



WEST VIRGINIA

**state
parks**

**BLACKWATER FALLS
STATE PARK**

Harold S. Walters Nature Center

Nature Center

Fall Hours

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Hours may change
at the discretion of the Park Naturalist.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

☀ **10:30 AM. River Road Hike** – Meet a Naturalist at the Gentle Trail parking lot for this walk along an old railroad grade. This is a great opportunity to look for ducks and other waterfowl. This out-and-back hike is about 2 miles.

Allow around 2 hours for this hike. Bring water and binoculars if you have them.

☀ **2:00 PM. Do Trees Hibernate?** – Learn the survival strategies used by different trees to make it through the winter. Some trees lose their leaves, but why? And what about the trees that don't?

Sunday, October 25, 2026

☀ **11:00 AM. Weather Window Craft** – Join the Nature Center Attendant to learn a little about clouds as you make a weather window. Afterward, watch a film about the weather.

1:00 PM. Nature Crafts – Come make some crafts with us. A variety of nature-related crafts will be available. Cost per craft will range from free to \$3 based on selection.

☀ **2:00 PM. Feature Film – October Sky** – Join us for this story about a group of high school students from the small mining town of Coalwood, West Virginia who are inspired to build their own rockets. 1 hour 48 minutes long.
Rated PG.

Monday, October 26, 2026

☀ **11:00 AM. Nature Documentary – Ravens** – Join us to discover the incredible intelligence of this larger cousin of the Crow and the adaptations that help them survive in a multitude of climate. About an hour long. Rated PG.

☀ **7:00 PM. Hunter's Moon Hike** – Meet at the Nature Center for an after-dark exploration of the park. Learn about our nocturnal residents and how they each have different adaptations for life at night. Learn about the Dark Sky initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park and, weather permitting, do some stargazing. This hike will last about an hour and take place on paved and packed surfaces. Please dress for the weather and keep your light sources to a minimum.

Tuesday, October 27 - Thursday, October 29, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Friday, October 30, 2026

**Nature Center is closed.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

Saturday, October 31, 2026

☀ **10:00 AM. Feeder Bird Identification** – Join the Naturalists to get a closer look at some of the birds that visit our feeders. Some of our regular visitors are now in their Winter plumage and might not look how you'd expect. Stop by to grab a few free handouts, a WV birding checklist, and a cup of coffee or hot cocoa on us.

☀ **11:00 AM. Beaver Walk** – Meet a Naturalist at the Nature Center for a short walk to explore some American Beaver habitat. The trail will likely be wet and muddy, please wear appropriate footwear. Less than ½ mile walking. About 45 minutes.



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continued

☀️ **12:00 PM. Bats!** – Learn a little more about these often-misunderstood animals as you piece together this fun craft. Ask about the kinds of bats that live in West Virginia.

☀️ **1:00 PM. Some West Virginia Ghost Stories** – Join the Naturalist to hear a few stories from *The Telltale Lilac Bush* by Ruth Ann Musick, West Virginia's most famous collection of ghost stories.

☀️ **2:00 PM. Owl-o-Ween!** Learn to speak Owl and find out what kinds of owls can be found at Blackwater Falls State Park. NO live birds will be present at this program.

Sunday, November 1, 2026

☀️ **11:00 AM. Digging Up the Past: Fossils** – Explore the Nature Center's fossil collection with the attendant and find out Earth's history. Uncover your own replica fossil during this program for a \$3 materials fee.

☀️ **1:30 pm. Fall and Winter Stargazing** – Join the Park Naturalist to get some tips for your cold-season stargazing and find out which stars and constellations are visible this time of year.

☀️ **2:30 PM. Saving Our Dark Skies** – Join the Park Naturalist to learn about light pollution, its negative effects, what you can do to help, and about the Dark Sky initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park.

Monday, November 2, 2026

☀️ **11:00 AM. Nature Documentary – A Murder of Crows** – Often considered a nuisance with a poor reputation, crows are much more than they seem. About 1 hour long.
Not rated.

Tuesday, November 3 - Thursday, November 5, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 PM. What is a "Natural Area?" – You might have seen some signs on the park that say "State Natural Area." Join the Park Naturalist to learn why some areas of the park are designated as State Natural Areas and what makes them special.

Saturday, November 7, 2026

☀️ **8:00 AM. "First Saturday" Bird and Nature Walk** – Join the Park Volunteer for some morning birding around the Pendleton Lake area. Easy walking on paved roads and packed trails. Bring water, a snack, and binoculars if you have them. Open to people of all birding abilities.
Meet at the Nature Center.

☀️ **11:00 AM. Evergreen Walk** – Join a Naturalist for this hike along Balsam Fir Trail to learn about some of the common evergreen plants found on the park. This is a 1.5-mile-long loop trail. Expect rocks, roots, and mud. About 90 minutes.

Sunday, November 8, 2026

☀️ **11:00 AM. Blackwater Falls History** – Join the Park Naturalist for a brief history of Blackwater Falls State Park and the surrounding area including the "discovery" of the Falls, the logging boom, and the formation of the WV State Park System.

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Tuesday, November 24, 2026

☀️ **7:00 PM. Beaver Moon Hike** – Meet at the Nature Center for an after-dark exploration of the park. Learn about our nocturnal residents and how they each have different adaptations for life at night. Maybe learn how to speak Owl. This walk will last a little over an hour and take place on paved and packed surfaces. Please dress for the weather and keep your light sources to a minimum.