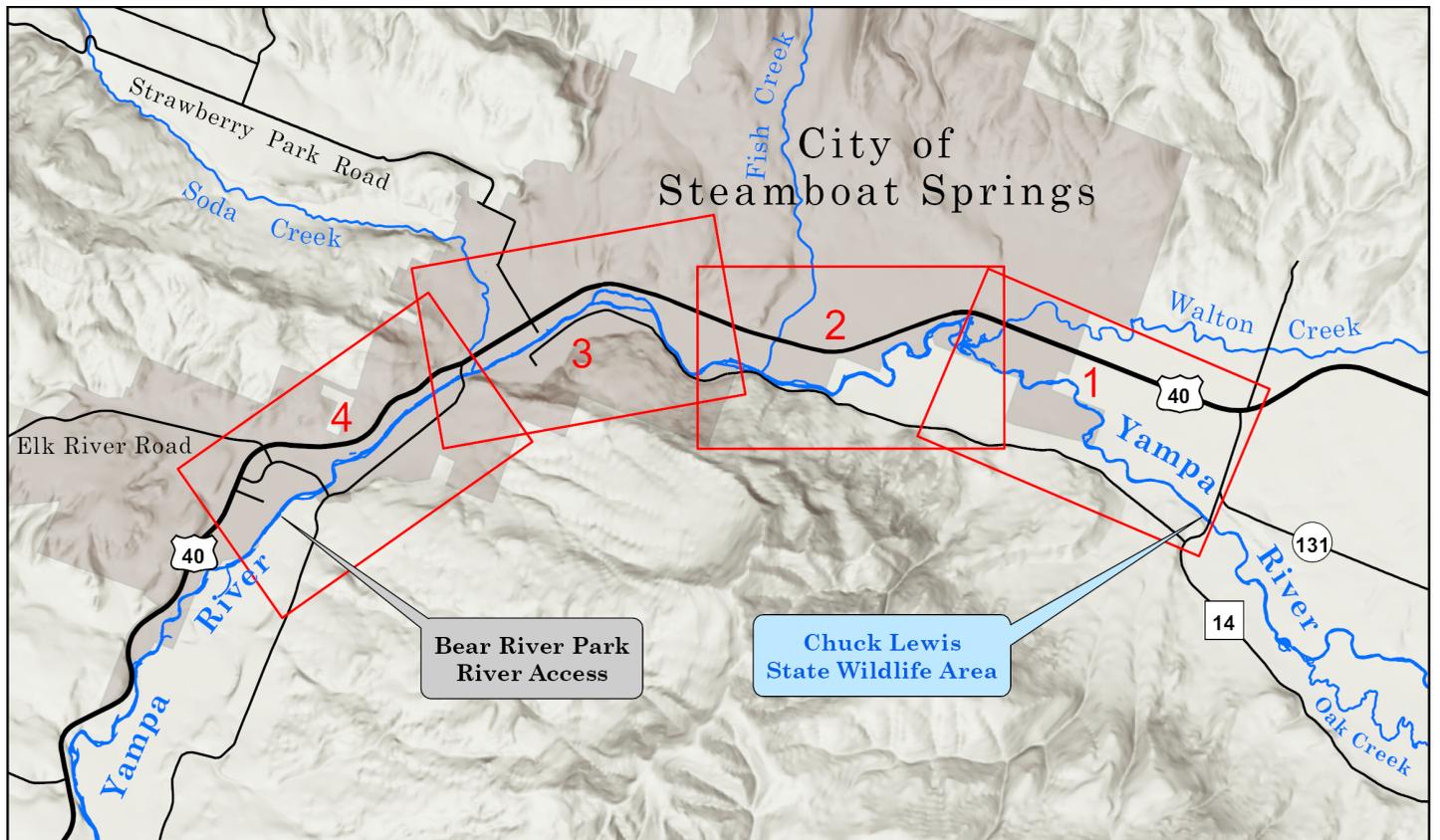


YAMPA RIVER GUIDES

STEAMBOAT REACH



STEAMBOAT REACH LEGEND

HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES

- Stream or Mainstem Ditch
- Intermittent Stream
- Branch Ditch
- Irrigation Pipe or Culvert
- Pump Intake
- River Mile

ROADS AND STRUCTURES

- Trail or Closed 4WD
- City Bike Path
- 4WD
- Graded Road
- Paved Road
- Railroad
- Graded Parking
- Paved Parking
- Power Line
- Building

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

- Steamboat Springs Parks or Open Space
- Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

- Active or Prehistoric Floodplain
- Riparian Herbaceous/Short Shrub
- Riparian Tree/Tall Shrub Canopy
- Upland Tree/Shrub Cover
- Fluvial Sand or Gravel
- Gravel Quarry

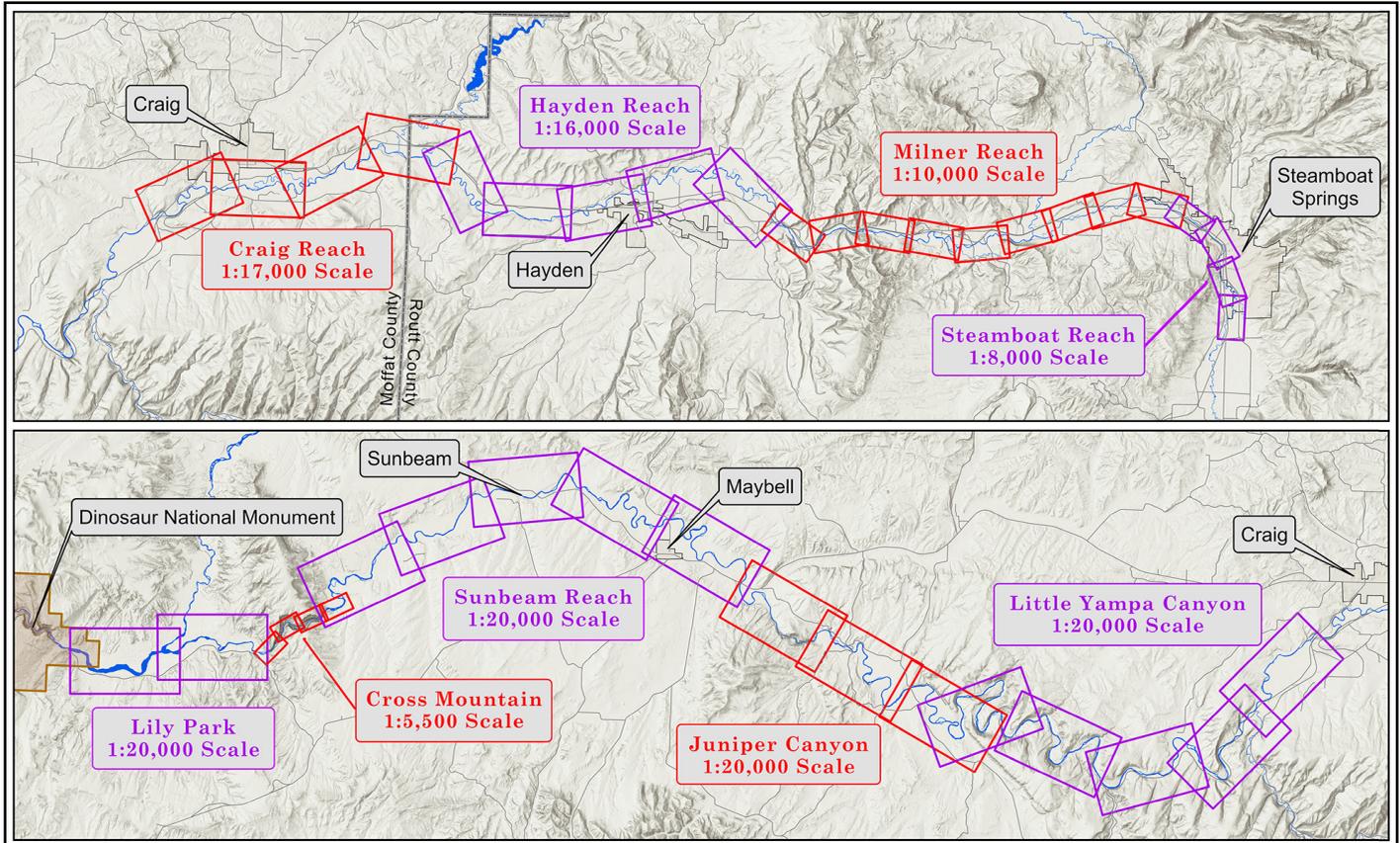
RECREATIONAL AREA SYMBOLS

- Fee Area
- Information Kiosk
- Picnic Tables
- Rest Rooms
- No Camping
- Longterm Parking
- No Longterm Parking
- City Bus Service
- Fishing
- Trailered Nonmotorized Craft Access
- Small Craft Access
- Fishing Craft Access Only
- Tubing
- Tubing Prohibited or Discouraged

YAMPA RIVER GUIDES

Yampa River Guides are a FREE, downloadable series of map guides in PDF format, designed for recreational users of the Yampa River. When the entire series is completed they will cover approximately 158 miles of river, from the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area upstream of Steamboat Springs to the Deerlodge Park boat ramp on the eastern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument.

The Yampa River Guide Series



How to Download and Print Your Guides

Go to <https://guides.wildyampa.com> to download the most recent versions of the Yampa River Guides. Every attempt will be made to keep these guides up-to-date as boater access and river conditions evolve in the future. You can check the version date of your download at the bottom of the front cover and on each map page.

PRINTING ON LEGAL PAPER

Ideally, your Yampa River Guide should be printed on legal-size paper, using a duplex (prints to both sides) printer. Whether you can print to both sides of the paper or not, be sure to select the “ACTUAL SIZE” option in the print wizard (this keeps the printer software from adding an extra margin to the printed page).

Duplexed pages will lay out like a book, with each map page on the right and its corresponding text page facing it on the left. Your pages can then be stapled, or laminated and spiral bound for a more durable guide. You might also consider printing on waterproof paper.

PRINTING ON LETTER PAPER

Yampa River Guides can also be printed successfully on letter-size paper—the maps and print will just appear smaller. When printing on letter-size paper, be sure to select the “FIT” or “FIT TO PAGE” option in the print wizard.

Help Keep These Guides Accurate

The Yampa River is always in a state of flux, so over time even the best map is destined to become inaccurate. Legal river access for boaters is also a moving target. And of course, the author of this guide makes no claim to infallibility. If you discover errors or have suggestions for improvement, please E-mail Pete@wildyampa.com with “Yampa River Guides” in the subject line. Or just let me know if you are finding these guides helpful!

Terms of Use

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If someone is charging you for the contents of this guide, they are in copyright violation.

Maps, text and uncredited photographs © Peter A. Williams

About The Maps

As has become the convention with river guides, the Yampa River Guide maps and their accompanying text are laid out with the river running from the **bottom to the top** of the page.

The river channels and environmental features depicted on these maps were originally drawn directly on top of the 2019 National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) **aircraft overflight photography**. However, since 2019 there have been several significant changes in the river channels, and more should be expected in the future. Yampa River Guide maps are regularly revised as the river evolves, using as reference the most recently available photography. NAIP offers superior resolution and detail, but is only updated every two or three years (most recently 2023). During the interim, the online version of Copernicus/Sentinel-2 satellite photography, although much lower in resolution, is conveniently updated weekly.

An aerial photograph, or the map drawn from it, can only capture a dynamic, seasonally evolving river in one moment of time. These maps depict the river during a period of low flows, when the river channels are filled with **exposed sand and gravel bars**. Higher flows in the spring will inundate many of these features, and normally dry backwater channels may even be floatable under those conditions. Conversely, it is assumed that during lower flows boaters will appreciate having some idea of where the sand and gravel is likely to emerge.

The **river miles** (RM) depicted on these maps are measured upstream from the confluence of the Yampa and Green rivers at Echo Park, in Dinosaur National Monument. They were created specifically for these maps, and follow a line up the center of the main river channel as it existed in the fall of 2019. Note that there has never been a formal, “official” set of designated river miles for the Yampa River. River miles depicted on maps elsewhere have typically been based on long out-of-date hydrographic data, and can vary from the Yampa River Guide maps by as much as a mile or more.

Private Property

Private property boundaries are not represented on any of these maps. The only property boundaries depicted in the Yampa River Guides are for publicly owned (or publicly leased) properties that specifically allow for public boating access. ***Everywhere else should be treated as off limits to or from watercraft traveling the Yampa River.***

Under Colorado law, ownership of the river bank does not stop at the high water line. While the water and fish may belong to someone else, the **river bottom is the property of the abutting landowners**. Under these circumstances, standing on the river bottom, even in moving water, is trespassing. This can especially be a problem once river flows drop enough to require dragging your craft over obstacles. Please avoid floating the Yampa River when and where such conditions exist.

Much of the Yampa River from Steamboat Springs to Dinosaur National Monument flows through private land. Please help us stay on good terms with our private landowning neighbors, so boaters can continue to float the Yampa River without further restrictions in the future. Always stay in your boat when floating through private property.

Safety

The Yampa River Guides are intended for use as a general resource for boaters. ***They are not a substitute for staying alert to hazards and practicing good boating skills.*** Rivers are dynamic environments, and conditions can change dramatically as water levels rise and fall.

With the exception of the Cross Mountain and Juniper canyons, experienced boaters will find the “whitewater” character of the portions of the Yampa River covered by the Yampa River Guides to be mild. Nevertheless, natural hazards such as strainers or entrained wood may still be encountered. Human-made structures, especially bridges and diversion structures, can also create significant hazards to boaters. The most notorious (but certainly not all) of these structural hazards have been identified on the maps with **red-bordered labels**. When you see these labels, pay close attention to the “**Hazard!**” description in the accompanying text.

Always come prepared for the unexpected. Pay attention, and always keep an eye out downstream. Proper personal equipment should always include a PFD (Personal Flotation Device), appropriate footwear, and sunscreen. And, although much of the Yampa is flatwater, the knowledge gained from a swiftwater rescue course might one day help you save a life, even in downtown Steamboat Springs. In Cross Mountain and Juniper canyons such knowledge is essential.

Ultimately YOU are responsible for your own and your companions’ safety.

Disclaimer

The author and distributors of the Yampa River Guides are not responsible for trespass, property damage, personal injury, or death resulting from activities involving anyone using or possessing these river guides.

Steamboat Reach Map 1

River Mile (RM) topics follow the flow of the river, from the bottom of the page to the top.

RM 202.5 **Walton Creek** enters on river right. The end of the **River Creek Park boat ramp** is located a little over a tenth of a mile up Walton Creek, on the northern channel. There is a short, narrow dirt access road leading from the parking lot to the water. See more of a description on the Map 2 page.

RM 203.2 **HAZARD!** Except at the lowest flows, this **exceptionally low private bridge** will be the limiting factor on whether you can successfully float from Chuck Lewis to River Creek. This bridge is impassable to even the smallest craft when combined flows measured at the Lake Catamount dam approach 900 cfs. Small rafts will have difficulty even at lower flows.

RM 203.75 **HAZARD!** After leaving the Chuck Lewis SWA, the river begins to bend right and passes under a very low **railroad bridge**. Travel under this bridge is not recommended for any craft when the flows are approaching 1,000 cfs or more at the Lake Catamount dam.

After passing under the low railroad bridge, the Yampa wanders downstream and in and out of City of Steamboat Springs Open Space (both City Open Space and Parks are jointly represented on these maps with the yellow diagonal lines). Please respect the private property in this section.

RM 204.15–203.9 Downstream of the Dever Ditch diversion are more rock bar structures, some of which also span the entire river channel. This section of the SWA has been rehabilitated since 2002 by a joint project with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Valley Fly Fishers, and their 501(c)(3) Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust. The project included the addition of the rock bar structures in the river channel for fish habitat, revegetation of the stream banks with native tree and shrub species, and the removal of over 70 automobile bodies once used as rip rap along the Union Pacific railroad bed.

RM 204.15 Just downstream of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife riparian nursery facilities on river left, a prominent river-wide rock bar forms a low **diversion structure** for the Dever Ditch. This pour-over feature is relatively insignificant at higher flows, but can be a rocky barrier at levels below 500 cfs.

RM 204.7 **Chuck Lewis SWA** parking lot at the bridge on Routt County Road 14F is the launch point for this section of the river. If you boat downstream of the north boundary of the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area, your next public take-out access will be at the River Creek Park boat ramp. Along the way will be two bridges that can potentially block your passage!

Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area

The Steamboat Springs reach of the Yampa River begins in the downstream half of the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area. Chuck Lewis, who died in 2000, was the founder of the Copper Mountain ski resort and, in the late 1990s, a member of the Colorado Wildlife Commission.

Access to this part of the SWA is from parking lots along Routt County roads 14 and 14F. As with all state wildlife areas in Colorado, either a valid hunting or fishing license, or a State Wildlife Area pass is required for entrance by anyone 16 or older. Public access is not allowed at night (10:00 PM to 4:00 AM). Camping, overnight parking, and fires are prohibited. Dogs are not allowed, except for service dogs, or dogs aiding in hunting waterfowl.

River access in “The Chuck” is mostly for walk-wade fishing, birding, and waterfowl hunting. Take note that *“the launching or takeout of all flotation devices (including, but not limited to, kayaks, canoes, rafts and tubes), except those being used exclusively for fishing, is prohibited.”* You cannot put a raft or small craft on the river here without a fishing pole.

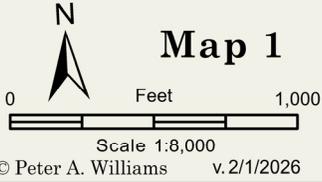
There is no trailered boat ramp. Access to the river for launching small craft is convenient and close to the parking lot located on the northeast side of the bridge crossing the Yampa on Routt County Road 14F.

Beware that the Yampa River in this stretch has much less volume of water than below the confluence with Walton Creek downstream, and has a narrower range of “good” flows for boating. Below 500 cfs a number of rock bars and a ditch diversion make for a very bumpy ride, while the **exceptionally low bridge** near the end of the run will stop even the smallest craft when the combined flows measured at the Lake Catamount dam approach 900 cfs. Small rafts are not recommended on this reach at most flows, and launching in larger rafts may invite disaster.

Please respect private property. Unless marked specifically as public, all property shown on these maps is privately owned and closed to the general public.

Steamboat Springs

Map 1



River Creek Park River Access



203

Bridge

Bridge

204

Diversion
Structure

Chuck Lewis

State

Wildlife Area

Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area River Access Fishing Craft Only



14

40

14

40

14F

131

24

Haymaker Golf Course

Burgess Creek

Walton Creek Road

Walton Creek

Dever Ditch

Excelsior Ditch

Windsor Ditch

Steamboat Reach Map 2

River Mile (RM) topics follow the flow of the river, from the bottom of the page to the top.

RM 200.5 The **Yampa River Botanic Park** (marked by a sign on the bank) is on river right.

RM 200.7 **Fish Creek** joins the Yampa on river right. Fish Creek can be a significant contributor to the Yampa River flows below this confluence.

RM 201 The river splits here, and just a short ways down the narrow right-hand side channel is the **Fetcher Park river access**. Fetcher Park is named for John Fetcher, a founding father of the Steamboat Ski Resort and an influential water professional in the history of Steamboat Springs development. The Fetcher Park river access is a popular put-in because the faster, splashier sections of the river begin just downstream.

RM 201.2 After the river passes under the railroad bridge, public land begins again on river right. The sharp bend just ahead is sometimes known as the “**Tree Haus Corner**,” after the Tree Haus development on the hillside above river left.

RM 201.3 At this point the river passes under a what is commonly known as either the **Trestle** or **Tree Haus Bridge**. Both this bridge (carrying Mt. Werner Road over the river) and the railroad bridge another tenth of a mile downstream have relatively high roadbeds and typically do not present a hazard to boaters, except perhaps at exceptionally large flows.

RM 201.55 A little over tenth of a mile below the Rotary Park river access, the river leaves public land and passes through private property. Please stay in your craft and don't land on shore in this section.

RM 201.7 The **Rotary Park river access** is a short, relatively steep dirt trail on river right, as the river takes a sharp turn to the left. Parking is limited. A short trail also leads from the parking lot to the Rotary Park boardwalk just upstream. **Tubing access is strongly discouraged here** as well—please start your tubing trip downstream at Fetcher Park.

RM 202 The **Rotary Park** boardwalk and river overlooks are on river right.

RM 202.3 The two channels rejoin here. The recent tree plantings visible just downstream on river left are part of a cooperative riparian habitat project on this Open Space property and elsewhere along the river. The project is being conducted by the City of Steamboat Springs, the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, and many other partners. The goal is to create a legacy forest of native cottonwood and willow trees that will shade the river to keep it cooler during low water periods, which are increasing in duration on the Yampa River. Periods of low water and hot temperatures have a detrimental effect on water quality and river recreation.

RM 202.5 The confluence of Walton Creek with the Yampa River is a little over a tenth of a mile downstream of the River Creek Park boat ramp. Walton Creek is the first of a number of flowing tributaries to enter the Yampa within the Steamboat city limits.

Shortly after the confluence, you have your choice of channels. The main channel continues straight ahead, while a sharp turn to the right will take you down an alternate, shallower channel. If you take the right channel, you will soon pass the intake structure for pumping snow-making water to Mt. Werner.

River Creek Park

River Creek Park provides the farthest upstream recreational boating access within the Steamboat Springs city limits. At this time, it is also the only river access in Steamboat where you can back your trailer right up to the water. Parking is fairly plentiful, but check with the authorities regarding how long you can park (a posted two-hour limit may complicate shuttle arrangements), and whether parking vehicles with trailers is allowed. Backing your trailer down the ramp will require negotiating about 50 yards of narrow, slightly curving track to reach the water, which is actually a side channel of **Walton Creek**. Rafting below 500 cfs is discouraged.

The city is **strongly discouraging tubing** on the Yampa River between River Creek and Fetcher parks. This mile-plus of river has a relatively slow current. If you are tubing, please put on the river at Fetcher Park or at one of the other river access points farther downstream.

Please respect private property. Unless marked specifically as public, all property shown on these maps is privately owned and closed to the general public.

Steamboat Springs

Map 2



Scale 1:8,000

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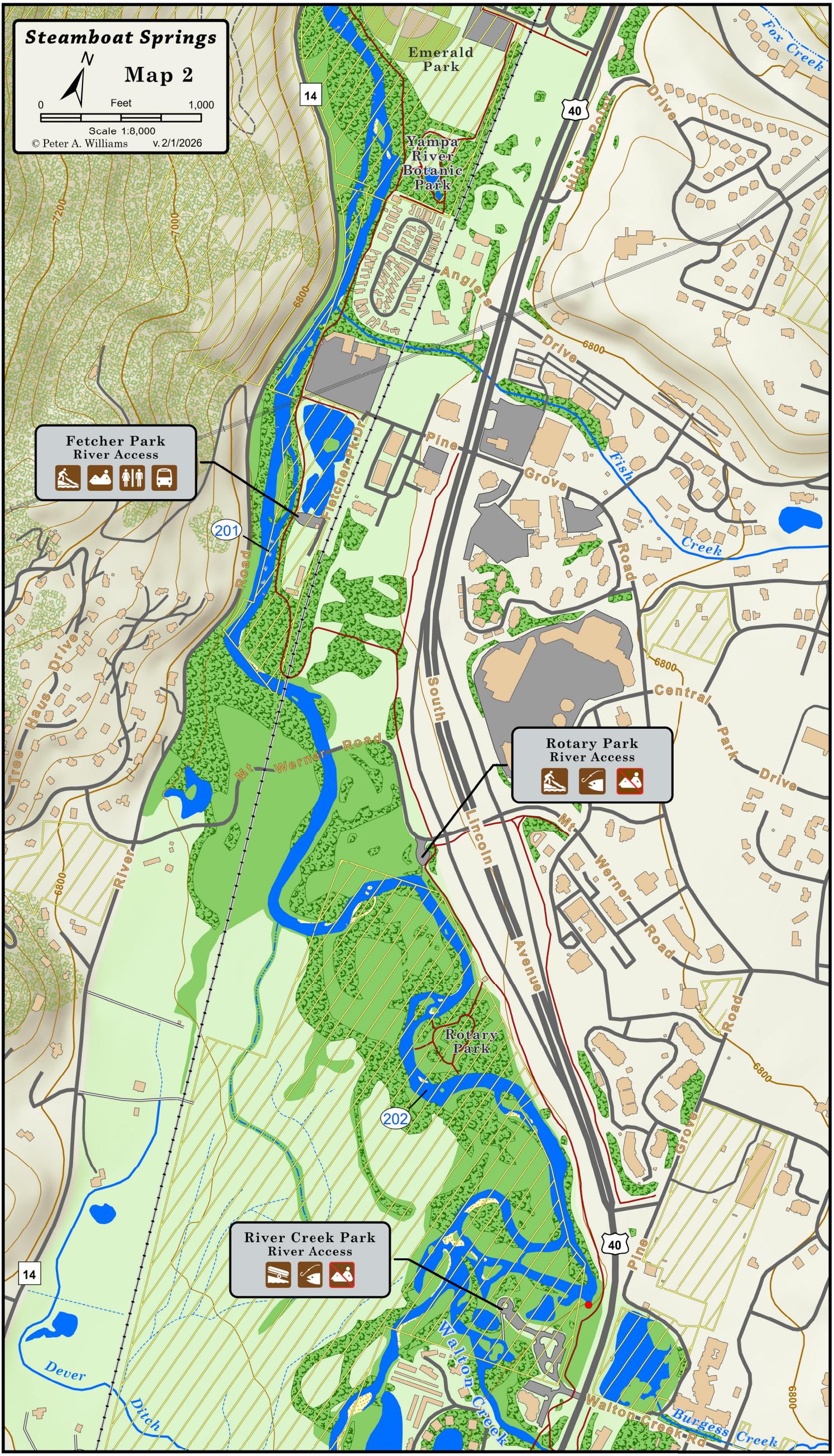
Fetcher Park River Access



Rotary Park River Access



River Creek Park River Access



Steamboat Reach Map 3

River Mile (RM) topics follow the flow of the river, from the bottom of the page to the top.

RM 198.65 **Charlie's Hole** (AKA **C Hole**) fills the river near the Bud Werner Library parking lot. Steamboat local Charlie Beavers was a well liked, nationally known kayaking prodigy, with a long list of boating accomplishments in his teens, before dying in a fall at age 21.

The sandy beach on river right just above the hole provides access to the parking lot, but the shore area on either side of the hole is accessible from the **13th Street Bridge**.

In 2003, the City of Steamboat Springs was granted a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) water right to protect minimum flows in the "Steamboat Springs Water Park," defined by the engineered structures forming Charlie's Hole and the D Hole just downstream. This water right protects a range of minimum flows between April 15 and August 15, from a low of 95 cfs in August to as much as 1400 cfs in early June.

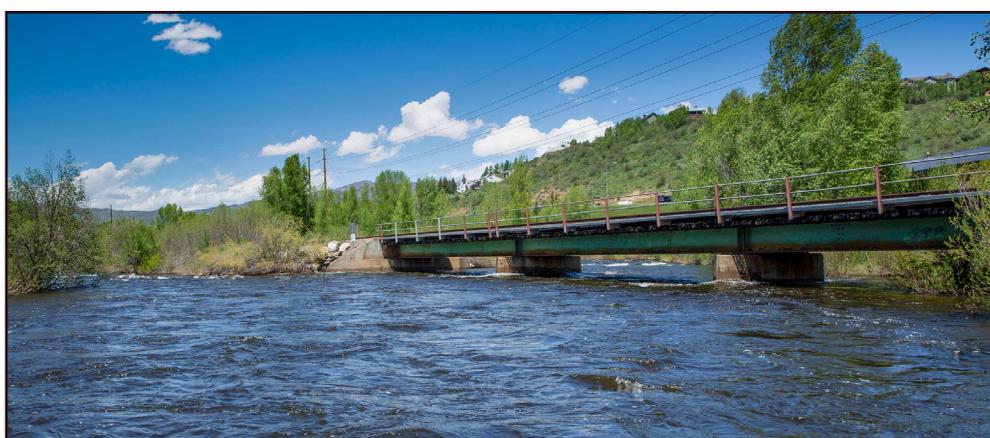
RM 198.8 A tenth of a mile downstream of the A Hole lies another river-wide feature known as the **Double-Z Hole**, named for the nearby but long-departed Double-Z Bar & BBQ.

RM 198.9 A pedestrian bridge and then the large mural of the Yampa River prominently emblazoned on the Fire Department's "Ambulance Barn" mark your approach to the large feature known as the **Ambulance Hole** (AKA **A Hole**). You'll enter this hole immediately after passing under the pedestrian bridge.

RM 199.2 **HAZARD!** The **5th Street Bridge** is only slightly higher than the Iron Horse Bridge—similar flow restrictions should apply, with perhaps a little more room for error (see below). The "Yampa River at Steamboat Springs" (USGS 09239500) stream gauge is located on the upstream river-left side of this bridge. The **5th Street Bridge river access** is from the parking lot 50 yards downstream of the bridge on river right.

RM 199.5 **Dr. Rich Weiss Park**, on river right, is a memorial to the two-time Olympian slalom kayaker with roots in Steamboat Springs. Weiss died in 1997 while kayaking on the White Salmon River in Washington State. As you start around the bend you will then pass the **Rabbit Ears Hole** (AKA "Rabbit Ears Wave"), also on river right, where the outflow from the Old Town Hot Springs enters the river.

RM 199.8–199.4 After you pass under the Iron Horse Bridge, the channel down the right side of Hitchens Island is known as the "**Kayak Course**." Plenty of rocks and holes lead you to a foot bridge across the river. **Hitchens Island**, or **Snake Island** as it is often known locally, was named for Mel Hitchens, long-time owner of the upstream end of the island. Hitchens was well known as a skier and for his sponsorship of the Wednesday Night Jump Series at Howelsen Hill.



Approaching the Iron Horse Bridge on flows of about 2000 cfs. The clearance under the right side of the bridge was measured at 41 inches on this day. *Don't be tempted to avoid the bridge by going down the left channel!*

RM 199.8 **HAZARD!** The river splits here. GO RIGHT under the notorious **Iron Horse Bridge**. The left-hand channel might look tempting, but it will *quickly lead to an even more hazardous bridge* just downstream. Nevertheless, the Iron Horse Bridge can also be perilous to boaters at high water. Drift boats are not recommended when flows are above 1500 cfs; large rafts are not recommended when the flows reach 2500 cfs (when measured at the **Yampa River at Steamboat gauge** by the 5th Street Bridge).

RM 200.3 This long right-hand bend in the river takes it around **Emerald Park** on river right. The stretch of river from here to the Iron Horse Bridge is sometimes known as the "**Brooklyn Run**," for the Brooklyn neighborhood west of Hitchens (Snake) Island.

Please respect private property. Unless marked specifically as public, all property shown on these maps is privately owned and closed to the general public.

Steamboat Springs

Map 3



Scale 1:8,000
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Charlie's Hole River Access

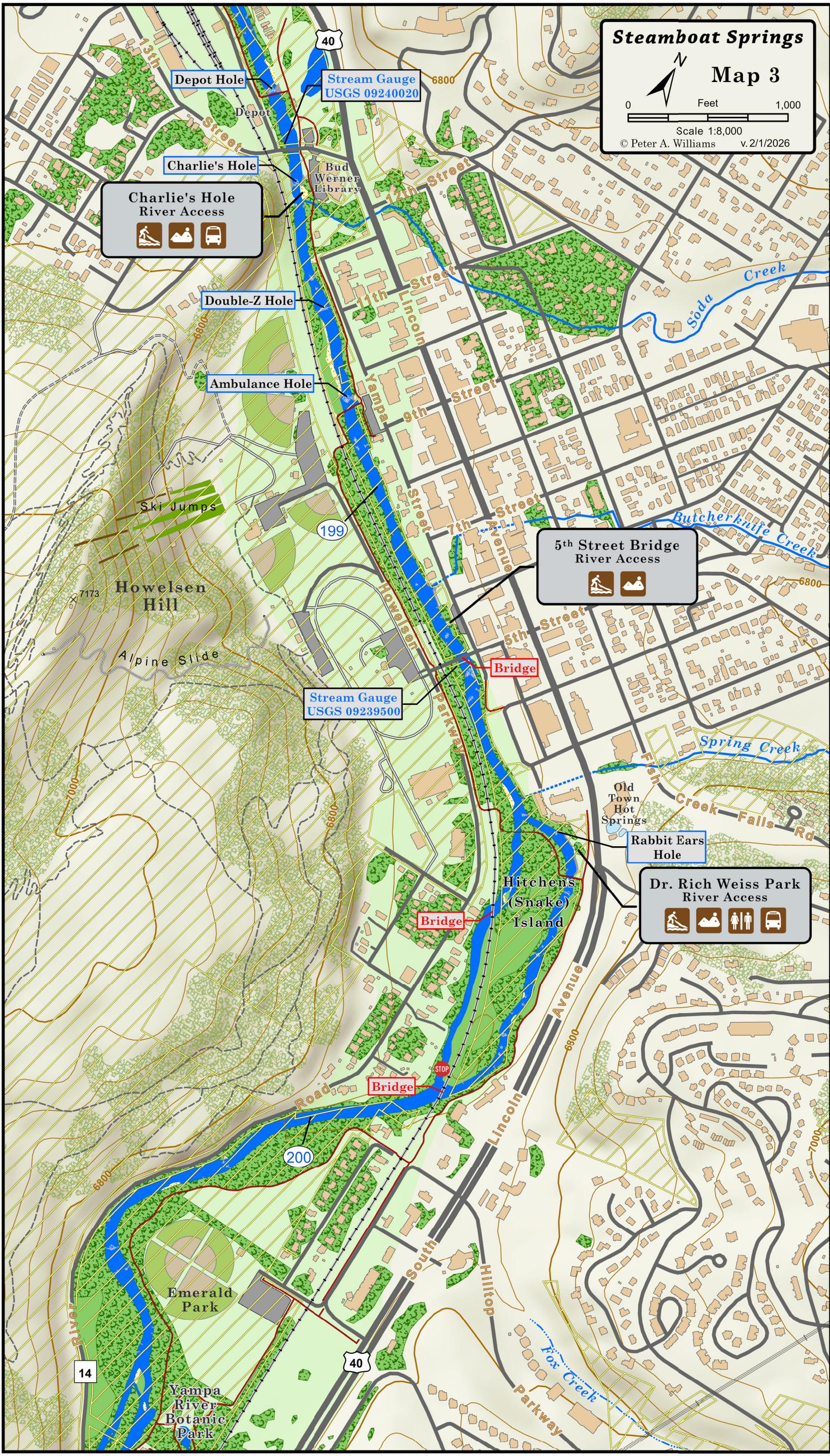
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5th Street Bridge River Access

-
-

Dr. Rich Weiss Park River Access

-
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Steamboat Reach Map 4

River Mile (RM) topics follow the flow of the river, from the bottom of the page to the top.

RM 197.35 The existing **Bear River Park river access** is a narrow concrete path on river right. This access is currently only suitable for hand-carried craft.

Planning for a number of improvements to Bear River Park, including a new trailer-accessible boat ramp near the current access path, has been underway for a number of years. Construction of the new boat ramp portion of the project had been set for 2025, but other infrastructure complications subsequently postponed it for another year. It's still unclear when the ramp might finally be completed and available for use—keep your fingers crossed.

When the new boat ramp is eventually completed, it will become the primary take-out point for larger craft floating through the Steamboat Reach, as well as the put-in for rafters beginning their float down the Milner Reach.

RM 197.5 **HAZARD!** Immediately after passing the James Brown Bridge river access, an island divides the river into two channels. It is mandatory to **stay in the right-hand channel**. A diversion structure for the Woolery Ditch completely blocks the left channel at all water levels.

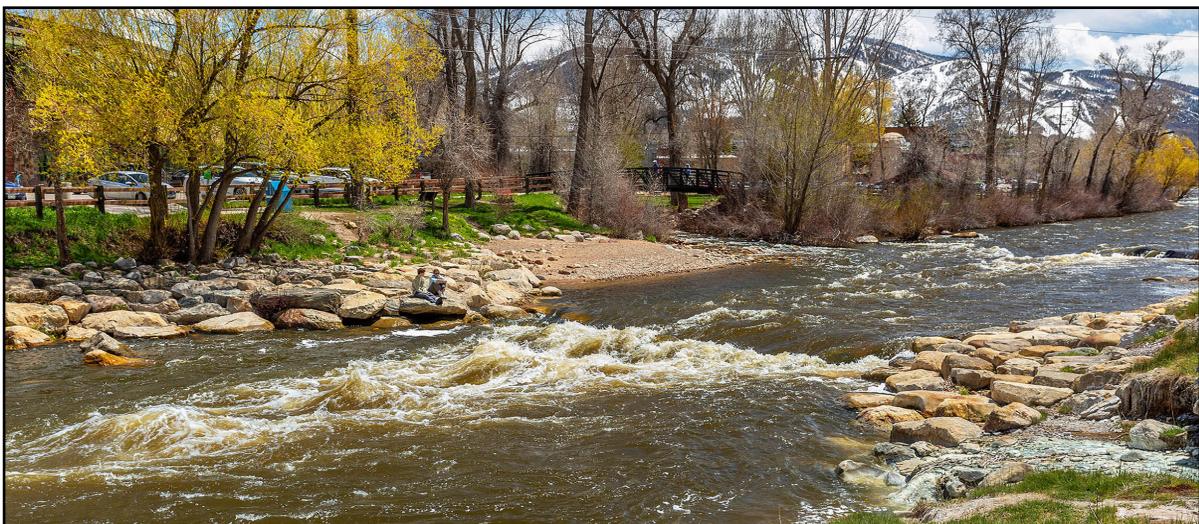
RM 197.55 After passing under the **James Brown Bridge** immediately look for the river access on river right. This is the **recommended take-out for private tubers**, and commercial tubing trips are required to exit the river at this point.

After a strange and convoluted series of naming contests, city council orders and rescissions of those orders, petitions and informal public votes, the new bridge on Shield Drive was officially dedicated as the **James Brown Soul Center of the Universe Bridge** on September 15, 1993. Brown was in attendance for the dedication event, as well as another estimated 2,000 local citizens.

RM 198.1 Watch for **Stockbridge Transit Center** parking lot coming up on river right after you pass under the next pedestrian bridge downstream of the D Hole. **River access** can be made by crossing the Yampa River Core Trail between the river and the parking lot. Please be courteous, and wary, of bicyclers using the path. Though you have to carry your raft about 20 yards to or from the water, until the future boat ramp is constructed at the Bear River Park, this remains the **best option for launching or taking a larger craft off of the river downstream of River Creek Park**. You can park all day, but there is no overnight parking. You must only use one space per vehicle—if you leave a vehicle with a trailer, the trailer must be detached and parked in its own space.

RM 198.5 The **Depot Hole (AKA D Hole)**, named for the historic Steamboat Springs Depot building just upstream on river left, is encountered immediately after passing under the pedestrian bridge crossing the river a tenth of a mile downstream of the 13th Street Bridge.

RM 198.6 The river passes under the **13th Street Bridge**. On river left on the downstream side of the bridge is the “Yampa River Below Soda Creek” (USGS 09240020) stream gauge. Although this gauge is only operated seasonally (May through August), when it is in service it is a primary resource for Yampa River flows downstream of Steamboat Springs.



*A spring afternoon at Charlie's Hole, just above the 13th Street Bridge.
The river was running about 850 cfs.*

Please respect private property. Unless marked specifically as public, all property shown on these maps is privately owned and closed to the general public.

Steamboat Springs

Map 4



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Scale 1:8,000

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197

33

40

**Bear River Park
River Access**



**Diversion
Structure**

STOP

**James Brown
Soul Center of the Universe
Bridge
River Access**



Shield Drive

**Stockbridge
Transit Center
River Access**



198

Depot Hole

Stream Gauge
USGS 09240020

Charlie's Hole

**Charlie's Hole
River Access**



Bud
Werner
Library

Colorado Mountain College

40

12th Street

THE BACK PAGE

Steamboat Reach Stream Gauges

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| RM 212 | DWR #5801772 | Lake Catamount Outlet |
| RM 212 | DWR #5803631 | Lake Catamount Spillway |
| NA | USGS #09238900 | Fish Creek at Upper Station near Steamboat Springs |
| NA | USGS #09238500 | Walton Creek near Steamboat Springs |
| RM 199.2 | USGS #09239500 | Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (5 th Street Bridge) |
| RM 198.6 | USGS #09240020 | Yampa River below Soda Creek (13 th Street Bridge) |

HINT: The Colorado Division of Water Resources page (<https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations>) provides a handy, single-source access to **all** of the DWR and USGS gauges in the Steamboat Springs vicinity.

Flows between Walton Creek at River Creek Park and the 13th Street Bridge are bolstered by a number of significant tributaries entering along the way, rendering no single gauge a definitive measure. However, boaters putting in for a run through town will find it most convenient to simply monitor the **Yampa at Steamboat Springs** gauge, located at the 5th Street Bridge. Note that recommendations for safe passage under the Iron Horse and 5th Street bridges in this guide are in reference to this gauge. Additional information and further flow recommendations for the Steamboat Town Run can also be found at <https://friendsoftheyampa.com/know-before-you-go-steamboat/>.

The seasonal gauge **below Soda Creek** (operational only May through August) is the best resource for launching on a Yampa trip downstream of the 13th Street Bridge. The principle difference in recorded flows between this gauge and the Yampa at Steamboat gauge is the contribution made by Soda Creek.

Boaters entering the river upstream at the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area will not find the two town gauges to be particularly relevant, at least without doing a bit of math. It is possible to subtract the flows measured by the Fish Creek and Walton Creek gauges from the 5th Street Bridge gauge for a reasonably good estimate for the Chuck Lewis section, provided those creek gauges are functional. Unfortunately, they operate seasonally and are prone to remaining ice-bound in the spring.

Alternatively, combining the Colorado Department of Water Resources gauges located at the **Lake Catamount Dam** will also provide a good estimate for the Chuck. One of these gauges measures the base stream outflow below the dam, while the other (which is actually a pair of redundant gauges—just add one of them to get your total) measures any additional water being dumped over the spillway, which in the spring can be significant. Unfortunately, there is no gauge measuring the flows contributed by Oak Creek, another tributary entering the Yampa at the upstream boundary of the state wildlife area. Nevertheless, the Catamount gauge total is the basis for the safe flow recommendations given for the Chuck Lewis section in this guide.

Tubing the Steamboat Town Run

When the summer flows mellow and the weather gets hot, the Town Run becomes a popular tubing destination. It is recommended that most tubers stick to flows of about 85 cfs to 200 cfs, with an “ideal” flow being perhaps 120 cfs. But for the adventurous, tubing may be possible as high as 600 cfs, though those high flows will also be cold. Below 85 cfs the higher water temperatures are seriously stressing the fish, and closures will likely be in effect. Please avoid tubing during those conditions.

Individuals tubing as private parties are discouraged from putting a tube on the river upstream of **Fetcher Park**; for commercial tubing operations this is a mandatory regulation. Likewise, the most downstream recommended take-out for private tubers is river right just below the **James Brown Bridge**, and commercial tubing trips are required to exit the river at that point.

Before tubing the Town Run, tubers are strongly urged to consult the Friends of the Yampa’s comprehensive **Know Before You Go** pages (<https://friendsoftheyampa.com/know-before-you-go-steamboat/>) for more information.

Another resource is the City of Steamboat Springs Summer Tubing page (<https://steamboatsprings.net/1249/Summer-Tubing>), where you will also find information on licensed commercial tubing operators, and a video on proper river etiquette.