

# WV Rail-Trails: Mileage and Ratings 1998

## STANDARDS

The Directors of the West Virginia Rails-to-Trails Council have adopted the following standards for trails included in the WV List of Rail-Trails.

- 1.The trail must be passable.
- 2.Must currently be part of a public right-of-way or open to the public.
- 3.Must be documented as once being a railroad. (i.e. records from the ICC, Coal Companies, US Forest Service, etc.)
- 4.Narrow gauge logging or mining railroads are included.
- 5.Must have approval of owner or operator of trail property to list the trail.

## RATING SYSTEM

The trail rating is intended for WV rail-trails. Nationally, rail-trails are typically known as wide, level grade trails. In West Virginia we have included narrow gauge railroads into our trail system, so more attention is given to the difficulty of the trails as they relate to the elderly and families with smaller children.

### Scenery:

- (1)Remote settings with scenic or natural appeal and/or points of particular interest such as scenic views, rushing rivers or streams.
- (2)Basically wooded or farmland settings with occasional communities.
- (3)More influenced by developed communities, industrial sites, proximity to highways, strip mines, etc.

### Difficulty:

- (I)Suitable for leisurely strolls or biking. Ordinary street shoes are adequate for walking. Wide bicycle tires are recommended.
- (II)May involve moderate amounts of scrambling over rocks, steeper grades, narrow and/or more difficult pathways, etc. Tennis shoes with good tread would be appropriate. Wide bike tires with a rough tread should be used.
- (III)A reasonable amount of biking experience is needed. Not recommended for smaller children or those in poor physical condition. Trails with steepest grades. Mountain bikes and hiking boots are a must.
- (IV)Not recommended for bicycles. Rock slides or fallen trees prohibit all but foot travel.

### Trail Conditions:

- (A)Well marked and maintained. No difficulty in finding trail. All trestles and tunnels are passable. Good trail surface.
- (B)Average. Trail surface may include original ballast, trestles may have narrow decking but without handrails, tunnels have water and rocks.
- (C)Poorly marked and maintained. One must pay attention to stay on the trail, washouts, fallen logs and rock slides may persist, challenging trail conditions exist, tunnels may be dangerous.

TRAIL NAME	MILES	SCENERY	DIFFICULTY	CONDITIONS
Greenbrier River Trail	75	1	I	A/C
Glade Creek	5.6	1	I	A
Harrison County	6.9	2	I	C
Marion County	2	2	I	B
North Bend	72	2	I	A
Southside Junction	6.4	2	II	B
Elk River	1	2	I	A
Thurmond-Minden	3.2	2	II	B
West Fork Trail	22	2	I	B
Wheeling	8.3	3	I	A
Kaymoore	1.8	2	II	A
Narrow Gauge	2.5	1	II	C
Limerock	4.1	1	III	C
Engine Run	2.3	1	II	B
Railroad Grade	4.0	1	II	B
Blackwater Canyon	10.2	1	II	B
Dunloup Creek	1	2	II	C
Barnum	3	2	II	C
Williams River	3	1	II/IV	C
Gauley Mountain	5.2	1	III	C
West Fork River Trail	16	2	II	A
Cranberry/Tri-Rivers	14.5	1	I	A
Mon River/Caperton	53	Under Construction		
Allegheny Highlands	22	Construction Starts Summer, 1998		
TOTAL	345			