

Come Explore the James River!



Looking for a fun place to enjoy the outdoors?

If you are looking for a place nearby the Springfield metro area to enjoy a relaxing float look no further than the James River! With plenty to see and do, it only takes a few steps to organize your own adventure.

- You're going to need a boat and a friend. (A friend with a boat would come in extremely handy here.) Paddling with a good friend or a new friend will make shuttling possible and is the only safe way to float as a beginner.
- You'll need two vehicles with the ability to safely transport your boat. You could also arrange for a shuttle. (be sure to float with the keys to the take out vehicle safely stowed.)
- Life jackets and paddles are the bare essentials which most outfitters provide.
- Water, food, first aid kit, sunscreen, fishing pole and license, tackle box, and dry storage bag are some of the extras that most people want to bring.
- Be sure to secure all of your gear and properly stow your trash.

- Be aware of current river conditions as flooded rivers can be extremely dangerous and low water will not make for nearly as fun a float.

Where can I rent a boat?

Canoe rentals for the middle James River are available a few places locally. Here are the names and phone numbers for most of your options within an hour of Springfield.

Brentwood Conoco - 417-881-5330

City of Republic - 417-732-3500 (May1 - Sept.30)

Hootontown Canoe Rental - 417-369-2266

MSU Outdoor Adventures - 417-836-5334 (for MSU students, faculty and staff)

Y Bridge Canoe Rental - 417-357-1502

Call around for the best rates and to check on river levels and shuttle services.

Where can I access the river?

As an overview, here is a general [map](#) of the James River. I have picked three Missouri Department of Conservation managed access points. These sites are free for use year round. The MDC [website](#) allows you to print area maps or I have given specific directions below.

If you have your own boat you will first want to drive to your take-out point and drop off one of your vehicles (with a plan for tying down your boat later), and pick up your fellow passenger(s) to head to the put-in. Here are some recommended floats on the middle James River.

Delaware Town to Shelvin Rock - 6.5 river miles ~half day float - [driving directions](#)

Shelvin Rock to Hooten Town - 6.2 river miles ~half day float - [driving directions](#)

Delaware Town to Hooten Town - 12.7 river miles ~full day float - [driving directions](#)

What is there to see and do?

This is the fun part! Now all the work of getting your gear has paid off and you are ready to set off on an adventure! Every trip offers a unique experience and you almost always are amazed by what you can find. Activities on the river may include but are not limited to:

- Fishing
- Swimming
- Bird Watching
- Geo Cache
- Photography
- Getting some sun
- RELAXING