

Rail Trails of West Virginia



Mon River Rail Trail System

NORTH BEND RAIL TRAIL	
TOWNS EAST	MILES
ELLENBORO	5.0
PENNSBODD	10.0
GREENWOOD	15.0
WEST UNION	22.0
SMITHBURG	26.0
SALEM	36.0
WOLFSUMMIT	43.0
TOWNS WEST	MILES
CORNWALLIS	0.5
CAIRO	3.0
PETROLEUM	10.0
WALKER	17.0
HAPPY VALLEY	27.0

Rail Trails

Once used for train travel, a variety of West Virginia's railways have been converted to multi-use paths perfect for walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding and inline skating. The state's rail trails are among the most scenic and unique in the country, linking people with nature and local attractions. From the Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail with its waterfalls and historic coke ovens to the Cheat Lake Trail with its fishing piers and boat docks, Mountain State's rail trails are true getaways. With a combined 300 plus miles, these trails have much to offer.



Cheat Lake Trail



1-800-CALL WVA (1-800-225-5982) • www.wvtourism.com

This brochure was funded in part by Recreational Trail Funds provided by the Federal Highways Administration.



www.wvtourism.com
1-800-CALL WVA

Hiking

Lace up your boots for a trek across miles of trails, from historic rail trails such as the Greenbrier River and North Bend to the scenic Mon River Rail-Trail System. West Virginia is rich with hiking opportunities.



Biking

A world-class destination for mountain biking enthusiasts, there are miles of biking trails for those who wish to get back to nature via two wheels. Take your bike out for a spin at places such as the Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail, Gauley Mountain Trail and Cranberry/Tri Rivers Rail-Trail.

Equestrian

Experience the grandeur of West Virginia on horseback. Trails leading to breathtaking views wind throughout the Mountain State. Check out places such as the Allegheny Highlands Trail, West Fork River Rail-Trail, Panhandle Rail-Trail and Greenbrier River Trail.



Skating

Grab your skates and head to Wellsburg Yankee Rail-Trail, Brooke Pioneer Trail System and Beckley Rail-Trail, where hard surfaces offer ideal conditions for skating.

Cross-Country Skiing

Heavy snow turns rail trails into a winter wonderland for cross-country skiers at places such as the West Fork Rail-Trail, Allegheny Highlands Trail and Panhandle Rail-Trail.

Accessibility

The rail trails, with their gentle or level grades and wide rights of way, are easily accessible and are among the most awe-inspiring in the country. Accessible trails include the Brook Pioneer Trail System, East Wetzel Rail-Trail, West Fork River Rail-Trail and more.

Other recreation

With approximately 30 rail trails dispersed throughout the state, enjoying the outdoors becomes easy and fun either on a rail trail or nearby. For instance, West Virginia provides anglers with a variety of fishing opportunities and experiences. Every year, streams and public fishing lakes are stocked with rainbow, brown, brook and West Virginia golden rainbow trout. Many acres of forested land provide habitat for a diverse selection of wildlife-perfect viewing. Those who would rather view wildlife should pack a set of binoculars for a hike through the beautiful Appalachian wilderness. You might see many species of birds, rabbits, squirrels, white-tailed deer, or maybe even a fox or black bear. For a better view of the stars, pitch a tent and kick back and relax in the great outdoors.

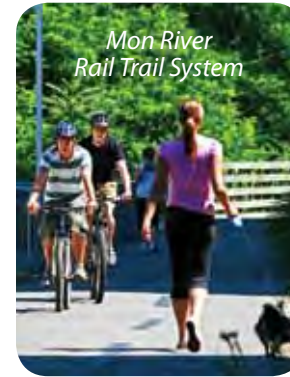
Nearby towns and attractions

Wrap up your rail-trail experience by making a stop at one or more nearby towns and cities. Quaint shops, unique attractions and warm hospitality permeate the state. The following is a list of must-visit places to get you started.

For instance, Beckley features attractions such as Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia with its statewide collection of handmade arts and crafts and the Exhibition Coal Mine, offering an authentic look into the state's coal-mining past.

The state's largest city and capital, Charleston offers attractions, including the West Virginia State Capitol,

Appalachian Power Park, Taylor Books, Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences of West Virginia, Capitol Market and the Charleston Civic Center. A short drive from Charleston, check out the new and improved Mardi Gras Casino & Resort.



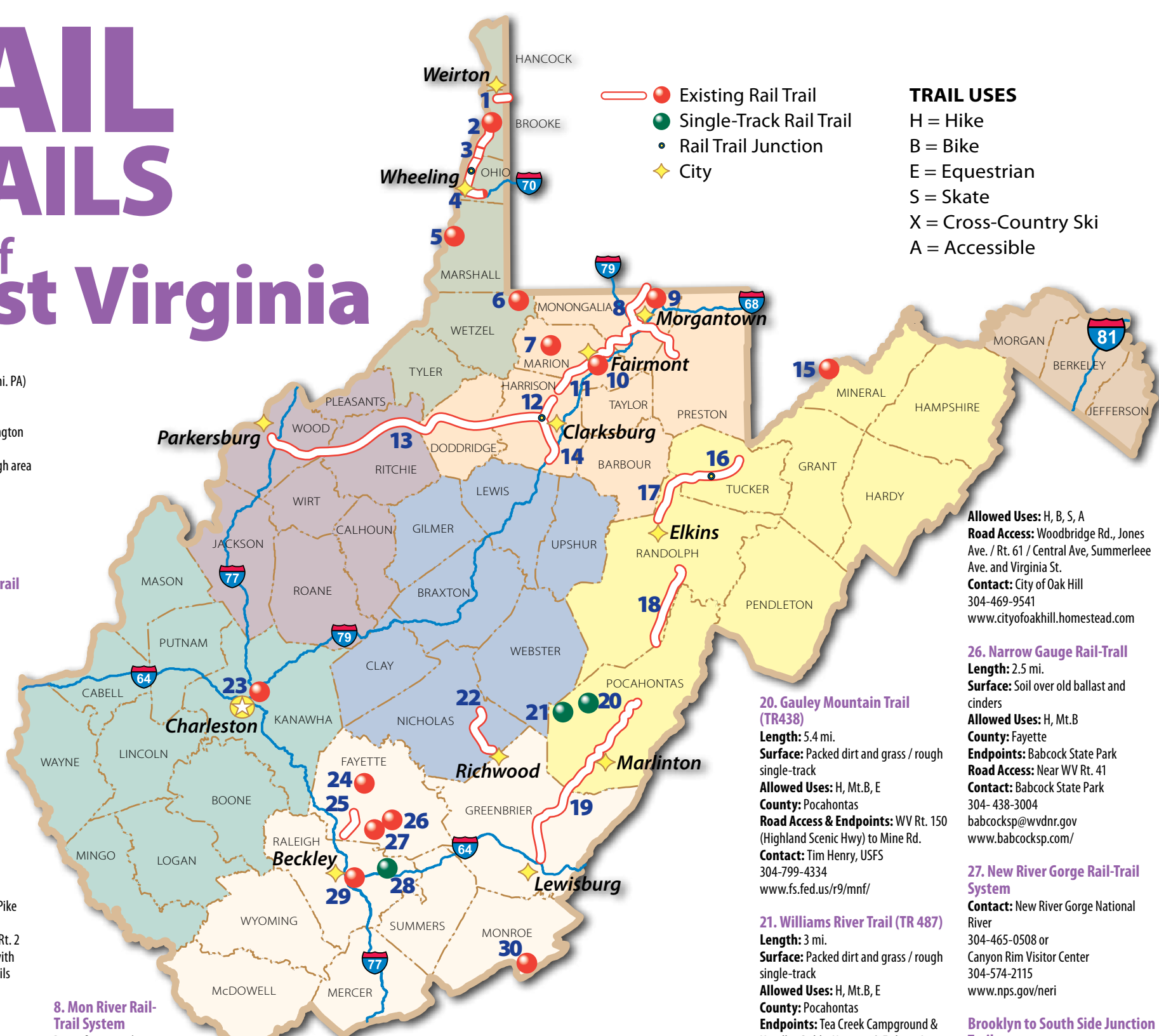
In Elkins, catch a show at the Old Brick Playhouse or the Boiler House Theatre on the campus of Davis & Elkins College. Railroading enthusiasts will enjoy a ride on the New Tygart Flyer and then a show at the nearby American Mountain Theater. Those interested in Appalachian heritage and traditions, should visit the Augusta Heritage Center for workshops on music, dance and craft.

While in Morgantown, take a glimpse of the past with a visit to Prickett's Fort State Park, Marion County Historical Society Museum or the Telephone Museum. Also, Forks of Cheat Winery, a family-owned vineyard, occupies 15 acres of Morgantown's rolling terrain, and includes a variety of taste-tempting wines.

Wheeling is a shopper's paradise; Centre Market bustles with stores that carry everything from handmade jewelry to antiques and collectibles. Visit the National Historic Landmark Independence Hall, the site where West Virginia was born. The legendary Oglebay Resort offers museums, championship golf, downhill skiing, zoo and garden. Wheeling Island Hotel Casino and Racetrack is a sure bet for excitement and fun as it offers table games, slots and live greyhound racing.



RAIL TRAILS of West Virginia



- Existing Rail Trail
- Single-Track Rail Trail
- Rail Trail Junction
- ◆ City

- TRAIL USES**
- H = Hike
 - B = Bike
 - E = Equestrian
 - S = Skate
 - X = Cross-Country Ski
 - A = Accessible

1. Panhandle Rail-Trail

Length: 29 total (4 mi. WV, 25 mi. PA)
Surface: Packed sand
Allowed Uses: H, B, X, E
Counties: Brooke in WV; Washington and Allegheny in PA
Endpoints: Weirton to Pittsburgh area
Road Access: US Rt. 22
Contact: Weirton Parks & Rec. 304-797-8520
 panhandle@gmail.com
 www.panhandletrail.org/

2. Wellsburg Yankee Rail-Trail

Length: 1.1 mi. (16 blocks)
Surface: Asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B, S, A
County: Brooke
Endpoints: Rt. 67, 16th Street
Road Access: Any street in Wellsburg
Note: Links to Brooke Pioneer Trail.
Contact: Richard Ferguson 304-737-3750

3. Brooke Pioneer Trail System

Length: 9.7 mi., with 3 mi. gap
Surface: Asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B, S, A
Counties: Brooke, Ohio
Endpoints: Wellsburg south to Pike Island Dam
Road Access: Trailheads on WV Rt. 2
Note: Follows Ohio River, links with Wellsburg and Wheeling Rail-Trails
Contact: Ruby Greathouse 304-737-0506
 brookepioneertrail.org/

4. Wheeling Heritage Rail-Trail

Length: 13 mi.
Surface: Asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B, S, A
County: Ohio
Endpoints: Pike Island Dam to S. Wheeling 48th St., Downtown Wheeling to Elm Grove
Road Access: US Rt. 2, US Rt. 40
Note: Follows Ohio River N-S, Wheeling Creek E-W (interesting trestle/tunnel combination). Downtown section is routed onto bike lanes on streets.
Contact: City of Wheeling 304-234-3701
 www.wheelingwv.gov

5. Glen Dale to Moundsville

Trail Length: 3.4 mi.
Surface: Asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Marshall
Endpoints: Glen Dale City Park (7th & S. Park Ave.), Moundsville Riverview Park (13th St.)
Road Access: WV Rt. 2
Note: Follows Ohio River
Contact: Jay Wallace 304-843-4086

6. East Wetzel Rail-Trail

Length: 1.5 mi.
Surface: Asphalt and packed sand
Allowed Uses: H, B, A
County: Wetzel
Endpoints: Hundred
Road Access: WV Rt. 7 & US Rt. 250
Contact: Barbara Brasher 304-775-5680

7. Joel McCann Memorial Trail

Length: 1.5 mi.
County: Marion
Surface: Packed limestone
Endpoints: City Hall, 206 Main Street and North Marion Senior Center
Road Access: US Rt. 250
Contact: City of Mannington 304-986-2700

8. Mon River Rail-Trail System

Length: 48 mi. (3 connecting trails)
Counties: Marion, Monongalia, Preston
Endpoints: Prickett's Fort State Park to the WV / PA state line along Monongahela River; Morgantown to Reedsville along Deckers Creek
Road Access: Trailheads off US Rt. 119 and WV Rt. 7
Note: Urban trail in Morgantown turning to forests and farmland outside city limits.
Contact: info@montrails.org
 www.montrails.org

9. Cheat Lake Rail-Trail

Length: 4.5 mi.
Surface: Packed sand
Allowed Uses: H, B, A
County: Monongalia
Endpoints: Cheat Lake Dam upstream to the point
Road Access: Near I-68 Exit 10
Note: Playground, small boat access, fish facility
Contact: Monongalia County Sheriff, Trail Headquarters, 304-594-2817

10. Marion County Trail (MCTrail)

Length: 2.5 mi.
Surface: Packed gravel
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Marion
Endpoints: Prickett's Fort State Fork to East Fairmont
Road Access: Rt. 73, Morgantown Ave.
Note: Links to Mon River Trail.
Contact: Dan Talbott, 304-363-7037
 mcparcfun@aol.com
 www.mcparc.com

11. West Fork River Rail-Trail

Length: 17 mi.
Surface: Packed sand; 10 mi. asphalt
Endpoints: Fairmont—Harrison County line
Allowed Uses: H, B, E, X, A
Counties: Harrison, Marion
Endpoints: Shinston to Fairmont
Road Access: US Rt. 19
Contact: Dan Talbott 800-903-2994
 mcparcfun@aol.com
 www.mcparc.com
Contact: Gillum House 304-592-0177
 touristinfo@shinnstonwv.com
 www.shinnstonwv.com

12. Harrison County Hike and Bike Rail-Trail

Length: 7 mi.
Surface: Cinders / rough surface
Allowed Uses: H, B, E
County: Harrison
Endpoints: Clarksburg to Spelter
Road Access: Near US Rt. 50
Note: Follows West Fork River.
Contact: Harrison County Parks & Recreation Dept., 304-624-0481
 mbook@harrisoncountywv.com
 www.harrisoncountywv.com/parks

13. North Bend Rail-Trail

Length: 72 mi.
Surface: Packed gravel, packed sand / varied roughness
Allowed Uses: H, B, E
Counties: Wood, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison
Endpoints: Parkersburg to Wolf Summit
Road Access: Near US Rt. 50
Note: Nine tunnels. Part of the American Discovery Trail.
Contact: North Bend State Park 304-643-2931
 www.wvparks.com/northbendrailtrail

14. Harrison County Southern Rail-Trail

Length: 8 mi.
Surface: Packed sand
Allowed Uses: H, B, E
County: Harrison
Endpoints: Lost Creek to Mount Clare
Road Access: I-79 exit #110
Contact: Harrison County Parks & Recreation Dept., 304-624-0481
 mbook@harrisoncountywv.com
 www.harrisoncountywv.com/parks

15. Barnum Rail-Trail

Length: 4.2 mi.
Surface: Packed stone / varied roughness
Allowed Uses: H, Mt.B, E
County: Mineral
Endpoints: Barnum, below Jennings Randolph Dam, along N. Branch Potomac River
Road Access: Near WV Rt. 46
Note: First mile is used by cars for river access to Barnum Whitewater Area. Trout fishing. Trailhead cabins.
Contact: Rex Riffle, 304-788-5732
 www.mineralcountywv.com

16. Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail (TR 115)

Length: 10.2 mi.
Surface: Packed rock and soil / varied roughness
Allowed Uses: H, B, E
County: Tucker
Endpoints: Hendricks and Thomas
Road Access: SW Rt. 72, or WV Rt. 32
Note: Follows N. Fork Blackwater River, waterfalls, historic coke ovens. Minimum maintenance.
Contact: USFS 304-478-3251

17. Allegheny Highlands Trail

Length: 23.6 mi., with 1 mile gap
Surface: 13 mi. packed sand, 10.6 mi. asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B, E, S, X, A
Counties: Randolph, Tucker
Endpoints: Elkins to Hendricks
Road Access: Trailheads on US Rt. 219
Note: Links to Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail.
Contact: Highlands Trail Foundation info@highlandstrail.org
 www.highlandstrail.org

18. West Fork Rail-Trail (TR 312)

Length: 24.1 mi.
Surface: Packed stone
Allowed Uses: H, B, E, X
Counties: Pocahontas, Randolph
Endpoints: Durbin to Gladly
Road Access: US Rt. 250 & Forest Rd. 44; CR 22 & CR 27
Note: Follows W Fork of the Greenbrier River & W Fork of Gladly Fork
Contact: 304-478-3251
 Pocahontas County CVB 1-800-336-7009

19. Greenbrier River Trail

Length: 77 miles
Surface: Packed gravel; 5 mi. asphalt
Endpoints: Marlinton—Buckeye
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Pocahontas, Greenbrier
Endpoints: Cass to Caldwell
Road Access: Near US Rt. 219
Note: Two tunnels. Accessible by people with Disabilities in Marlinton.
Contact: Pocahontas County CVB 1-800-336-7009
 www.GreenbrierRiverTrail.com

20. Gauley Mountain Trail (TR438)

Length: 5.4 mi.
Surface: Packed dirt and grass / rough single-track
Allowed Uses: H, Mt.B, E
County: Pocahontas
Road Access & Endpoints: WV Rt. 150 (Highland Scenic Hwy) to Mine Rd.
Contact: Tim Henry, USFS 304-799-4334
 www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/

21. Williams River Trail (TR 487)

Length: 3 mi.
Surface: Packed dirt and grass / rough single-track
Allowed Uses: H, Mt.B, E
County: Pocahontas
Endpoints: Tea Creek Campground & Handley Public Hunting & Fishing Area
Road Access: WV Rt. 150 & FS Rd. 86 at Creek Campground
Note: Popular fishing access to Williams River. Hikers & equestrians can continue through Handley Public Fishing & Hunting Area. Bikes permitted only in National Forest section.
Contact: Tim Henry, USFS 304-799-4334
 www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/

22. Cranberry/Tri Rivers Rail Trail

Length: 16.5 mi. finished, 27 mi. planned
Surface: Packed stone / varied roughness
Allowed Uses: H, Mt.B, E
County: Nicholas, planned to Webster
Endpoints: Richwood to Allingdale
Road Access: WV Rt. 55
Note: Follows Cherry and Gauley rivers.
Contact: Four Seasons Outfitters 304-846-2862
 brucedonaldson@gmail.com

23. Elk River Rail-Trail

Length: 1 mi.
Surface: Packed gravel
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Kanawha
Endpoints: Charleston & Coonskin Park
Road Access: Barlow Drive in Charleston, Coonskin Drive in Park
Contact: Coonskin Park 304-341-8000
 www.KCPRC.com

24. Hawks Nest Rail-Trail

Length: 1.8 mi
Surface: pea gravel
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Fayette
Endpoints: Ansted to Hawks Nest Lake
Road Access: US Rt. 60 to Town Hall in Ansted, then Hawks Nest Rd.
Note: Follows Mill Creek.
Contact: Town of Ansted 304-658-5901
 anstedmayor@verizon.net

25. White Oak Rail-Trail

Length: 7.5 mi.
Surface: 2 miles paved with additional 3 miles being paved in Summer 2010 – rest is packed gravel surface
County: Fayette

Allowed Uses: H, B, S, A
Road Access: Woodbridge Rd., Jones Ave. / Rt. 61 / Central Ave, Summerlee Ave. and Virginia St.
Contact: City of Oak Hill 304-469-9541
 www.cityofoakhill.homestead.com

26. Narrow Gauge Rail-Trail

Length: 2.5 mi.
Surface: Soil over old ballast and cinders
Allowed Uses: H, Mt.B
County: Fayette
Endpoints: Babcock State Park
Road Access: Near WV Rt. 41
Contact: Babcock State Park 304-438-3004
 babcocksp@wvdnr.gov
 www.babcocksp.com/

27. New River Gorge Rail-Trail System

Contact: New River Gorge National River 304-465-0508 or Canyon Rim Visitor Center 304-574-2115
 www.nps.gov/neri

Brooklyn to South Side Junction Trail

Length: 6 mi.
Surface: Soil and Packed ballast
Allowed Use: H, B
County: Fayette
Road Access: Brooklyn end of Cunard access road
Note: Follows the New River

Thurmond to Minden Trail

Length: 3.4 mi.
Surface: Packed dirt, small gravel / varied roughness
Allowed Uses: H, B
County: Fayette
Road Access: WV Rt. 25, Minden Road
Note: Trestles, views of New River, 20+ steps over huge rock fall.

28. Glade Creek Trail

Length: 5.6 mi.
Surface: Soil, ballast and cinders / rough single-track
Allowed Uses: H
Endpoints: New River to I-64 overpass
Road Access: WV Rt. 41 to Glade Creek Rd.
Note: Popular trout stream, trailhead campground at New River
Contact: New River Gorge National River 304-465-0508
 www.nps.gov/neri

29. Beckley Rail-Trail

Length: 4.2 mi.
Surface: Asphalt
Allowed Uses: H, B, S, A
County: Raleigh
Endpoints: Mabscott to Beckley Crossing Shopping Center
Road Access: WV Rts. 16 & 3, WV Rt. 16 & US Rt. 19
Note: Trail is lighted for night use.
Contact: Southern West Virginia CVB 304-252-2244 or 1-800-VISITWV
 www.visitwv.com

*30. Potts Valley Rail Trail

Length: 5 mi.
Surface: packed dirt
County: Monroe
Endpoints: Just inside VA/WV state line to Waiteville
Road Access: WV Rt. 17
Note: Trail within Jefferson National Forest
Contact: Monroe County Tourism 304-772-3003
 watchman2@earthlink.net
 * Opening in fall 2010