



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Midwest Archeological Center
Federal Building, Room 474
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873



IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 30, 2015

H2623(MWAC)

Memorandum

To: Manager, Midwest Archeological Center

Through: Park Archeology Program Manager, Midwest Archeological Center

From: Archeologist Erin Dempsey, Midwest Archeological Center

Subject: Trip Report, Archeological Investigations in Advance of Current River Trail Installation, August 9-21, 2015

From August 9-21, 2015, I traveled to Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OZAR) with Archeological Technician Bailey Lathrop. During the project, we were assisted by OZAR Archeologist Allison Young and volunteers Billie Woods and Martina Lzicarova. The primary goal of the project was to conduct pedestrian and shovel test inventories along the proposed route of the Current River Trail (CRT), which extends for 11 miles between Round Spring and Current River State Park. Approximately five miles of the CRT lies on L-A-D Foundation land, and work has already been completed on trails under that jurisdiction. Of the remaining six miles of trail that is yet to be completed, only those sections of trail that are on NPS-owned land were surveyed; scenic easements within the OZAR boundary were not included in the project.

In addition to the trails work, we conducted inventories at Wallace Cave near Devil's Well and Cave Spring on the Lower Current. All three projects are detailed below.

Current River Trail

Three sections of the trail were identified for survey. Area 1 extends from the Round Spring pedestrian bridge, north to where the trail crosses outside of the park boundary. Area 2 begins approximately 70 m south of where Highway 19 crosses the northern park boundary above Sinking Creek and ends when it crosses out of the park onto Missouri Department of Conservation land. Area 3 crosses a small NPS-owned tract between Dugan and Jones hollows, west of Area 2.

The crew began by conducting a pedestrian inventory of all three sections. A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map of the slope and a visual survey was used to identify areas of



less than 25% slope. Those areas were flagged for shovel test inventory. No artifacts or above ground archeological remains were observed during the pedestrian survey.

A total of 21 shovel tests (ST) were excavated in places of less than 25% slope in Area 1 (Figure 1). Two areas where multiple shovel tests were excavated are shown in detail in figures 2 and 3. Three were positive for cultural material: ST 2 yielded a fragment of milkglass and STs 7 and 11 each yielded one chert debitage. Soils are dark brown in color and consisted of an O-Bt-C profile with a layer of duff on the surface. Chert nodules and gravel are present throughout the soil profile.

No shovel tests were excavated in Area 2 (Figure 4). The only section of trail that occurs on less than 25% slope is a glade where bedrock is visible at the surface. In Area 3, three shovel tests were excavated and none yielded cultural material (Figure 5). Soils are similar to Area 1, consisting of an O-Bt-C profile, though the color grades from grayish brown near the surface to reddish brown in the subsoil.

No further archeological work is recommended in advance of trail construction in these three areas of the park.

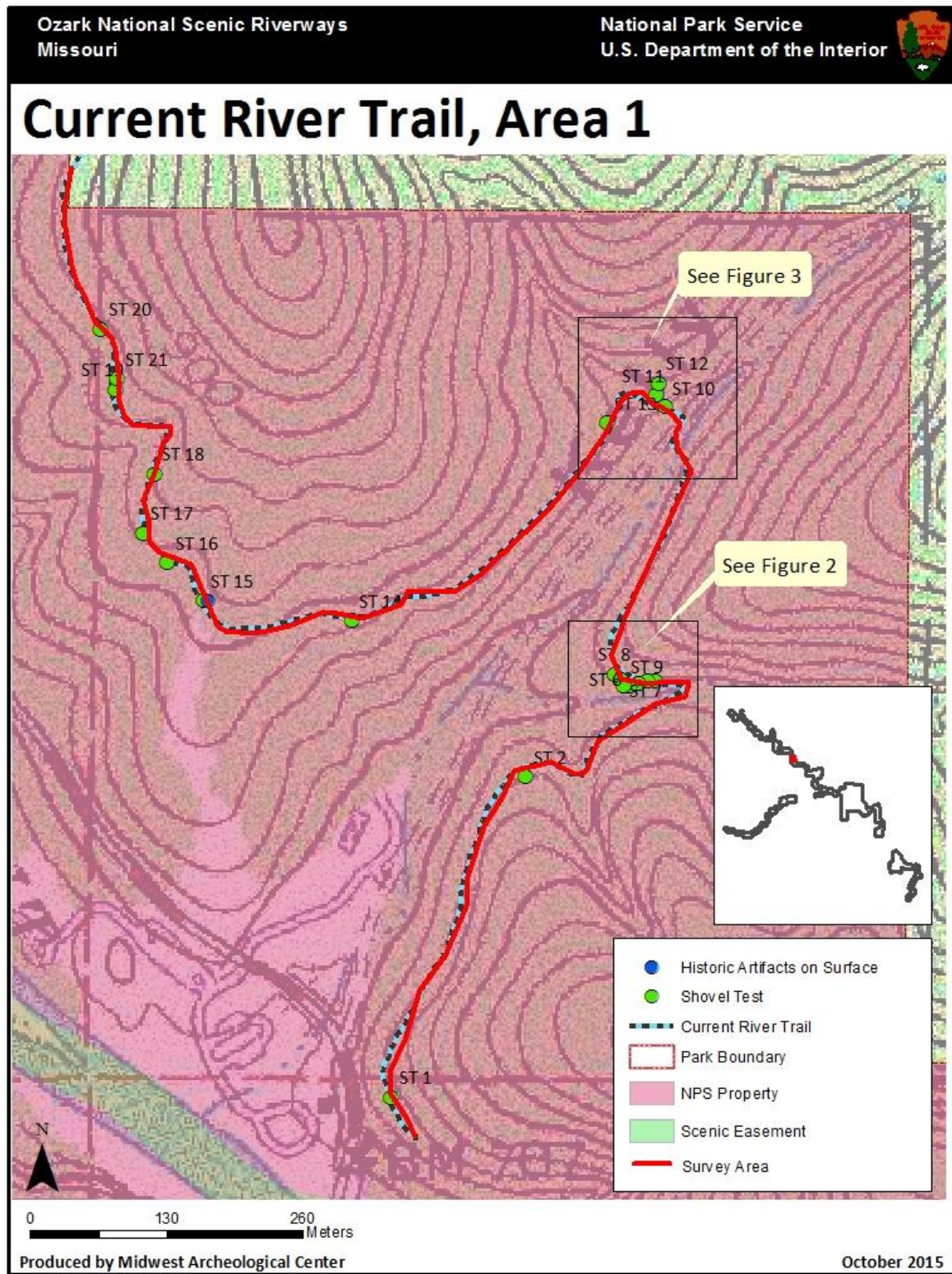


Figure 1. Overview of shovel test and pedestrian inventory area along the Current River Trail. Area 1 begins across from Carr's Canoe Rental, just north of Round Spring.

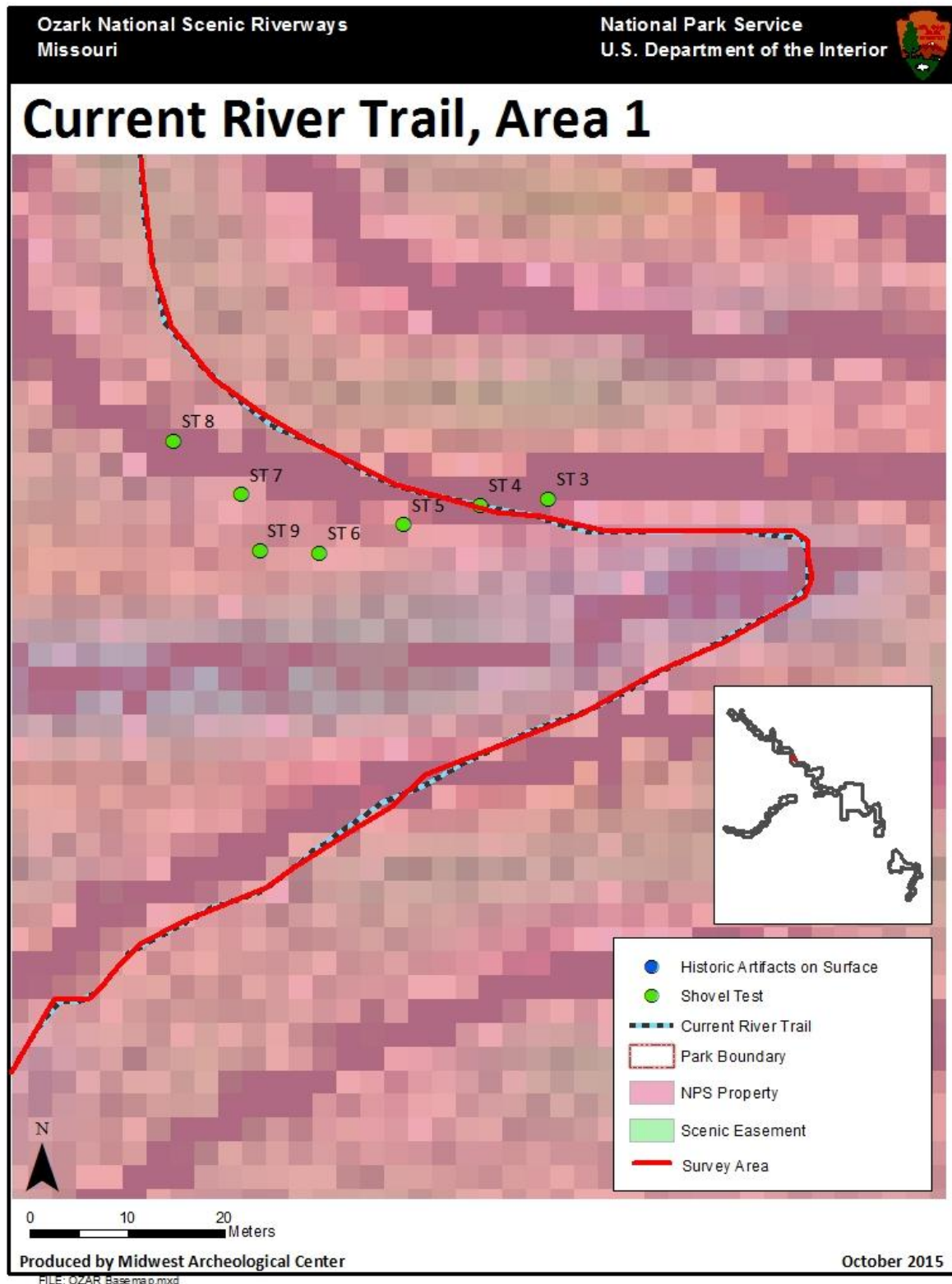


Figure 2. Close-up of locations of shovel tests 3-9 in Area 1 of the Current River Trail.

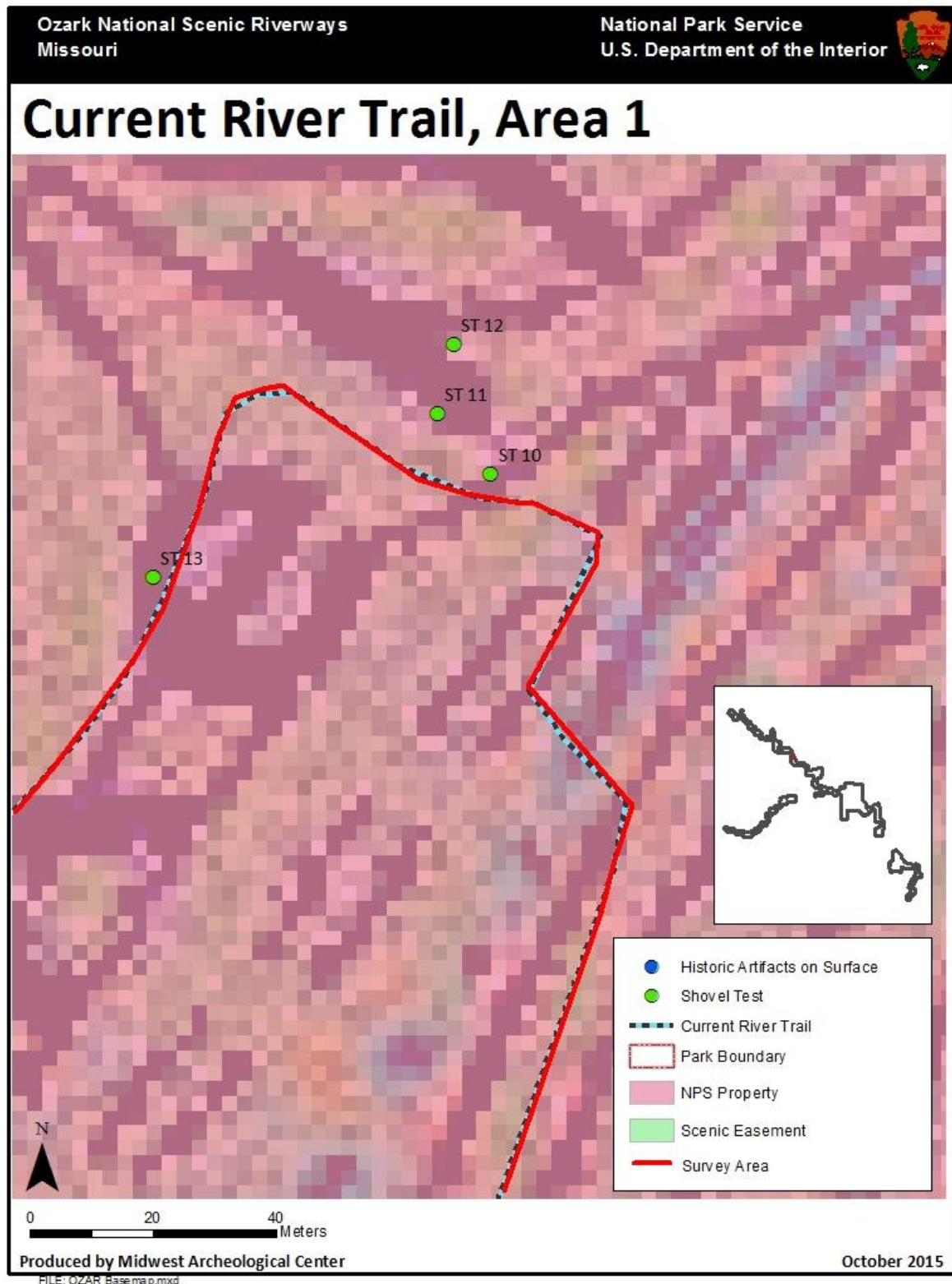


Figure 3. Close-up of locations of shovel tests 10-13 in Area 1 of the Current River Trail.

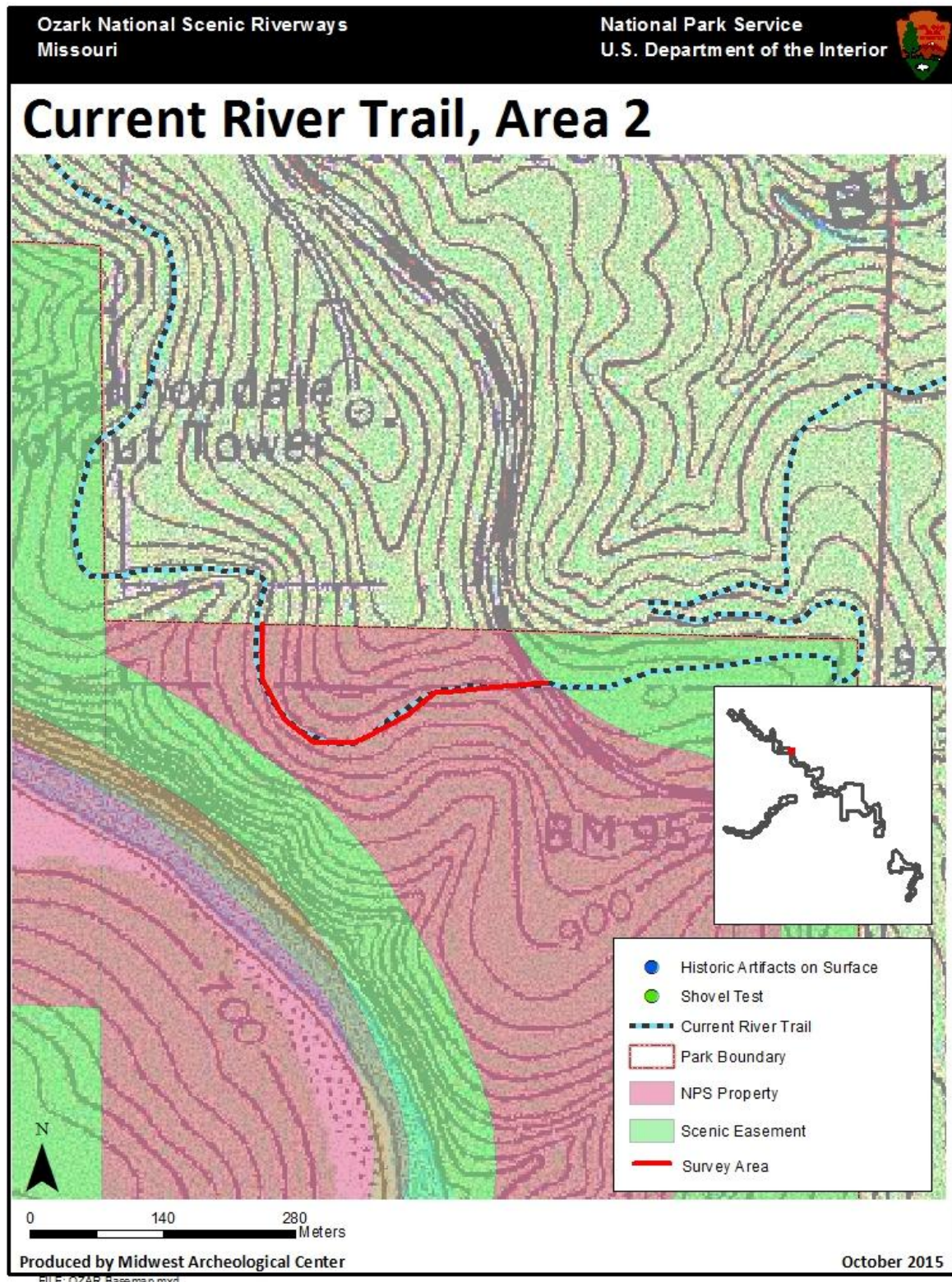


Figure 4. Overview of pedestrian survey area along the Current River Trail. Area 2 begins at Highway 19, south of where it crosses the park's northern boundary, and continues west until it crosses onto Missouri Department of Conservation land.



Current River Trail, Area 3

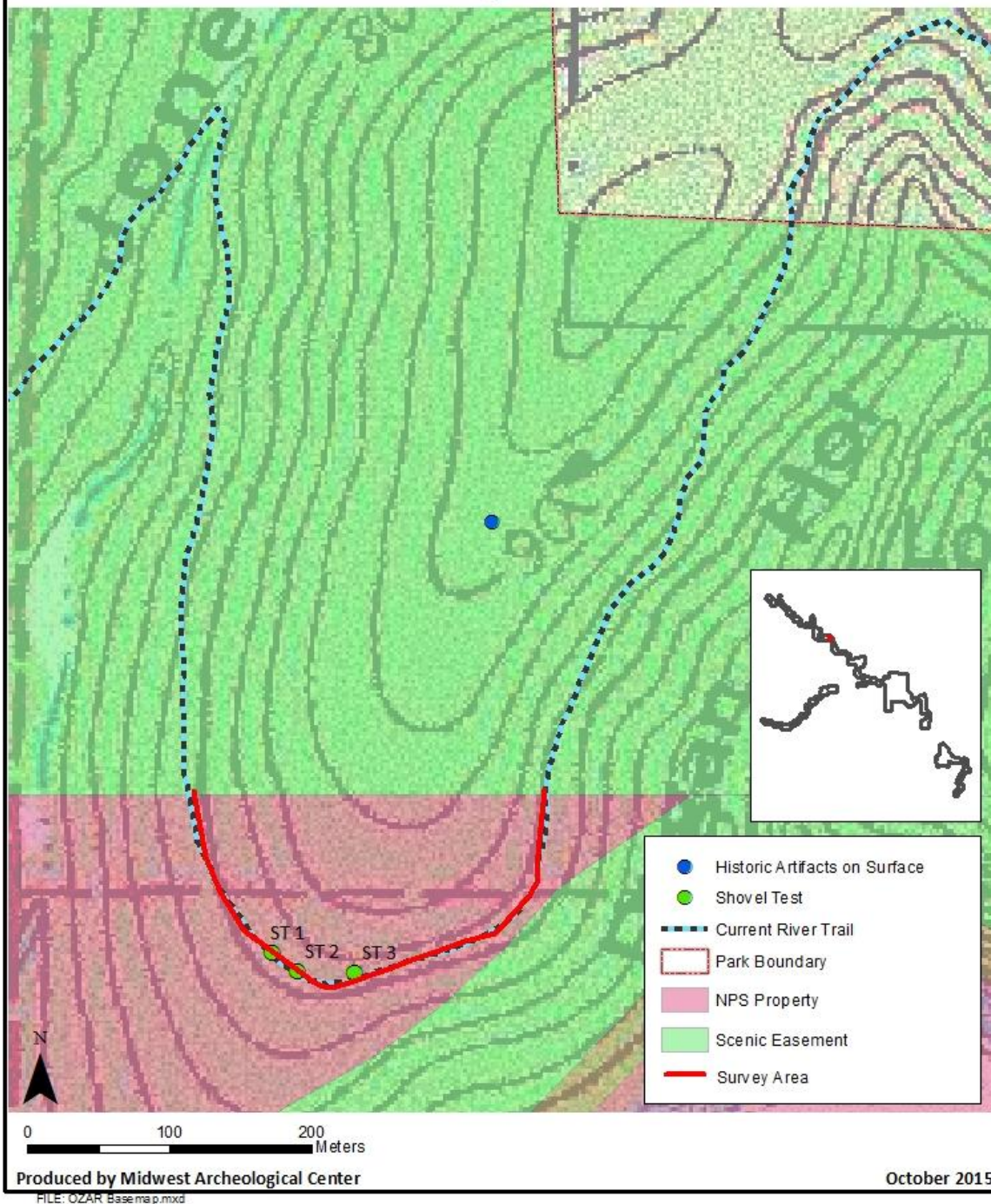


Figure 5. Overview of shovel test and pedestrian inventory area along the Current River Trail. Area 3 occurs between Dugan and Jones hollows, west of Area 2.