





# **PARK TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS**

From scenic vistas to beautiful overlooks, hiking trails at West Virginia's state parks and forests lead to breathtaking mountain scenery. Along the way create lasting memories but remember to leave no trace behind in Almost Heaven.

🕅 = Hiking 👪 = Horseback Riding 😰 = Mountain Bike Riding 📓 = Cross-Country Skiing

#### **BIG PINE TRAIL**

Big Pine Trail starts in the first sharp curve beyond the office going towards the campgrounds and ends along the roadway just north of Old Mill Campground. The trail offers scenic views of the Bluestone River and a multitude of wildlife and flora. **Distance:** 2 miles **Difficulty:** strenuous

#### BOUNDARY TRAIL

This trail starts 150 yards northwest of cabin 17 off of the Giles Fayette Kanawha Turnpike trail and ends on the Big Pine Trail just northeast of the Pawpaw trail. It offers scenic views, diverse terrain, and an opportunity for viewing wildlife and flora in diverse habitats. **Distance:** 2.8 miles **Difficulty:** strenuous

#### CABIN TRAIL

This trail begins in the field behind the Event Building across the road from cabin 12 and ends at the first sharp curve beyond the office going towards the campgrounds. It is a popular area for white-tailed deer and wild turkey. This is an excellent companion trail to the Giles Fayette Kanawha Turnpike or the Rhododendron Trail. **Distance:** 0.5 mile

**Difficulty:** moderate

#### EAGLE POINT TRAIL

Eagle Point Trail starts along the main park road halfway between Rt 20 and the park office. The trail is challenging and not recommended for children and pets. A rewarding view is found at the end of the trail along high cliffs. This trail gets its name from the view at the top, a great place to spot eagles and other birds of prey.

**Distance:** 1 mile Difficulty: strenuous

## GILES, FAYETTE, KANAWHA TURNPIKE TRAIL 📾

Park near the historical marker at the sharp curve below the state park office going towards the campgrounds. From there it is 0.2 miles along a service road to the trailhead at the old mile marker 40 stone. The trail passes cabin 17 and ascends to Sand Knob following the historic Giles Fayette Kanawha Turnpike. Among other travelers, Booker T. Washington followed this route on his walk out of slavery at age 9. U.S. presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley also utilized this trail. The trail passes through upland hardwood forest, offering several scenic vistas. This is an excellent companion trail to the Cabin Trail or the Rhododendron Trail. **Distance:** 1.3 miles

**Difficulty:** moderate

### MARY INGLES TRAIL

Retrace the steps of Mary Draper Ingles on this historic trail. Begin at the gate at the end of the Pits Rd boat launch area. The trail ends near Leatherwood Road and offers a fantastic view of Bluestone Dam. Enjoy picturesque views of Bluestone Lake and wildlife viewing opportunities no matter the distance you choose on this out and back trip. \*\*check lake levels to make sure below 1412'. **Distance:** 1.9 miles

Difficulty: easy

#### OVERLOOK TRAIL

The trailhead begins 200 feet northeast of the Meador Campground entrance and ascends to the Big Pine Trail, then continues to a scenic view of the Bluestone River and Lake. This trail is a good companion trail to the Pawpaw Trail.. **Distance:** 0.6 mile **Difficulty:** moderate

#### PAWPAW TRAIL

This meandering trail runs from the tent camping area to the midway point on Big Pine Trail. Enjoy the Pawpaw trees along the lower portion of the trail and the forest views of the hollows along the top half. **Distance:** 0.4 mile Difficulty: moderate

#### **RIVERVIEW TRAIL**

The trail begins in the sharp curve beyond the office going towards the campgrounds and ends on the road near the southwest side of the tent area. This trail follows along a creek with several waterfalls before passing a spur trail and continues following the Bluestone River around the campgrounds. This trail is excellent for seeing wetland species and birding. (Sections of this trail may be inaccessible during high water events). **Distance:** 1.2 miles **Difficulty:** easy

## RHODODENDRON TRAIL

Distance: 0.8 mile **Difficulty:** moderate

This trail begins across the road from the Event Building and ends at the boat launch below the park office. This trail features Rhododendron, (West Virginia's state flower) often in bloom late June into July along a stream ecosystem on the lower end, and a hardwood forest along the upper elevation. (Sections of this trail may be inaccessible during high water events.) This is an excellent companion trail to the Cabin or the Giles Fayette Kanawha Turnpike trails.

