



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National
Scenic Riverways

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

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Ozark NSR Prepares for Modifications in Alley Spring Campground

Work is slated to begin soon on a project that will establish a new campsite arrangement and traffic flow pattern in a portion of Alley Spring Campground at Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR). The campground is located on the upper Jacks Fork River and is one of the largest campgrounds in ONSR, receiving heavy visitation throughout much of the year.

In recent years, regular flood events have taken a toll on several campsites and roads located nearest to the Jacks Fork River in Alley Spring Campground. The channel of the river has slowly migrated over time, cutting into the river bank adjacent to the campground and causing significant erosion of some areas. This natural process has resulted in some inconvenience for park staff and visitors, as well as increased safety concerns.

“One of the most important mandates in the park’s enabling legislation is to preserve the Current and Jacks Fork rivers as free-flowing streams,” said Ozark Riverways Superintendent Reed Detring. “We believe that the new layout in the impacted area of the campground will support that mission and provide a more stable campground infrastructure for the future. It will also significantly enhance visitor safety and enjoyment, which are top priorities for the National Park Service.”

The campground modifications will affect the 100, 200, and 300 campsite loops. Several sites will be removed from each loop so that the campsite arrangement and traffic flow can be reconfigured to allow retention of as many sites as possible. These modifications will not affect any campsite reservations due to the fact that these sites are located in the section of the campground that is considered “first-come, first-served”.

Over half of the campsites will remain open throughout the construction period. During the week campers at these sites should expect to see and hear heavy landscaping equipment working nearby within the 100 and 200 loops, and adjacent to the 300 loop. Consequently, all three loops will be in some state of construction until completion by Memorial Day. Access to the loops may be hindered sporadically during the week.

Directional signs will be posted to help orient visitors to the modified traffic flow patterns and campsite arrangement. A new interpretive exhibit will enhance visitor understanding of the natural migration of free-flowing river systems and the resulting changes to the campground.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people. For more information visit, www.nps.gov/ozar

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