

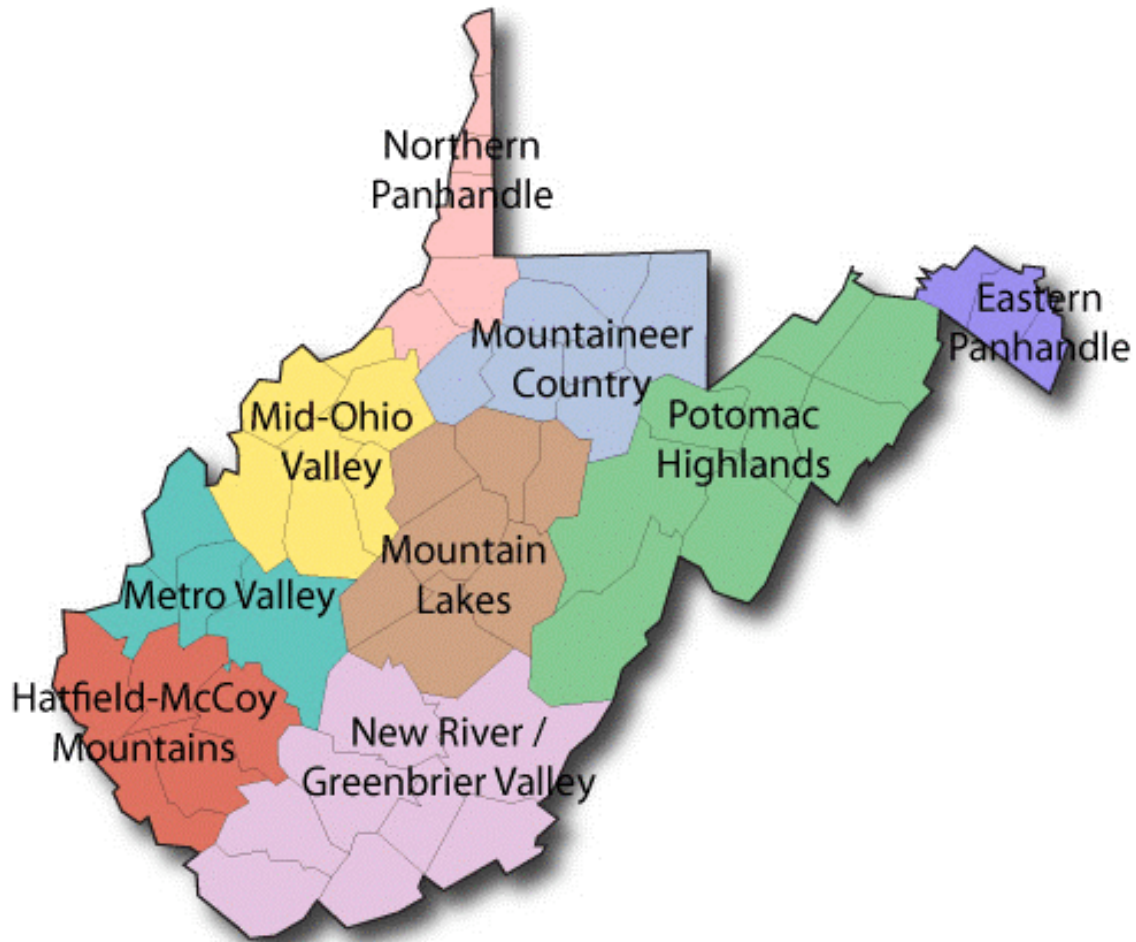
Hiking WV State Parks: Rivers & Lakes

State Parks & Forest Creation

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

The West Virginia Division of State Parks was established in 1933 to “promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural, scientific, cultural, historic, and archeological areas.”

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)

Park	Nearest City	Counties	Area (acres)	Elevation (ft)	Est	Note
Audra	Audra	Barbour & Upshire	355	1811	1950	B&O
Babcock	Clifftop	Fayette	4,127	2,510	1934-1937	CCC
<i>Beech Fork</i>	Barboursville	Caball & Wayne	3860	722	1978	US ACE
Berkeley Springs	Berkeley Springs	Morgan	7	617	1970	
Blackwater Falls	Davis	Tucker	2358	2897	1937	WV P&T Co
Bluestone	Hinton	Summers	2154	1742	1950	US ACE
Canaan Valley	Canaan Valley	Tucker	6015	3430 – 4280	1963	EDA
<i>Greenbrier River Trail</i>	Caldwell to	Cass	78 miles			C&O RR
Hawks Nest	Anstead	Fayette	370	1257	1935	CCC
Holly River	Hacker Valley	Webster	8294	3467	1938	WPA
Little Beaver	Beaver	Raleigh	562	2450	1972	CCC WPA
Lost River	Mathias	Hardy	3712	2037	1937	CCC
Moncove Lake	Union	Monroe	869	2582	1990	
North Bend	Cairo	Ritchie	2945	981	1951	B&O
North Bend Rail Trail	Cedar Grove to	Wolf Summit	72 miles			B&O
Pipestem	Pipestem	Mercer & Summers	4050	2690	1963	EDA
Plum Orchard Lake		Fayette	3030	1600	1960	
Sleepy Creek WMA		Berkeley & Morgan	22,928	866		
Stonewall Jackson Lake	Roanoke	Lewis	1736	1093	1990	US ACE
Tomlinson Run	New Cumberland	Hancock	1398	1109	1935	CCC
Tygart Lake	Grafton	Taylor & Barbour	391	1375	1945	US ACE
Valley Falls	Fairmont	Marion & Taylor	1145	1558	1964	
Watoga	Seebert	Pocahontas	10100	2894	1937	CCC

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad
 Chesapeake and Ohio Railway
 Civilian Conservation Corps
 Economic Development Administration
 West Virginia Power and Transmission Company
 Works Progress Administration
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Easier Trails

Blackwater Falls	Gentle Trail (gravel) 100 yds; Lindy Point
Camp Creek	White Oak Trail
Canaan Valley	Blackwater River trail (dirt trail) 0.8 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 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
Pipstem	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
Watoga	

Historical Areas

Berkeley Springs
Blennerhasset Island
Carnifex Ferry Battlefield
Cass Scenic Railroad
Droop Mountain Battlefield

Fairfax Stone
Prickett's Fort
Tu-Endie-Wei
Watters Smith

Things to Make Hiking More Pleasant

Water Bottles
Layers
Hiking Stick / Staff
Wide Brimmed Hat

Bug Spray
Moisture-Wicking Clothing
Waterproof Boots
Gaiters

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>

Mont Chateau
https://wvhistoryonview.org/?f%5Bcorporate_names_sim%5D%5B%5D=Mont+Chateau+Lodge+%28Cheat+Lake%2C+W.+Va.%29

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>