suffolk County, Long Island. Because of its proximity to the springs and its abundant supply of water power, the village of Montauk proved to be an excellent spot for milling. Four mills were constructed to serve the community. The last one, a gristmill built in 1896, still stands today and retains much of its original machinery. It is open seasonally for tours.*

*The next big step in the park's history was in 1926 when it became a Missouri state park. Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps built many of the amenities and structures in the park in the 1930s. Many of these structures still stand today, a testament to the craftsmanship of this era.*

*Montauk State Park is best known for being one of the three "trout parks" in the Missouri state park system. Canoe access is located just outside the park's southeast border, making Montauk State Park the perfect place to stay during a river adventure. ~*

<https://mostateparks.com/page/54986/park-history>  
<https://mostateparks.com/park/montauk-state-park>



 71 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Follow Highway 63 and Highway 60 west toward Cabool. At Cabool, take exit for Highway 63 north. Eleven miles after Houston, turn right on P Highway. In 1 mile, turn left on Highway 137 then in 1.25 miles, turn right on VV Highway. In 10 miles turn left on Highway 119. Then in less than a mile, turn right on County Road 6660. Montauk is 1 mile ahead.

**MAKE IT A DAY TRIP** and visit other attractions close by:

- Devil's Well
- Welch Spring





FROM THE LAST TWO-CAR FERRY IN MISSOURI TO A VIEWING PLATFORM SUSPENDED ABOVE AN UNDERGROUND LAKE, THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT.



**47** AKERS FERRY  
37.3841224, -91.5534603


- Last operating two-car ferry in Missouri
- Ferry crosses the Current River



CHECK BEFORE GOING Akers Ferry closes occasionally because of gravel build-up in the river. Visit [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) before planning your trip.



Bob Anderson

 60 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. Just past Summersville, turn right on K Highway. Akers Ferry will be ahead in 17 miles.



Melissa Wharton

**48** BAKERSVILLE PIONEER VILLAGE  
37.3841224, -91.5534603

- Heirloom seed store
- Recreated pioneer village

*In the rolling hills of the Missouri Ozarks stands a legacy to the passing of time. The Homestead Act in the mid-1800s encouraged the Rippee family to move west and settle what is reputed to be the longest-lasting homestead in Missouri. The family raised many varieties of produce, birds and animals, and were quite skilled in the crafts of the region. They traded with the Osage Indians and cared for soldiers during the Civil War in their hand-hewn log-cabin.*

*Bakersville is situated on the original Rippee farm. The Baker Creek Seed Store now stands where the family's market garden once was. In 2007, construction began on the historic town. Besides the Baker Creek Seed Store, there is a donation-based vegan restaurant, speaker barn, an old-time mercantile, herbal apothecary, a natural bakery and blacksmith shop, two music barns, a Western jail, a native rock oven, a windmill, seed warehouses, and many breeds of historic poultry and livestock. The best part? It's free (except for the two days each May when the Spring Planting Festival is in full swing.)*

~ <https://www.rareseeds.com/our-village>



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton




Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton

 63 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Follow Highway 63 and Highway 60 west toward Cabool. Continue on Highway 60 west at Cabool. In 28 miles, take Highway 5 north at Mansfield. In 3.5 miles, turn left onto London Road then in .5 mile, turn left onto Baker Creek Road.

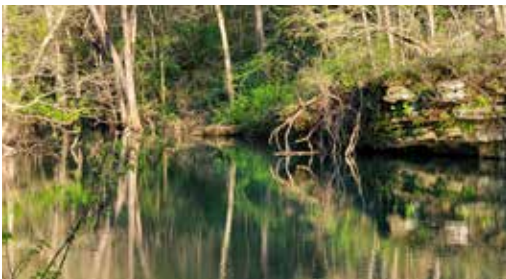
POINTS OF INTEREST

49 BLUE HOLE  
36.83512, -92.05361

- Trailhead for North Fork section of the Ozark Trail
- Missouri Children's Forest
- Blue Hole reached by trail



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton

13 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north. In 2 miles, turn left on Highway 14 and go 9.5 miles then turn right on AP Highway. The entrance to Blue Hole will be on the left in less than 2 miles.

60

50 DEVIL'S WELL  
37.1133205, -91.92116

- Viewing platform is 100 feet above the lake
- Lake is 80 feet deep and holds about 22 million gallons of water

This "karst window" was formed when the roof of a huge cavern, containing an underground lake, collapsed.



Melissa Wharton

Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Bob Anderson



79 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, stay straight to continue on D Highway. In 9 miles, turn left on Highway 19. In 17.5 miles, turn left on KK Highway. In 2 miles, turn left on Devil's Well Road. Devil's Well will be ahead in 2 miles.



**51** LARA INGALLS WILDER  
HISTORIC HOME & MUSEUM  
37.1018164, -92.5239815

- Tours are available of the home


This home on the Rocky Ridge Farm in Mansfield is where Laura, Almanzo, and Rose lived when they moved to Missouri in 1894. <https://lauraingallswilderhome.com/>



Vertical text: Melissa Wharton



Vertical text: Melissa Wharton

 **57 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Stay on 63 North and 60 West at the junction. Continue on Highway 60 west at Cabool. Past Norwood take the exit ramp for Y Highway. At the top of the ramp, turn left and cross the overpass. Then turn right on Old Highway 60 and A Highway. In 5 miles, the entrance to the museum will be on the left.

**52** MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

- 1.5 million acres in 29 counties in Missouri
- More than 750 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorized use
- More than 350 miles of streams suitable for floating canoeing or kayaking

The Mark Twain National Forest maintains a healthy, working forest and offers a wide range of recreation activities.


<https://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>



Vertical text: Melissa Wharton



Vertical text: Melissa Wharton

 **8 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
To reach the forest that is closest to West Plains, take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Turn left at Pomona on P Highway. The trailhead is less than a mile on the left, Forest Road 835.

LEGEND OF 'BLUE MAN' OF THE HILLS REMEMBERED

*The legend of Bigfoot began in the Ozarks in the winter of 1865 when a noted hunter from the eastern part of Douglas County, Sol Collins, who was past 60, was hunting game on the ridge that forms the watershed between the Big North Fork and Spring Creek. There was snow on the ground and Collins was tracking his game when he came upon a set of tracks somewhat like a bear. Old Sol had trailed and killed many a bear in his time, but these tracks were the largest and broadest that he had ever seen; and at each side of the tracks were marks in the snow such as might have been made by long claws.*

*He immediately took up the trail, determined to kill the biggest bear in Ozarks history. For hours he followed those great footprints far away to the north, almost to Indian Creek, then in a wide semi-circle to the west until he was close above the Big North Fork River. It was while he was climbing the north slope of Upper Twin mountain that he looked up and barely escaped being hit by a huge boulder that crashed by him. He barely escaped two more huge boulders that hurled down the hillside, and as he took shelter behind a big post oak, his blood froze to see, up on the hillside, a gigantic figure shaped like an immense man, stark naked, except for the skin of some animal around its waist and other wrappings of skin around his feet.*

*The creature was covered from head to foot with a tightly curling coat of short black hair, which as the sun struck upon it took on a dark blue hue. Collins always claimed that the giant was not less than nine feet tall, and his estimate is among the least of many made by other men in the years to follow.*

*Collins stared only long enough to make these observations before the creature cast aside the great ten foot club he carried and tore out another boulder from the frozen ground, hurling it with such deadly aim that the rock shattered against the huge post oak. The giant then lifted up his voice and made the hills echo with an ear-splitting scream more terrifying than ever came from any wild beast that roamed the woods. ~ Douglas County Herald*





### 53 NORTH FORK RECREATIONAL AREA

- Ridge Runner National Recreational Trail and the Blue Spring Trail
  - Area rebuilt after the Flood of 2017
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>



Bob Anderson

**18 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take CC Highway west from Highway 63 in West Plains. In 17.5 miles, the North Fork Recreation Area will be on the left.

### 54 OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

- First national park protecting the river system of Current and Jacks Fork Rivers
- Hundreds of freshwater springs, caves, trails and historic sites

<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/index.htm>



**70 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
To reach the Visitor Information Center, take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. In Van Buren, turn left on James Street then right on Main Street then left on Watercross Road. The Visitor Center will be on the right.

62

### 55 TWIN BRIDGES

- Built in the 1930s spanning the North Fork River and Spring Creek



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**18 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take Highway 63 north. In 2 miles, turn left on Highway 14 and go 15.5 miles.

### 56 WILD HORSES OF SHANNON COUNTY

- 5 herds roam the hills around Eminence

The wild horses of Shannon County have been roaming freely for almost 100 years. Seven fillies and an Appaloosa stallion were turned out by farmers in a drought during the Depression.

There are five herds of about 50 horses total and they can be elusive with over 80,000 acres to roam around the Current and Jacks Fork rivers.

The best places for viewing the horses are the Broadfoot Fields, located north of Eminence, the Shawnee Fields, east of Eminence, or the fields above the two Rivers on Highway V (also east of Eminence).



Bob Anderson

**61 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. Stay on Highway 60 for 36 miles. Turn left on Highway 19 toward Winona. Go through Winona and travel 11 miles to Eminence.

### 57 WORLD'S LARGEST CONSTITUTION

- 23-foot-high metal version of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution
- [roadsideamerica.com](http://roadsideamerica.com)



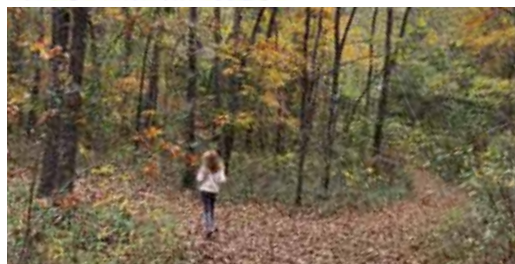
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**39 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Stay on 63 North and 60 West at the junction. Continue on Highway 60 West at Cabool. Take exit for Hwy 95 North at Mountain Grove. Turn right onto Hwy 95 then turn right on Outer Road. Constitution is less than a half mile on the left.

### 58 VANDERHOEF FOREST

- Trail and a creek overlook

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/archie-and-gracie-vanderhoef-memorial-state-forest>



Courtney Hughes

**16 MILES FROM WEST PLAINS**  
Take Highway 160 west toward Caulfield. Turn left on JJ Highway. In 8.5 miles turn left on County Road 8110. In less than a mile, turn left on County Road 9720. The entrance is on the left.



EXPERIENCE OZARKS ADVENTURE ON  
THE WATER, TRAIL OR  
IN WEST PLAINS ON OUR  
BIKE ROUTE.



## RIVER ACCESS & SWIMMING HOLES

On hot summer days locals and visitors alike flock to the miles and miles of crystal-clear, spring-fed rivers of the Ozarks. Nothing is better than a dip or a float to get away from it all. Multiple outfitters are close by to rent canoes or kayaks and also offer shuttle service.

Summer in the Ozarks also means bugs and snakes. Water shoes are a must, as well as a cooler with water and snacks. Lawnchairs and a canopy for shade can make an afternoon at a swimming hole more enjoyable.

Some accesses are listed below. Usually where there's river access, there's also a good place to swim. For a complete listing of river access, visit <https://missouricanoe.org/>

### NORTH FORK RIVER

47 miles of river from Highway 76 Bridge (Howell County) to Dawt Mill Bridge.

- Low-water bridge on connecting road between Hwys 76 and E
- Low-water bridge on County Road E-276 at Topaz Mill
- Hale Ford Bridge on connection road between Hwys 181 and W
- Hebron Access bridge on connecting road between Hwys AA and State 14
- Highway 14 Bridge at Twin Bridges Resort and RV Park
- North Fork Recreational Area on CC Highway



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- Blair Bridge, concrete low-water bridge, KK Highway to H Highway
- Patrick Bridge, low-water bridge on H Highway
- PP Highway Bridge, access from the old road
- Dawt Bridge on County Road 318

### BRYANT CREEK

42 miles of river from AB Highway to junction with North Fork River.

- Highway 14 access west of Highway 95
- Highway 95 low-water bridge
- Sycamore Access on Highway 181 low-water bridge at Hodgson Mill
- Warren Bridge low-water access connects Highways FF and H
- Florence C. Cook Access on County Road 308, off Highway 160

### ELEVEN POINT RIVER

49 miles of river from Thomasville to the Missouri-Arkansas state line.

- Put-in at State Hwy. 99 Bridge in Thomasville (Section from here to State Highway 19 not recommended in low-water)
- Cane Bluff Access and picnic area on County Road 405
- Highway 19 Bridge access by Greer Spring
- Turner's Mill and spring access on both sides of river
- Riverton and Highway 160 Bridge access on east side
- Highway 142 Bridge take-out
- Myrtle Access at site of old Stubblefield Ferry on west side

### CURRENT RIVER

136 miles of river from Baptist Camp access to the Missouri-Arkansas state line. May be floated almost any time of the year, especially below Welch Spring (accesses just being shown for this area).

- Akers Ferry Access on K Highway
- Pulltite Access on County Road EE-356
- Round Spring Access off of Highway 19
- Jerktail Landing access on County Road 224
- Two Rivers Access off of V Highway
- Old ferry site access
- Powder Mill access from Highway 106
- Roberts Field access from NN Highway
- Log Yard access on HH Highway
- Waymeyer Access on County Road M-151 off M Highway
- Van Buren Riverfront Park Access Highway 60 Bridge
- Big Spring Access from County Road



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60-102 from Highway 103

- Clubhouse Landing access on County Road 60-221 off of Highway 60
- Hickory Landing access from E Highway at Hunter
- Catarac Landing access on County Road Z-217, off Z Highway and Highway 103
- Gooseneck campground access on Farm Road 3142-County Road C10, off C Highway
- T.L. Wright Memorial Access at Doniphan

### JACKS FORK RIVER

46 miles of river from Y Highway north of Mountain View until it joins the Current River. Its deep valley is almost a canyon with no fields for the first 25 floatable miles.

- South Prong Access at Y Highway bridge, not recommended during low-water
- Highway 17 Bridge at Buck Hollow, usual put-in for upper section of river
- Rymers Access from O Highway
- Bay Creek access from County Road 106-425
- Alley Spring access from Highway 106
- Eminence take-out at Lions Ball Park one-quarter mile below Highway 19 Bridge
- Shawnee Creek access from County Road 106-211



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## THE OZARK TRAIL

- 390 miles of trail
- Primitive camping 100' from trail

The Ozark Trail, a combined effort of government agencies, a landowner, and environmental groups, created a council in 1977. Under their guidance, some 170+ miles of trail were constructed in 10 years. By joining existing trail, the Ozark Trail system had more than 200 miles of trail by 1991. In 2002, the Ozark Trail Association was founded. Continuing to maintain and expand the trail system, the association has received state and national recognition.

The North Fork Section of the Ozark Trail has a trailhead at Pomona, just 8 miles from West Plains. This trail combines the Ridge Runner trail and the Devil's Backbone Wilderness area.

Other trails close by include the Current River section, the Upper Current River section, the Eleven Point section, and the Between the Rivers section.

Be sure to visit the Ozark Trail website for trail updates, maps, safety tips, guidelines, and much more.

<https://ozarktrail.com>



## TRAILHEAD (TH) DISTANCE FROM WEST PLAINS

### North Fork section:

- 13 miles to Blue Hole TH
- 8 miles to Pomona TH
- 21 miles to Ridge Runner TH at Noblett Lake
- 16 miles to CC TH
- 20 miles to McGarr Ridge TH
- 20 miles to Collins Ridge TH

### Current River section:

- 68 miles to Powder Mill TH
- 60 miles to Peck Ranch TH
- 57 miles to Hwy 60 TH

### Eleven Point section:

- 45 miles to McCormack Lake TH
- 50 miles to 3152 TH
- 35 miles to Western TH

### Upper Current River section:

- 68 miles to Current River State Park TH
- 66 miles to Echo Bluff State Park TH
- 63 miles to Round Spring TH
- 85 miles to Himont TH

### Between the Rivers section:

- 69 miles to Sinking Creek Lookout Tower TH

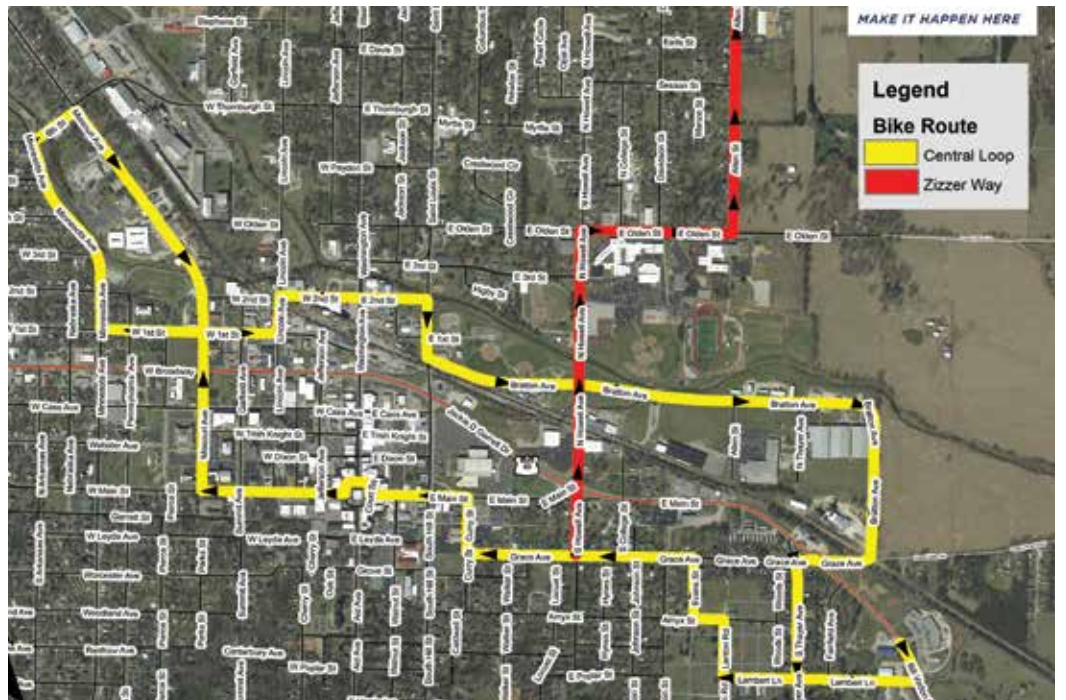


## WEST PLAINS BIKE ROUTE

- 5-mile designated bike loop
- Grand Opening held November 2, 2019
- Awarded a grant in July 2020 to expand

The West Plains Bike Route begins in East Towne Village parking lot on Bill Virdon Blvd. A covered area with wooden bench designates the spot and riders can see a map of the route.

The 5-mile route is marked with signage. Plans to expand the route are in the works through a grant administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services.



## Full-service repair & maintenance

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 GARMIN  
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 PEARL IZUMI  
 BIKE CLOTHING  
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Retailer for all your favorite gear

313 Washington Avenue | West Plains, Missouri | 417-420-9216 | westplainsbikeshop@gmail.com | www.westplainsbikeshop.com



## OUTFITTERS/ RESORTS/ CAMPGROUNDS

If enjoying the amenities of a hotel is not for you, venture out for a more rustic stay on the river or in a park. Whether in a tent, cabin, or the comfort of your own RV, there are lots of choices. If canoeing, kayaking, or tube floating is on your agenda, we've got you covered, too!

**Arrowhead Campground**  
18227 Arrowhead Loop  
Eminence  
(573) 226-5250

**Carr's Canoe Rental**  
HC 1 Box 137  
Eminence  
(573) 858-3240

**Circle B Campground**  
Circle B Road  
Eminence  
(573) 226-3618

**Dawt Mill Resort**  
8 Dawt Mill Dr.  
Tecumseh  
(417) 284-3540

**Eleven Point Canoe Rental**  
US 160 & MO 19  
Alton  
(417) 778-6497

**Harvey's Alley Springs Canoe Rental**  
13863 MO 106  
Eminence  
(573) 226-3386

**Hufstедler's Canoe Rental**  
33200 US 160  
Alton  
(417) 778-1605

**Jacks Fork Canoe Rental & Campground**  
19433 MO 106  
Eminence  
(800) 522-5736

**Lost Cabins Resort**  
2809 County Road 382  
Dora  
(417) 261-1409

**Marlaine's Meadow Campground**  
74 Marlaine Drive  
Tecumseh  
(417) 255-9476

**Missouri RV Park**  
2325 Missouri Park Drive  
Mountain Grove  
(417) 926-4104

**Ozarks Mountain Springs RV Park & Cabins**  
5475 US 60  
Mountain View  
(417) 469-3351

**Pettit's Canoe Rental, LLC**  
9000 CR 354  
Caulfield  
(417) 284-3290

**Richards Canoe Rental**  
Route 2 Box 2427  
Alton  
(417) 778-6186

**River of Life Farm**  
1746 River of Life Dr.  
Dora  
(417) 261-7777

**Rockbridge Rainbow Trout & Game Ranch**  
4297 County Road 142  
Rockbridge  
(417) 679-3619

**Rocky Top Campgrounds & Cabins**  
90 Easterday Loop  
Tecumseh  
(417) 679-0149

**Shawnee Creek Horse Camp & RV Park**  
18415 County Road 211  
Eminence  
(573) 226-1315

**Silver Springs RV Park**  
4598 County Road 4620  
West Plains  
(417) 257-5658

**Sunburst Ranch**  
776 CR 352  
Caulfield  
(417) 284-3443

**The Campground at Willow Springs RV Park**  
500 S. Harris Street  
Willow Springs  
417-349-5257

**Twin Bridges Resort & RV Park**  
Jct. Hwy 14 & 181  
West Plains  
(417) 256-7507

**Two Rivers Canoe Rental**  
21575 State Hwy V  
Eminence  
(573) 226-3478

**Windy's Canoe Rentals**  
513 Main St.  
Eminence  
(573) 226-3404



Melissa Smith



Melissa Smith

Located on the beautiful North Fork River and surrounded by the Mark Twain National Forest



**New 30-site RV Park**  
on the North Fork River!  
Each site has electric,  
water & sewer hookups.

Cabins and riverfront  
camping also available.

**Float Trips**  
canoes & kayaks  
shuttles available

**BOOK NOW** 417-256-7507  
[www.twinbridgesmo.com](http://www.twinbridgesmo.com)



(417) 255-9260

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Daily Specials

Karaoke & Live Entertainment on Weekends  
Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhatHappensAtTheBridges/>



## RIDE THE OZARKS ON ROAD

Several highways close to West Plains are favorites for motorcycle riding. Curvy, hilly, and exhilarating, riders are in awe as the scenery flies by.

Popular highways and state roads for motorcycles include:

- Highway 160 West out of West Plains
- Highway 160 East out of West Plains
- Highway 14 West just north of West Plains
- CC Highway West out of West Plains
- Highway 17 North just east of West Plains
- P Highway to AP Highway North from Pomona
- Highway 19 North from Alton
- Highway 181 North or South from Twin Bridges
- Highway 137 from Willow Springs
- Highway 106 East from Summersville

Plan a day trip by using the information on pages 20-62 of this guidebook. Please note that a few of the destinations are on dirt or gravel roads. If "County Road" is in the directions, that will usually indicate a dirt or gravel road.



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



Melissa Wharton



## RIDE THE OZARKS OFF ROAD

To learn more about where to ride ATVs on public land, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mtnf/map/mvum> or stop by the Ozark Heritage Welcome Center to pick up a copy.

There are several private properties with memberships or day fees available, too.

<https://www.cloud9ranch.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/flatnastyoffroadpark/>

<https://www.smorr.net/>

<http://soggybottom-motorsports.com/>

<https://hooterholler.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/riverridgemx/>



Mega Motorsports



**RIDE THE OZARKS**

**ON ROAD**

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**(888) 998-9323 | MEGAMOTORSPORTS.COM**

**3874 N. US HWY 63 | WEST PLAINS**



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1301 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
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**417-257-3000**  
[hiexpresswestplains@gmail.com](mailto:hiexpresswestplains@gmail.com)



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- 79 pull-through & big rig sites
- All sites have full hook-ups (With 50, 30, 20 Amp, Water & Sewer)
- Clean, heated restrooms & showers
- Laundry Room
- Swimming Pool
- Recreation Room with cable TV & vending machines
- Wi-Fi available
- Gated Dog Park
- Storm Shelter
- Open year-round
- Two pavilions with BBQs, fire pits, & picnic sites

***Stay a month, a week, or just one night!***



US Highway 63, 1 mile north of West Plains | 417-257-5658 | [silversprings.llc](http://silversprings.llc)



## HOTELS

Have you heard of southern hospitality? Get ready to experience it first-hand when you stay at one of our local hotels or motels! Enjoy the many amenities of a hotel in town while being close to attractions, dining, and shopping.



### **Baymont Inn by Wyndham**

1605 Imperial Drive, West Plains  
(417) 204-5114

Feel the comforts of home at Baymont Inn & Suites. Situated just off Highway 63, the hotel is in a quiet neighborhood, offering indoor pool, hot tub, and fitness center. Complimentary Wi-Fi and business center are included in amenities. Baymont is a non-smoking, pet-friendly hotel which has RV parking available and a full range of accessibility features.



### **Hampton Inn**

1064 London Lane, West Plains  
(417) 255-0442

Hampton Inn is on Highway 63, next door to plenty of shopping and dining options at the Southern Hills Shopping Center and just 15 minutes away from the Legit Speedway Park. Enjoy free Wi-Fi, indoor pool, and fitness center. A business center and meeting rooms are available along with non-smoking rooms and ADA-guideline accessibility throughout the facility.



### **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

1301 Preacher Roe Blvd., West Plains  
(417) 257-3000

Set among casual restaurants in a commercial area off highways 63 and 160, Holiday Inn offers luxurious and modern accommodations with an indoor pool and work-out facility. A 24-hour business center and meeting rooms are available. Guest rooms feature complimentary Wi-Fi, Keurig brewer, refrigerator, microwave, and in-room safe. Small pets are allowed.



### **Quality Inn**

220 Jan Howard Expressway, West Plains  
(417) 257-2711

A stay at Quality Inn offers a central location with convenient routes to downtown, local attractions, and outlying shopping areas. On Highway 63, this informal roadside inn provides free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, mini fridges, microwaves, and tea and coffeemaking facilities. There's also an indoor pool, a communal hot tub, and an exercise room.



### **Super8 by Wyndham**

1210 Porter Wagoner Blvd., West Plains  
(417) 204-5728

Stop in at Super 8 for value and a convenience. Not far from the West Plains Civic Center and other local attractions and amenities, it offers an ideal location off Routes 63 and 160. Wi-Fi, large-vehicle parking spaces, along with coffee and tea served 24/7 in the lobby are all free. It's pet friendly and has accessible and non-smoking rooms available.



### **West Plains Motel**

505 Porter Wagoner Blvd., West Plains  
(417) 256-4105

You've tried other options, but you haven't fully experienced what hometown motel accommodations feel like until you stay with West Plains Motel. Rest your head and your budget with high-quality, low-cost lodging in this family-owned and operated motel which offers plenty of mid-century charm along with modern amenities, including free Wi-Fi.

**OSBORN'S  
RIVERSIDE CABIN**

Enjoy the beauty of the Ozarks at this secluded cabin on Spring Creek in Douglas County, Missouri. The perfect place to get away from it all!

Call for reservations 417-256-8042



## DINING

Refuel between adventures at one of our local eateries. From bakeries, coffee shops, and cafes to national chains and fast food, we have plenty of flavor.



### AMERICAN

**Captain D's Seafood**  
1402 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 257-2090

**Chantilly's Artisan Bakery**  
210 W. Main Street  
West Plains  
(417) 255-2253

**Colton's Steak House & Grill**  
1421 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 255-9090

**Fish Shack**  
613 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-2555

**Grumps Grub**  
804 St. Louis St.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-5017

**Hibby's Sports Grille**  
1729 W. US 160  
West Plains  
(417) 257-0199

**Jimmie's Walleye & Catfish**  
805 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-1538

**KFC**  
1301 Southern Hills Center  
West Plains  
(417) 256-8500

**Ozark Café**  
662 Missouri Ave.  
West Plains  
(417) 255-0623

**Ruby Tuesday**  
1008 Worley Drive  
West Plains  
(417) 255-1510

**Skilllets**  
1613 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-7500

**Sniders Family Restaurant & BBQ**  
1027 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 372-8909

**Steak 'n Shake**  
989 Worley Drive  
West Plains  
(417) 372-8919

**Sugar Lily Bakery & Floral**  
210 Jan Howard Expressway  
West Plains  
(417) 256-5459

**The Ranch House Bar & Grill**  
1321 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-3880

**TJ's Hickory House**  
Hwy 160 West  
West Plains  
(417) 257-7614

**Twin Bridges Bar & Grill**  
Jct. Hwy 14 & Hwy 181  
West Plains  
417-255-9260

**Window on the Square**  
1 Court Square  
West Plains  
(417) 256-1887

### CHINESE

**Chen's Garden**  
1705 Gibson St.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-8999

**Diamond Head Restaurant**  
1214 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-4888

### ITALIAN/PIZZA

**Domino's Pizza**  
1152 Ransom Road  
West Plains  
(417) 257-0055

**Little Caesars Pizza**  
316 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-3500

**Ostermeier Brewing Company**  
1872 S. US Hwy 63  
West Plains  
(417) 942-6306

**Ozark Pizza Company**  
111 Washington Ave.  
West Plains  
(417) 204-4808

**The Pizza Shack**  
1836 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 257-7700

### JAPANESE

**Kiko Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Lounge**  
1633 Bruce Smith Parkway  
West Plains  
(417) 505-8570

### MEXICAN

**El Charro Mexican Restaurant**  
1409 Mitchell Road  
West Plains  
(417) 255-0992

**Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant**  
1449 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-1694

**San Juaneros Mexican Restaurant**  
310 Kentucky Ave., Suite 2  
West Plains  
(417) 855-9421

**Taco Alejandros**  
1667 S. US Hwy 63  
West Plains  
(417) 372-8926

**Taco Bell**  
1345 Southern Hills  
West Plains  
(417) 256-1131

**Taco Bell**  
1464 Gibson Street  
West Plains

### THAI

**Sapz Thai Kitchen**  
929 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 255-3400

### FAST FOOD

**Arby's**  
1342 Southern Hills  
West Plains  
(417) 256-0433

**Burger King**  
1317 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 255-1669

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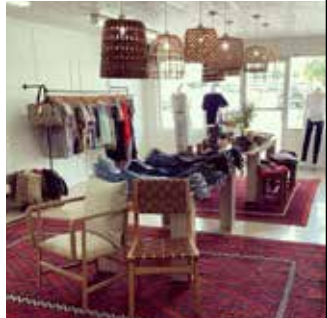
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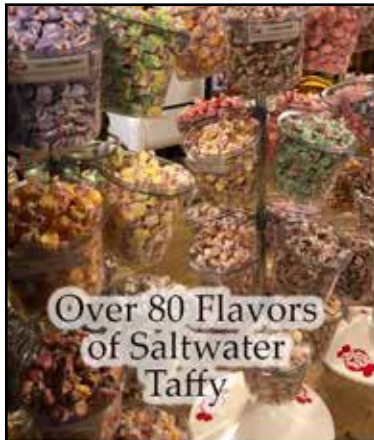


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If you are looking for a place with small-town charm and big-city conveniences, West Plains is the place for you! With an added bonus of the beauty of the Ozarks surrounding West Plains, you have the option of city-living, living in the middle of nowhere, or somewhere in-between.



City of West Plains



**CLIMATE** The climate in West Plains can be described as having an abundance of sunshine, low wind velocity, and mild temperatures. You will find temperatures in the spring ranging from 50-70 degrees, summers in the 70s to 90s, fall temperatures matching the spring, and mild winters that usually don't dip below 20 degrees.



**HOUSING** West Plains offers ample choices in housing. Our neighborhoods provide a safe, clean place to raise a family or enjoy your years of retirement.

The average cost of a new home ranges between \$130,000-\$170,000 for a three bedroom, two bath, and a two-car garage. For renters, there is a selection of housing to choose from with rates averaging from \$450-\$800 per month.



**TAXES** Most personal property is assessed at 33.33% of its value as specified by the statutes of Missouri.

Real estate is assessed at 19% for residential, 12% for agricultural, and 32% of commercial market value as appraised by the County Assessor's office.

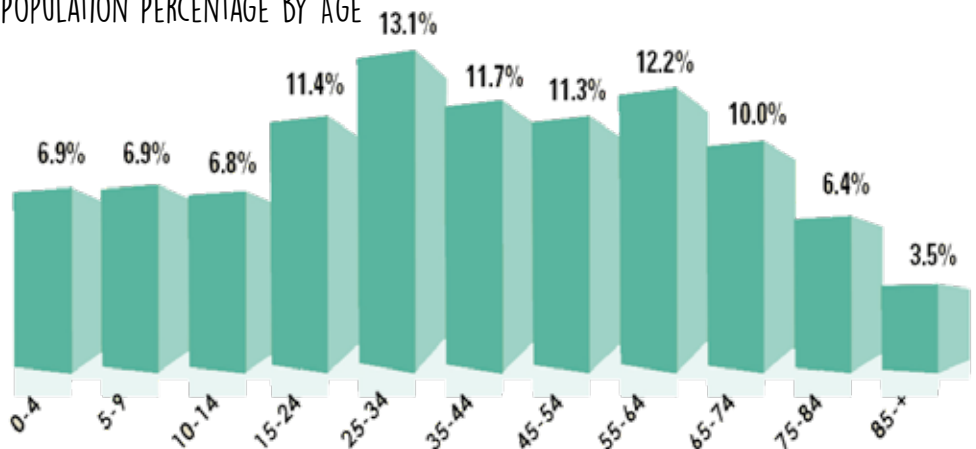


**EDUCATION** The West Plains School District is composed of approximately 2,700 students who attend school in the district, grades K-12. The district employs over 400 people, with 240 of those as classroom teachers. The district boasts a 17:1 student to teacher ratio. That's just one of the many reasons why the district is rated one of the best high schools in the state and country.

Missouri State University-West Plains offers a rigorous transfer program as well as two-year career programs. The Outreach Program at Missouri State University's Springfield campus offers several undergraduate and graduate degrees on the West Plains campus.

The South Central Career Center uses industry standards and state-of-the-art technology to develop a high-quality workforce.

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417-256-1793



### **Emergency Department**

1100 Kentucky Avenue | West Plains, MO  
417-257-6789



### **Women's Center**

1100 Kentucky Avenue | West Plains, MO  
417-256-1838

**See more on our website: [www.ozarkshealthcare.com](http://www.ozarkshealthcare.com)**



**HEALTHCARE** The West Plains medical community consists of more than 100 physicians, 10 dentists, and two orthodontists. Most are surprised at the vast number of specialists available in West Plains. In addition to general and family practitioners, there are specialists in anesthesiology, behavioral healthcare, cardiology, dermatology, ENT, emergency medicine, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgery, gerontology, hematology, infectious disease, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, occupational therapy, medical oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pain management, pathology, pediatrics, physical therapy, podiatry, psychiatry, pulmonology, rheumatology, radiology, speech therapy, thoracic surgery, urology, and wound care.

South Howell County Ambulance District provides advanced life support service. The central dispatching system for South Howell is provided by a county-wide enhanced 9-1-1 emergency dispatch systems. AirEvac EMS, Inc. provides air/helicopter ambulance service to the area.

West Plains has many options for home health services. The specialties range from skilled and psychiatric nursing to social work and therapy services, to spiritual and emotional support.

Several options also are available for nursing home care and assisted living.



Ozark Healthcare

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West Plains  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-8464

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West Plains  
(417) 256-3868

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West Plains  
(417) 256-4849

**Howell Valley School**  
6461 State Hwy ZZ  
West Plains  
(417) 256-2268

**Junction Hill Elementary School**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-4265

**Missouri State University-West Plains**  
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West Plains  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-2880

**Ozarks Christian Academy**  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-1622

**Richards School District**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-5239

**South Central Career Center**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-6152

**South Fork Elementary School**  
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West Plains  
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**West Plains R-7 School District**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-6150

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West Plains  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-2215

**Center of God Church**  
4474 St. Rt. K  
West Plains  
(417) 255-1541

**Central Calvary Baptist Church**  
CC Highway  
West Plains  
(417) 256-9246

**Central Church of Christ**  
Butler St. & Hwy 63  
West Plains  
(417) 256-8551

**Church of Christ**  
AB Highway  
West Plains  
(417) 256-8082

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
2800 Christie Drive  
West Plains  
(417) 256-1431

**Cornerstone Family Worship**  
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West Plains

**Curry Street Church of Christ**  
111 S. Curry St.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-3925

**Eagle Heights Independent Baptist Church**  
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West Plains  
(417) 293-9888

**Endurance Church**  
805 Worley Drive  
West Plains  
(417) 256-9214

**First Christian Church**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-2887

**Faith Chapel Freewill Baptist Church**  
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(417) 256-8332

**First Baptist Church**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-3128

**First Church of God**  
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West Plains  
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**First General Baptist Church**  
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**His Place Ministry**  
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(417) 256-6229

**Pentecostal Revival Center**  
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**Promise Land Ministries**  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-9771

**Providence Baptist Church**  
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West Plains  
(417) 293-1611

**River of Life Church of God of  
Prophecy**  
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West Plains

**Smith Chapel Church**  
US Hwy 160 East  
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(417) 256-2556

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(417) 255-9300

**American Family Insurance-Bobby Joyce**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-4488

**American Family Insurance-Lee Freeman**  
1522 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-9494

**Barker Phillips Jackson Insurance**  
1520 Imperial Center  
West Plains  
(417) 256-6162

**Davidson Insurance Group**  
606 W. Broadway St.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-2168

**Farmers Insurance-Kirk Nettles**  
1509 Imperial Center  
West Plains  
(417) 256-2425

**Farmers Insurance-Shannon North**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-4081

**Gullic-Swope Insurance**  
205 E. Main St.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-3367

**Independent Insurance Solutions, LLC**  
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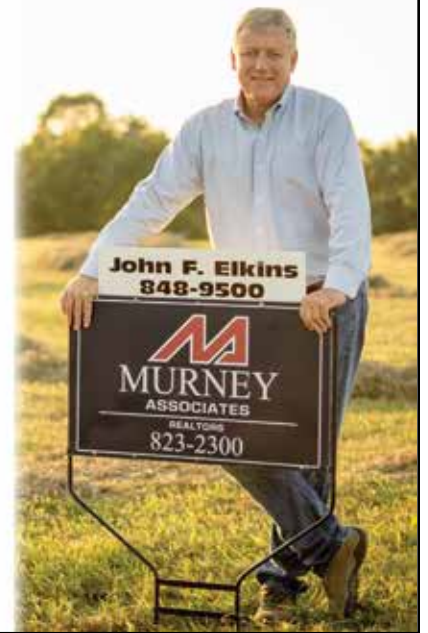
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**Rosenbauer Agency**  
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(417) 257-7733

**Shelter Insurance-Adam Mansfield**  
307 Kentucky Ave., #2  
West Plains  
(417) 256-9333

**Shelter Insurance-Andrew Eckman**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-2173

**Shelter Insurance-David Thomas**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-6116

**State Farm Insurance-Justin Shelby**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-3434

**State Farm Insurance-Ramona Heiney**  
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(417) 256-2744

**West Plains Insurance**  
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**Wiley Insurance Agency**  
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(417) 256-3372

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(417) 256-2131

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West Plains  
(417) 256-2202

**Pinnacle Propane**  
987 Preacher Roe Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-2011

**West Plains City Hall**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-7176

**West Plains Propane**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-3470

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(417) 647-1394

**Current, Inc.**  
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West Plains  
(417) 257-0504

**Faith Enterprises, LLC**  
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West Plains  
(417) 257-1803

**Fidelity Communications**  
3201 US Hwy 63  
West Plains  
(417) 256-5245

**Miller Satellite Center**  
3113 N. US Hwy 63  
West Plains  
(417) 255-1972

**US Cellular**  
1725 Gibson Ave.  
West Plains  
(417) 293-8300

**Verizon Authorized Retailer**  
1006 Worley Dr.  
West Plains  
(417) 257-0800

**Wal-Mart Connection Center**  
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**Brown Furniture & Appliance**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-4681

**BURO**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-6808

**Green's Furniture Deals & More**  
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(417) 255-0520

**Harbor Freight**  
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West Plains  
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West Plains  
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**Newberry Flooring**  
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West Plains  
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**Pruett Home Improvement**  
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**Quality Floors**  
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**R.P. Lumber Company**  
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(417) 256-3138

**Rent One**  
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**Rent-A-Center**  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-2350

**Rental Supply**  
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West Plains  
(417) 257-7368

**Sherwin-Williams Paint Store**  
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West Plains  
(417) 257-1257

**Southern Missouri Home Builders**  
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**Towne & Country Lighting**  
906 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 255-1407

**Westlake Ace Hardware**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-3033

**MOVING COMPANIES**

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West Plains  
(417) 257-1090

**Bartlett Moving & Storage**  
5152 County Road 4650  
Pomona  
(417) 505-9161

**STORAGE UNIT FACILITIES**

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4428 County Road 4660  
West Plains  
(417) 257-1090

**Bartlett Moving & Storage**  
5152 County Road 4650  
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(417) 505-9161

**CR's Mini Storage**  
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West Plains  
(417) 284-7222

**Kelley Self Storage**  
1526 Porter Wagoner Blvd.  
West Plains  
(417) 256-5858

**Regency Self Storage**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-9779

**Roo's Storage**  
Myrtle Street  
West Plains  
(417) 293-2666

**Silver Springs Storage, LLC**  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-8484

**Silver Springs Storage (North)**  
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West Plains  
(417) 255-8484

**Silvey's Self Storage**  
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West Plains  
(417) 256-6711

**Westgate Secure Storage**  
1606 Freedom Drive  
West Plains  
(417) 257-2733

**LOCAL NEWS MEDIA**

**E-Communications**  
Thayer  
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KAMS 95.1  
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**Ozark Radio News**  
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(417) 256-1025  
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**Ozarks Public Radio**  
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- Animal Control (417) 255-1860
- Boys & Girls Club (417) 204-2582
- Chamber of Commerce (417) 256-4433
- City Hall (417) 256-7176
- City Transportation (417) 256-1241
- Civic Center (417) 256-8087
- County Assessor (417) 256-8284
- County Clerk (417) 256-2591
- County Collector (417) 256-4001
- County Commission (417) 256-3875
- County Health Department (417) 256-7078
- Housing Authority (417) 256-6633
- Howell-Oregon Electric Co-op (417) 256-2131
- Job Center (417) 256-3158
- License Office (417) 256-0678
- Missouri State Highway Patrol (Non-emergency) (417) 469-3121
- Ozarks Healthcare (417) 256-9111
- Parks & Recreation (417) 256-7304
- Police (Non-emergency) (417) 256-2244
- Post Office (417) 256-5775
- Public Library (417) 256-4775
- Senior Citizens Center (417) 256-4055
- Social Security (866) 614-2741
- University of Missouri Extension (417) 256-2391
- Utilities (417) 256-7176
- Welcome Center (417) 256-8835
- West Plains R-7 Schools (417) 256-6150
- Zip Code 65775

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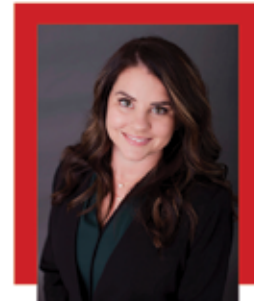
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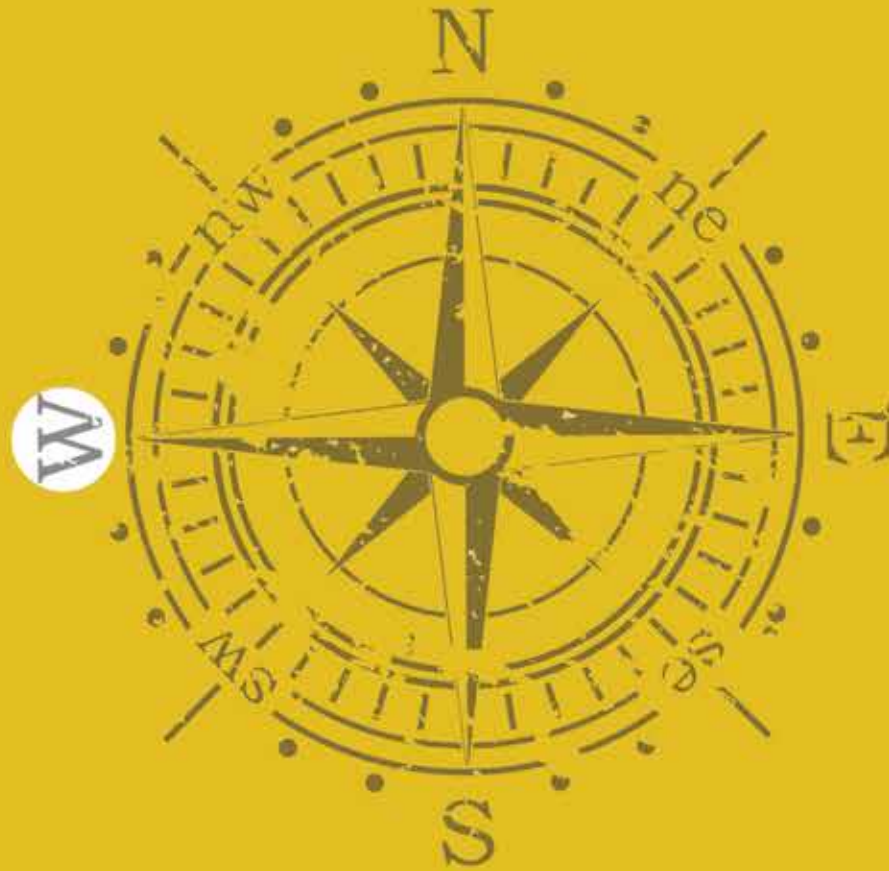
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