

WEST VIRGINIA

state  **parks**

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST



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WEST VIRGINIA



COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

WELCOME TO COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST!

On behalf of the entire staff of Coopers Rock State Forest, it is a pleasure to welcome you to one of the most-visited state forests in the West Virginia state park system. Whether this is your first visit to Coopers Rock or a familiar destination, we hope that you enjoy our little bit of serenity.

Please look through this directory for helpful information about the forest, its amenities and activities and the surrounding area.

Our staff is always willing and available to help answer your questions. Stop by the office or ask one of the staff members you may see around the forest.

Coopers Rock offers an opportunity to unplug, relax and recharge. It is our hope that our facilities meet your expectations for a truly memorable getaway, one that you will want to recreate over and over.

We are delighted that you chose Coopers Rock State Forest to visit and look forward to getting to know you during your stay.



PENNSYLVANIA
WEST VIRGINIA

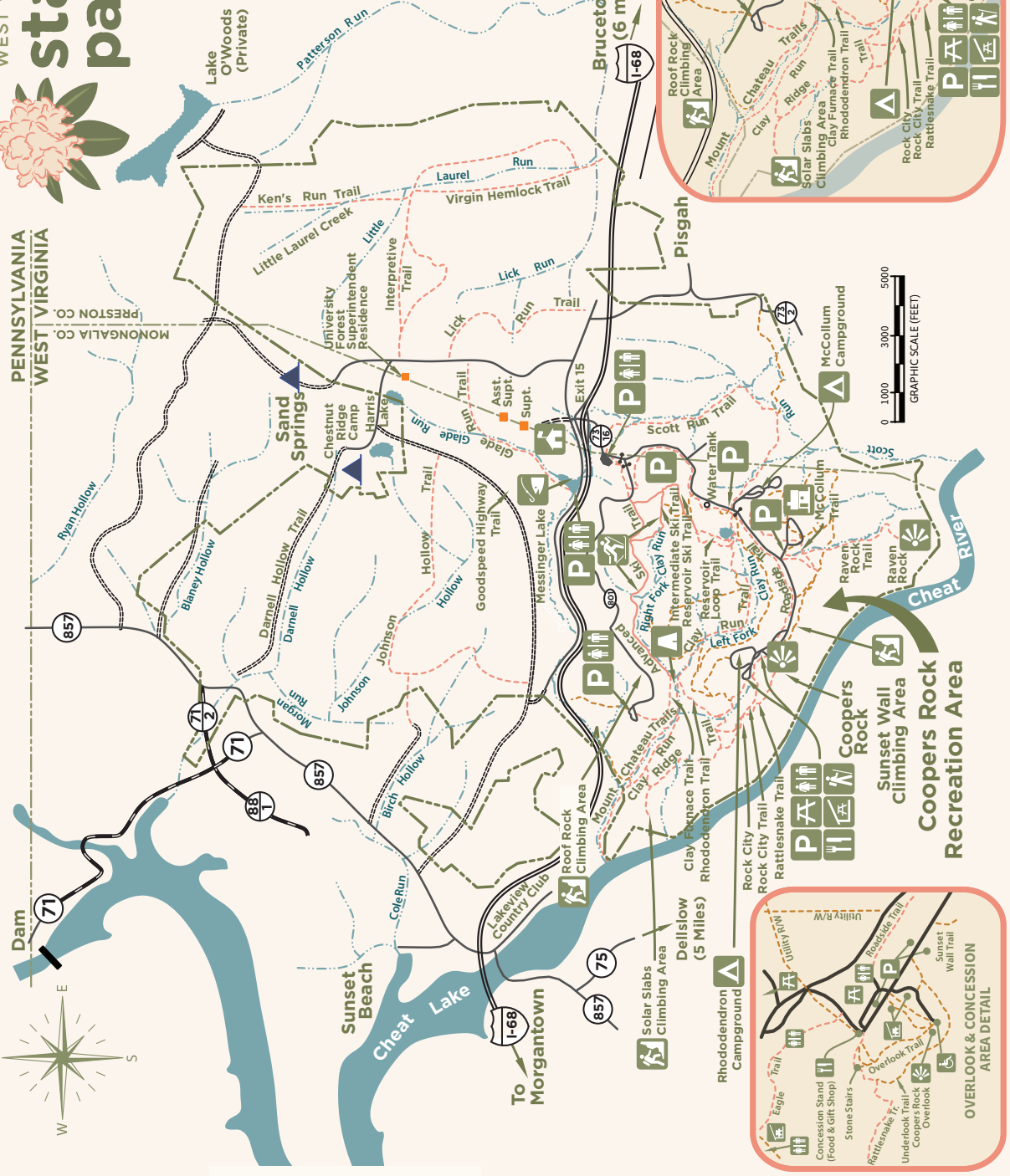


WEST VIRGINIA

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**COOPERS ROCK
STATE FOREST**

1-833-WV-PARKS | WVstateparks.com |



Legend

- Park boundary
- Paved road
- Improved road
- Unimproved road
- Hiking trail
- Hiking trail (official / signed)
- Hiking trail (unofficial / unsigned)
- Cross country
- Fishing
- Forest headquarters
- Henry Clay
- Iron Furnace
- Hiking
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Restrooms
- Rock climbing
- Scenic viewpoint
- Wheelchair accessible
- Cabin area
- Campground
- Concession stand & gift shop
- Cross country
- Hiking trail
- Hiking trail (official / signed)
- Hiking trail (unofficial / unsigned)
- Cross country
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- Scenic viewpoint
- Wheelchair accessible



GUEST SERVICES

ATM

BRUCETON MILLS

Little Sandy Truck Stop

CHEAT LAKE

BFS

PIERPONT ROAD

United Bank

SABRATION

Truist Bank

CHECK IN

4 p.m.

CHECK OUT

10 a.m.

FIREWOOD

- McCollum Campstore
- The Trading Post

GIFTS AND SUNDRIES

The Trading Post

ICE

- McCollum Campstore
- The Trading Post

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

McCollum Campground

LINEN EXCHANGE

Forest Office between 8 a.m.
and 3 p.m. Monday–Friday

LOST AND FOUND

Forest Office

PET FRIENDLY CABINS

Cabins 1, 3 and 5. Fees apply.

TRASH PICKUP

Daily. Use outside receptacles.



PHONE DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY

DIAL 911

FOREST OFFICE

(304) 594-1561

AFTER OFFICE HOURS

FOREST SECURITY

(681) 270-1531



HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

PARK OFFICE

(304) 594-1561

(681) 270-1531 (after hours)

LINEN EXCHANGE

Forest Office 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday

HELP US CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Using towels more than once saves thousands of gallons of water each year. We are committed to doing our share to protect the environment. Thank you for helping us to conserve water and save the environment.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

We are committed to ensuring our guests are safe. **If there is an emergency, dial 911.**

For non-emergency or security calls, dial (681) 270-1531.

TRAVELER SAFETY TIPS

1. Each cabin is equipped with a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. Vacate the cabin immediately if either alarm sounds and notify a forest staff member as soon as possible. If you must exit the building through smoke, stay low and move under the smoke.
2. In case of a fire or medical emergency, dial 911.
3. Emergency room services are available at Mon General and J.W. Ruby Memorial hospitals, located in Morgantown.
4. Always keep your cabin key with you. Should you lose or misplace your key, please stop by the office. Identification will be required.
5. Please refrain from opening your cabin door without verifying the identity of the person knocking.
6. Upon checking in, take a moment to locate the nearest exit to be used in case of an emergency.
7. If you are aware of or see any suspicious activity on forest grounds, please notify a staff member immediately.
8. Locate and acquaint yourself with the operation of fire extinguishers.
9. Please discard ashes and trash separately in the containers provided.
10. Please report any items that need attention or repaired to the forest office.
11. Please treat the cabin as though it was your own home and together we can ensure that it will provide comfort and enjoyment for many years to come.
12. Open fires are permitted in outdoor fire rings only. Do not leave outdoor fires unattended.
13. Outdoor grills are for charcoal cooking only. Please do not burn wood in these grills, it will damage them.

HOSPITALS

MON GENERAL HOSPITAL

1200 JD Anderson Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304) 598-1200
monhealth.com 

J.W. RUBY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1 Medical Center Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304) 598-4000
wvumedicine.org/ruby-memorial-hospital 

SAFETY AND SECURITY

STARTING A FIRE

Building, starting, and maintaining a fire in the wood-burning fireplace is not a difficult task, but to the uninitiated it can cause some frustration. The following are some tips that will make your fireplace experience much more enjoyable.

1. Use the supplied complimentary fire starter. You won't need any paper.
 2. Arrange a handful of kindling (small sticks of wood) over the fire starter.
 3. Light the fire starter with a match.
 4. Place small pieces of firewood across the grate over the kindling
 5. After the kindling and initial pieces of firewood are well lit, begin to slowly add larger pieces of firewood to get a nice warming fire going.
 6. Always keep the fire screen in front of the fireplace to prevent hot coals from popping out of the fireplace.
- **Do not burn trash or paper products in the wood-burning fireplace.**

FIRE

If the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector sounds, leave your cabin immediately and close the door behind you. If you must exit your cabin through smoke, stay low and move under the smoke.

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FOR A FIRE EMERGENCY.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Call 911.

DISTURBANCE

Call forest security at (681) 270-1531 or dial 911.

RECREATION

BIKING

Coopers Rock State Forest offers 50 miles of trails and roads for biking. All trails are marked with colored, plastic trail blazes.

FISHING

Fishing is available in Messinger Lake. A valid West Virginia fishing license is required for residents and nonresidents over 14 years old. Fishing license can be purchased on line at wvfish.com. 

GEOCACHE

Caches are located in the forest.

HIKING

Coopers Rock has more than 50 miles of hiking trails that crisscross the forest. All trails are marked with colored, plastic trail blazes.

HUNTING

Coopers Rock State Forest is managed as a multi-use area and hunting is allowed with the proper hunting licenses during established hunting seasons. Hunting is not allowed within the Safety Zones, which include any area with buildings or public use facilities. Hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, bear and small game abound. Hunting regulations are available at the Forest Office and online at wvhunt.com. 

PICNICKING

Picnic sites include picnic tables and upright grills and trash receptacles. Shelters can be rented by contacting the Forest Office.

PLAYGROUND

The playground is located at the overlook area near the Trading Post.

SWIMMING

Nearby – Cheat Lake Park Beach swimming. cheatlake.com/cheat-lake-park 

PARK FACILITIES

CABINS

Coopers Rock will have 12 cabins situated around the oak savanna where wildlife is plentiful. The cabins are modern A frame cabins that are fully equipped with all the comforts of home. Cabins 1, 3 and 5 are designated pet friendly cabins. Additional fees will apply for pets. Smoking is not permitted in the cabins. Deep cleaning fees will apply for any other cabins where pets were present. Deep cleaning fees will apply if smoking has taken place in any cabin.



CAMPING

McCollum campground is ideal for those with RVs. There are 49 campsites with either 30- or 50-amp electric service. Some sites have water available on the site, the others have access to a centralized water spigot. Each site has a picnic table, and a fire ring. A centralized dump station is available on the entrance road to the campground. At the start of 2025, two bath houses will serve McCollum campground. The camp store is open daily for last minute camping needs. The older loops of the campground are nicely shaded by mature trees of mixed variety. The newer loop incorporates larger sites and a more open feel.

Primitive camping (no electricity) is available at Rhododendron Campground near the picnic area at the overlook. This campground has 25 primitive sites, sloping sites have a tent pad, and all have a picnic table and fire ring. The restroom is centrally located in the camping loop, and potable water is available next to site 5. Showers are available at McCollum Campground for those planning extended stays at Rhododendron Campground. There is also a group camp site available that can accommodate up to 40 people.

The campgrounds are pet friendly, however, pets must stay on a 10-foot leash during their visit. Firewood is available at the McCollum camp store, or at the Trading Post.



PARK FACILITIES

SHOPPING AT COOPERS ROCK

The Trading Post is open throughout the year. This shop offers a wide selection of West Virginia-made products, West Virginia State Parks logoed apparel, food items, sundries, toys, souvenirs, camping supplies and ice cream.

Ice and firewood are available for sale at both the Trading Post and the McCollum Campstore.



ATTRACTIONS

ALLEGHENY TRAIL (ALT)

The Allegheny Trail is a 311-mile north-south trail with its northern terminus on the Mason-Dixon Line at the Pennsylvania-West Virginia border near Bruceton Mills. It wends its way south until meeting the Appalachian Trail on Peters Mountain at the Virginia-West Virginia border. Founded in 1972 by the West Virginia Scenic Trail Association, this trail is also known as the ALT.

To learn more about the ALT, [click here.](#)

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

1584 Blackwater Lodge Road

Davis, WV 26260

wvstateparks.com/park/blackwater-falls-state-park/

CHEAT LAKE

This 13-mile reservoir on the Cheat River is a popular area for boating and fishing. Three marinas provide rentals including ski boats, pontoons, paddleboards and kayaks. Your day on the water awaits!

PRICKETT'S FORT STATE PARK

106 Overfort Lane

Fairmont, WV 26554

wvstateparks.com/park/pricketts-fort-state-park/

TYGART LAKE STATE PARK

1230 Paul E. Malone Road

Grafton, WV 26534

wvstateparks.com/park/tygart-lake-state-park/

WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN

The West Virginia Botanic Garden at Tibbs Run Preserve seeks to foster learning, inspiration and wellbeing through the beauty and wonder of plants, the natural environment and culturally enriching experiences. The garden is located at 1061 Tyrone Road in Morgantown, WV, 26508. To learn more, find maps, hours, events and a FAQ page, visit wvbg.org.

WHITEWATER RAFTING

Are you ready for an adventure? Area outfitters provide guided trips and shuttle services on the Cheat River for whitewater rafting. The Cheat at its peak runs up to Class IV+ rapids. Float trips can also be arranged on the flatwater sections of the river. The nearby Youghiogheny River offers some of America's best whitewater, trips run from April to November.

SHOPPING

PIERPONT CENTRE

601 Venture Drive,
Morgantown, WV 26508

SUNCREST TOWNE CENTRE

1298 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive,
Morgantown, WV 26505

PIERPONT LANDINGS

1000 Mid Atlantic Drive,
Morgantown, WV 26508

UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTRE

University Town Centre Drive,
Morgantown, WV 26501



PLACES OF WORSHIP

BOYER HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

Boyer, WV
(304) 456-4974

ST. LUKES CATHOLIC CHURCH

19 Jo Glen Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508

CALVARY CHAPEL MORGANTOWN

493 Tyrone Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

BETH HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

65 Rackley Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

CHESTNUT RIDGE CHURCH

2223 Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

CORNERSTONE C&MA CHURCH

338 Fairchance Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

APOSTOLIC GOSPEL CHURCH

51 Birch Hollow Road, Morgantown, WV 26508



ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING

Hello and welcome to Coopers Rock! One of the amenities included in your cabin stay is the Celestron Inspire 100AZ Refractor Telescope. If this is your first time using a telescope, this guide should assist you in getting started. We also recommend downloading the free Celestron SkyPortal app for a detailed guide to the night sky.

SOLAR WARNING

Never look directly at the Sun with the naked eye or with a telescope. Permanent and irreversible eye damage may result. Never use your telescope to project an image of the Sun onto any surface. Internal heat build-up can damage the telescope and any accessories attached to it.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING

MEET YOUR TELESCOPE



1. Telescope Tube
2. StarPointer Pro Finderscope
3. 20 mm Eyepiece
4. Erect Image Diagonal
5. Focus Knob
6. Focus Micrometer
7. Panning Handle/Altitude Clutch Knob
8. Tripod
9. Accessory Tray Lock Knob
10. Folding Accessory Tray
11. Lens Cap/Smartphone Adapter
12. Tube Mounting Bolt
13. Altazimuth Mount
14. Removable Flashlight
15. Accessory Tray Tension Knob
16. 10 mm Eyepiece

MOVING THE TELESCOPE:

The skylight on the second level where the telescope can be found is a suitable location for stargazing, just ensure all lights are turned off to enhance the viewing experience. You are also welcome to transport the telescope outside for even better viewing, but please be sure to bring it back inside when finished, as weather conditions can damage the telescope.

1. To move the scope left and right, loosen the tension knob at the base of the mount between two of the tripod legs. Grab the knob at the end of the panning handle and move the scope to the desired location. You can adjust the tension of the left and right motion by adjusting the tension knob.
2. To move the scope up and down, loosen the altitude clutch by turning the knob at the end of the panning handle counter-clockwise. Move the handle up or down as required and turn the knob clockwise to lock the scope on target.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING

ALIGNING THE STARPOINTER PRO FINDERSCOPE:

The finderscope helps you aim the telescope by looking through its round glass window and covering your target with the red reticle projected in the window. It is likely that your finderscope is already aligned, but if you find that you are having trouble lining up with your intended target, you may need to proceed with the following steps. Although these steps can be done at night, it is significantly easier during the day.

1. Using your naked eye, find an easily recognizable target, such as a car license plate or a tall tree. The object should be as far away as possible.
 2. Remove the main dust cover from the telescope and make sure your 20 mm eyepiece is installed.
 3. Move the telescope left and right or up and down so that it is roughly pointed at the object you chose.
 4. Look through the telescope's eyepiece and manually move the telescope until the object you chose lies in the center of the view. If the image is blurry, gently turn the focus knobs until it comes into sharp focus.
 5. Once the object is centered in your 20 mm eyepiece, turn on the finderscope by turning the on/off/brightness switch knob on the bottom of the unit as far as it will go.
 6. With your head positioned about a foot behind the finder, look through the round window and locate the red reticle. It will probably be close to, but not on top of, the object you see when you are looking through the 20 mm eyepiece.
 7. Without moving the telescope use the two adjustment knobs on the side and underneath the finderscope. One controls the left-right motion on the reticle, while the other controls the up-down motion. Adjust both until the reticle appears over the same object you are observing in the 20 mm eyepiece.
 8. With the finderscope aligned, you are now ready to observe!
- Note: Please be sure to turn off the StarPointer Pro finderscope when not in use to conserve battery power.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING

YOUR FIRST ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING SESSION:

Let's start with the Moon. The Moon takes about one month to go through a complete phase cycle, from New Moon to Full Moon and back again. While you can observe the Moon anytime it is visible in the sky, the best time to view it is two days after a New Moon, up to a few days before a Full Moon. During this period, you will be able to see the most detail in craters and lunar mountain ranges.

1. With a clear view of the Moon, set up your telescope in the desired location with the 20 mm eyepiece.
2. Turn on the finderscope and look through it to find the red reticle.
3. Move the telescope until you can see the Moon through the finderscope's window and the reticle is centered on the Moon.
4. Look through the 20 mm eyepiece.
Gently turn the focus knob to adjust the sharpness of the image.



Congratulations! You have now observed your first celestial object! To get a closer view of the Moon, replace the 20 mm eyepiece with the 10 mm eyepiece. It will give you more magnification, making the Moon appear much larger. You may need to adjust the focus knobs when you change eyepieces to ensure you are getting the sharpest image. You can view many other celestial objects, such as planets, star clusters, and nebulae using the same basic technique.



ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVING

IMAGING WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE:

Now that you have observed with your telescope, the next step is taking a picture of what you are seeing. Your telescope has a smartphone adapter built right into the lens cap. To use this feature:

1. Start by pulling the orange plug out of the camera opening in the lens cap. You can do this by pulling on the orange rubber lanyard located on the inside of the lens cap, the plug should pop right out. The plug and lanyard can be stowed out of the way by pressing the lanyard into the retaining clip located on the back of the lens cap next to the eyepiece holder.
2. Turn the cap so that the outside of the cap is facing upward. Lift the bungee straps and slide your smartphone between the straps and the lens cap so that the camera is looking through the camera opening. The straps should give plenty of tension to hold the device against the cap and the black silicone ring will give enough friction to prevent the phone from sliding around. You can reposition the angle of the bungee straps to better secure your phone using the eight different anchor points around the edge of the lens cap.
3. Turn the cap over and make sure your camera lens is centered in the opening of the lens cap. The better you have this centered, the easier it will be to take images through the telescope.
4. Take the 20 mm eyepiece and remove the rubber eyecup by pulling it straight off the eyepiece body. There is an eyecup retainer built-in to the inside of the lens cap so you don't lose it. Just stretch the eyecup around the round retainer and slide the eyecup all the way to the bottom.
5. Loosen the set screws located on the eyepiece holder on the inside of the lens cap. Place the black portion of the eyepiece into the eyepiece holder and tighten the screws to secure the eyepiece in place.
6. Now take the lens cap with the phone and eyepiece attached and insert the chrome barrel of the eyepiece into the diagonal on the back of the telescope's focuser. Secure it in place by tightening the set screws on the diagonal.
7. Activate your camera app on your smartphone and adjust the focus, just as you would the eyepiece, this time using the image that appears on your screen.
8. Make sure you turn the phone's flash off, and when the image appears sharp, snap your image.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING

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