

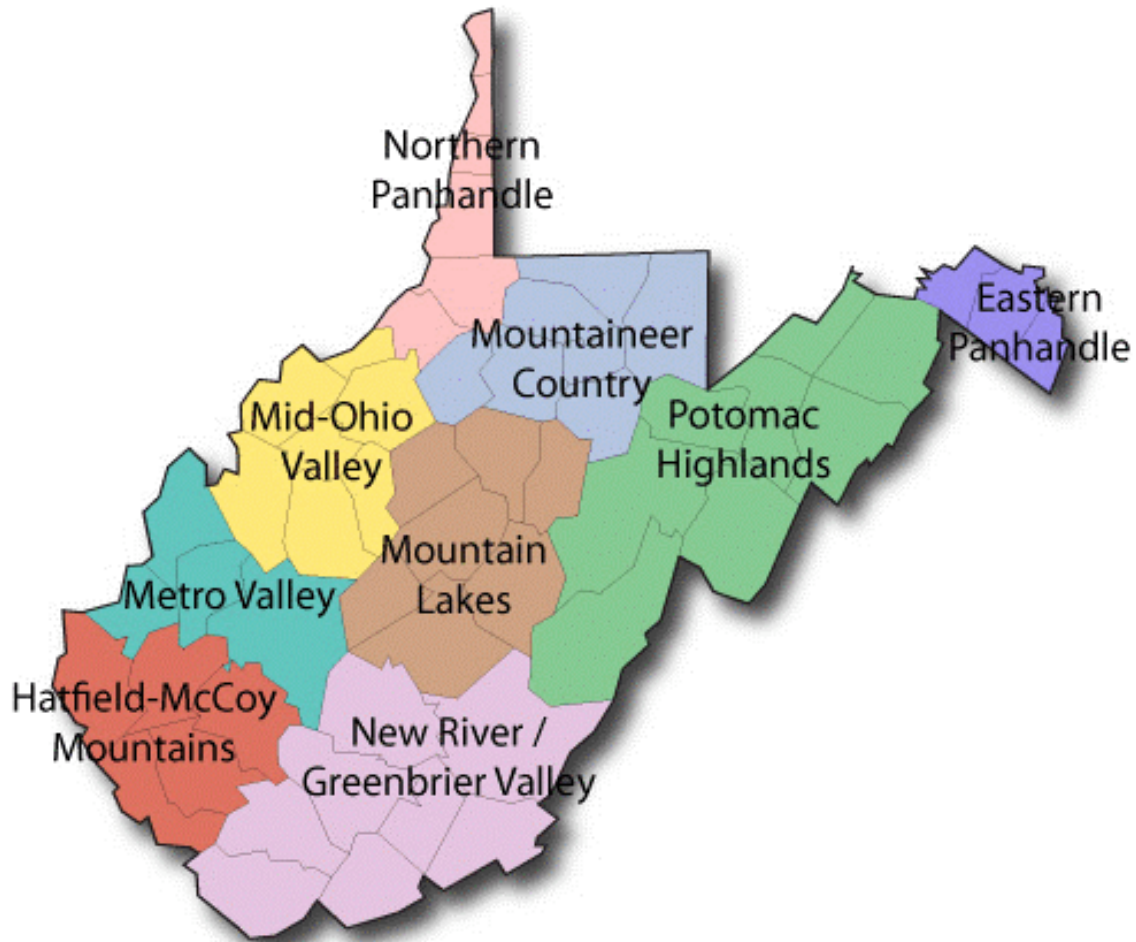
# Hiking WV State Parks: Forests & Historical Areas

[Earlier handouts on WV State Parks are available on the OLLI website:](#) Lakes & Rivers, Visiting the Monongahela National Forest, or Visiting New River Gorge National Park,

## State Parks & Forest Creation

Park Name	Year Est.			
<a href="#">Seneca State Forest</a>	1924	CCC & WPA	<a href="#">North Bend</a>	1951
<a href="#">Droop Mountain Battlefield</a>	1928		<a href="#">Calvin Price State Forest</a>	1953
<a href="#">Carnifex Ferry Battlefield</a>	1931		<a href="#">Cedar Creek</a>	1953
<a href="#">Babcock</a>	1934		<a href="#">Tu-Endie-Wei</a>	1956
<a href="#">Lost River</a>	1934		<a href="#">Canaan Valley</a>	1957
<a href="#">Kumbrabow State Forest</a>	1934		<a href="#">Fairfax Stone</a>	1957
<a href="#">Watoga</a>	1934		<a href="#">Cass Scenic Railroad</a>	1961
<a href="#">Hawks Nest</a>	1935		<a href="#">Chief Logan</a>	1961
<a href="#">Tomlinson Run</a>	1935		<a href="#">Pipestem</a>	1963
<a href="#">Coopers Rock State Forest</a>	1936		<a href="#">Twin Falls</a>	1964
<a href="#">Blackwater Falls</a>	1937		<a href="#">Valley Falls</a>	1964
<a href="#">Kanawha State Forest</a>	1937		<a href="#">Beartown</a>	1970
<a href="#">Cacapon</a>	1937		<a href="#">Berkeley Springs</a>	1970
<a href="#">Holly River</a>	1938		<a href="#">Little Beaver</a>	1971
<a href="#">Greenbrier State Forest</a>	1938		<a href="#">Prickett's Fort</a>	1975
<a href="#">Pinnacle Rock</a>	1938		<a href="#">Beech Fork</a>	1978
<a href="#">Panther State Forest</a>	1940		<a href="#">Greenbrier River Trail</a>	1980
<a href="#">Cathedral</a>	1942		<a href="#">Camp Creek</a>	1987
<a href="#">Tygart Lake</a>	1945		<a href="#">Blennerhassett Island</a>	1989
<a href="#">Watters Smith</a>	1949		<a href="#">Stonewall Jackson Lake</a>	1990
<a href="#">Audra</a>	1950		<a href="#">Moncove Lake</a>	1991
<a href="#">Bluestone</a>	1950		<a href="#">North Bend Rail Trail</a>	1991

## State Parks & Forests by Region



### **Eastern Panhandle**

Berkeley Springs (Morgan)  
Cacapon (Morgan)

### **Mid-Ohio Valley**

Blennerhassett Island (Wood)  
North Bend (Ritchie)

### **Mountaineer Country**

Cathedral (Preston)  
Coopers Rock (Monongalia & Preston)  
Prickett's Fort (Marion)  
Valley Falls (Marion & Taylor)  
Tygart Lake (Barbour & Taylor)  
Watters Smith (Harrison)

### **Mountain Lakes**

Cedar Creek (Gilmer)  
Holly River (Webster)  
Stonewall Jackson Lake (Lewis)

### **Northern Panhandle**

Tomlinson Run (Hancock)

### **Potomac Highlands**

Blackwater Falls (Tucker)  
Canaan Valley (Tucker)  
Fairfax Stone (Grant, Preston & Tucker)  
Kumrabow (Randolph)  
Lost River (Hardy)  
Calvin Price (Greenbrier & Pocahontas)  
Cass (Pocahontas)  
Droop Mountain (Pocahontas)  
Seneca State Forest (Pocahontas)  
Watoga (Pocahontas)

### **Hatfield-McCoy Mountains**

Cabwaylingo (Wayne)  
Chief Logan (Logan)

### **New-River Greenbrier Valley**

Babcock (Fayette)  
Hawk's Nest (Fayette)  
Bluestone (Summers)  
Pipestem (Mercer & Summers)  
Camp Creek (Mercer)  
Pinnacle Rock (Mercer)  
Carnifex Ferry (Nicholas)  
Greenbrier (Greenbrier)  
Little Beaver (Raleigh)  
Moncove Lake (Monroe)  
Panther (McDowell)  
Twin Falls (Wyoming)

### **Metro Valley**

Beech Fork (Cabell & Wayne)  
Kanawha (Kanawha)  
Tu-Endie-Wei (Mason)

<b>Park</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Area (acres)</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Est</b>	<b>Misc</b>
Beartown	Resnick	Greenbrier & Pocahontas	110	3425	1970	NC
Berkeley Springs	Berkeley Springs	Morgan	7	617	1970	1740s
Blennerhassett Island	Parkersburg	Wood	511	575	1989	1798
Cabwaylingo	Dunlow	Wayne	8125	994	1930s	CCC
Cacapon	Berkeley Springs	Morgan	6115	948	1937	CCC
Calvin Price State Forest	Marlinton	Greenbrier, Pocahontas	9482	2730	1953	NRLC
Camp Creek	Camp Creek	Mercer	5397	2037	1987	
Carnifex Ferry Battlefield	Summersville	Nicholas	165	1696	1931	
Cass Scenic Railroad	Cass	Pocahontas	940	2438	1961	WVP&P
Cathedral	Aurora	Preston	133	2579	1942	1882
Cedar Creek	Glenville	Gilmer	2588	1010	1955	
Chief Logan	Logan	Logan	3303	1289	1961	
Coopers Rock State Forest	Bruceton Mills	Monongalia & Preston	12747	2159	1936	CCC
Droop Mountain Battlefield	Hillsboro	Pocahontas	287	3104	1928	CCC
Fairfax Stone	Egion	Grant, Preston & Tucker	4	3169	1957	
Greenbrier State Forest	Caldwell	Greenbrier	5133	3169	1938	
Kanawha State Forest	Charleston	Kanawha	9300	741	1937	
Kumbrabow State Forest	Huttonsville	Randolph	9474	3507	1934	
Panther WMA	Panther	McDowell	7820	1650	1940	
Pinnacle Rock	Bramwell	Mercer	374	2745	1938	
Prickett's Fort	Fairmont	Marion	22	971	1975	1774
Seneca State Forest	Sunmore	Pocahontas	12,884	3245	1924	CCC
Tu-Endie-Wei	Point Pleasant	Mason	4	541	1956	
Twin Falls	Mullens	Wyoming	3776	1978	1967	
Watters-Smith	Lost Creek	Harrison	532	1033	1949	1796

CCC = Civilian Conservation Corps

NC = Nature Conservancy

NRLC = New River Lumber Company

West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company



## Booker T. Washington State Park

7.43 acres

1949 – 1959

Kanawha

Finney Branch creek

It was the only state park that allowed admission to African Americans until the park system were integrated in 1954. The park consisted of day-use picnicking facilities, but lacked a pool, hiking trails, campsites, and other amenities. Prior to the park's opening in 1949, African Americans were denied access to the state park system and were limited to the African American 4-H Camp at Camp Washington-Carver which was funded by the West Virginia State College extension service.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker\\_T.\\_Washington\\_State\\_Park\\_\(West\\_Virginia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_T._Washington_State_Park_(West_Virginia))

## CCC and WPA Parks

Hawks Nest, Babcock, Tomlinson Run, Lost River, Coopers Rock State Forest, Cacapon, Seneca State Forest, Droop Mountain Battlefield, Watoga, Little Beaver, Cabwaylingo, Holly River

<https://wvnewdealtrail.com/region-3-west/>

## Easier Trails

Blackwater Falls	Gentle Trail (gravel) 100 yds; Lindy Point
Camp Creek	White Oak Trail
Canaan Valley	Blackwater River trail (dirt trail) 0.9 miles; 78 feet elevation
Cathedral	
Coopers Rock	Rock City Trail (dirt trail), 0.8 miles; 100 feet elevation
Droop Mountain	Cranberry Bogs Trail 0.5 miles; Old Soldier trail 0.75 mile RR Grade
Hawks Nest	Hawks Nest Rail Trail 1.8 miles
Holly River	Nature's Rock Garden Trail 0.5 miles
Little Beaver	Lake Front Trail 1.1 mile loop; Railroad Grade Trail 1.95 miles
North Bend	Access trail to rail trail. 0.8 miles; Extra Mile Trail; 0.3 miles

## Accessible Areas

Babcock	Grist Mill
Beartown	Viewing platform
Beech Fork	Physical Fitness Trail
Berkeley Springs	Natural Springs
Blackwater Falls	Gentle Trail
Blennerhasset Island	Blennerhasset House
Cacapon	Multipurpose Trail
Holly River	Laurel Fork Trail
Kanawha	Spotted Salamander Trail 0.25 miles
North Bend	Extra Mile Trail 0.3 miles; North Bend Rail Trail
Tu-Endie-Wei	Historical site
Twin Falls	Twin Oaks Trail

## Scenic Views

Audra	Caves and Middle Fork River
Babcock	Grist Mill and Creek
Beartown	Rock formations, boulders, cliffs, and crevices
Blackwater Falls	Blackwater falls, Elakala Falls
Canaan Valley	Blackwater River, Canaan valley
Carnifex Ferry	Gauley River overlook
Cass	Mountaintop view from Bald Knob and train ride up Bald Knob
Cathedral	Virgin Hemlock forest
Coopers Rock	Cheat River Valley; hemlock forest; rock formations
Droop Mountain	Watch tower view of Greenbrier river valley
Greenbrier State Forest	Rocky Ridge overlook from Kate's Mountain
Hawks Nest	Overlook down to New River
North Bend	Old train tunnels
Pinnacle Rock	Pinnacle rock overlook
Pipestem	Views of Bluestone River Gorge
Tu-Endie-Way	Intersection of Kanawha and Ohio rivers
Twin falls	Foley Falls and Black Fork Falls
Valley Falls	Waterfalls and Tygart River

## Things to Make Hiking More Pleasant

Water Bottles  
Layers  
Hiking Stick / Staff  
Wide Brimmed Hat  
Bug Spray  
Moisture-Wicking Clothing  
Waterproof Boots  
Gaiters

Fall Foliage Map: [http://www.wvforestry.com/fall\\_foliage.cfm?menu2call=fallfoliage](http://www.wvforestry.com/fall_foliage.cfm?menu2call=fallfoliage)

## Bibliography

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- Allen de Hart, *West Virginia Hiking Trails: Hiking the Mountain State* (1997) ISBN: 9781878239563
- Johnny Molloy, *Five-Star Trails West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest* (2016) Menasha Ridge Press, ISBN: 9781634040594
- Johnny Molloy, *Hiking Waterfalls in West Virginia A Guide to the State's Best Waterfall Hikes* (2017) Falcon Guides, ISBN: 9781493023837
- Michael V. Juskelis, *The Mid-Atlantic Hiker's Guide West Virginia* (2013) Scott Adams Enterprises, ISBN: 9780985193997
- Mary Reed, *Hiking West Virginia* (2013) Falcon Guides, ISBN: 9780762781270
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- R. Bryan Simon, *Hiking and Biking in the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve* (2021) Ourea Publishing, 9781733623261
- R. Bryan Simon, *Hiking and Biking in the New River Gorge, a Trail User's Guide* (2013) Wolverine Publishing, 9781938393075

## Resources

CCC and WPA parks: <https://wvnewdealtrail.com/region-3-west>

Civilian Conservation Corps State Park Architecture in West Virginia: <https://sah-archipedia.org/essays/WV-02-002>

WV State Parks: <https://wvstateparks.com/>

WV State Parks: Then & Now: <https://wvstateparks.com/west-virginia-state-parks-then-and-now>

West Virginia's Wild & Wonderful State Parks: <https://extension.wvu.edu/community-business-safety/tourism-hospitality/west-virginias-wild-and-wonderful-state-parks>

Monongahela National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf>

New River Gorge National Park: <https://www.nps.gov/neri/index.htm>

West Virginia State Parks website: <https://wvstateparks.com>

Purple Lizard Maps <https://www.purplelizard.com> (Seen at Pathfinder in Morgantown and other places)

Heart of the Highland Maps <https://www.heartofthehighlandstrail.org/trails> (Pathfinder in Morgantown has this one, as well as various places in and around Davis)