

Recreational

Wayne

1. *Kenova*: Virginia Point Park and Dreamland Park
2. Camden Park

Cabell

3. *Huntington*: Harris River Front Park, Ritter Park, and Rose Garden
4. Barboursville Community Park and Main Street Park

Putnam

5. *Hurricane*: Valley Wave Pool and Skate Park
6. Foxfire Camping and Water Park Recreation

Kanawha

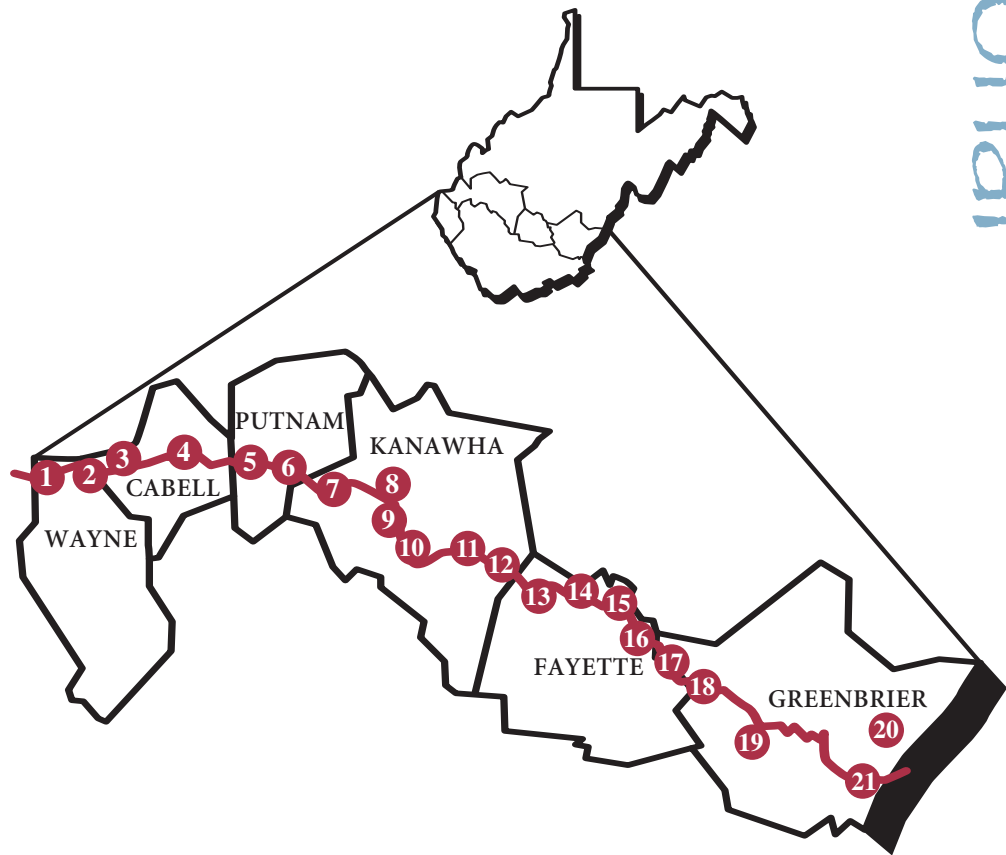
7. *St. Albans*: St. Albans Roadside Park (playground, picnic, day use, and boat ramp)
 8. *Institute Loop*: Shawnee Park (golf and day use) and Wine Cellar Park
 9. *South Charleston*: Rock Lake Putt-Putt Golf and Games, Little Creek Park, South Charleston Community Center, and South Charleston Memorial Ice Arena,
 10. *Charleston*: Daniel Boone Park, Haddad River Front Park, and Magic Island
- Nearby*: Coonskin Park and Cato Park
11. Glasgow City Park/ Roadside Park and Boat Launch
 12. *London*: London Public Park

Fayette

13. Gauley Bridge Teepees and New River Campground
14. *Ansted*: The Mystery Hole, Hawks Nest State Park Amenities (jet boats, aerial tram, hiking, park naturalist and golf), Ansted-Hawks Nest Rail Trail, Main Street Town of Ansted/Annual Street Luge Competition, and Blue Smoke Salsa
15. *Hico*: Whitewater Rafting, Canoeing, Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Camping and Rock Climbing
16. *Clifftop*: Babcock State Park, Fishing, Climbing, Whitewater Rafting, Horseback Riding, Hiking, and Biking

Greenbrier

17. *Rainelle*: Meadow River Park/Greenbrier Youth Camp and Greenbrier Hills Golf
 18. *Rupert*: Picnicking
 19. Lewisburg Roadside Park with picnic and Lost World Caverns
 20. Greenbrier River Bike Trail, Canoeing, and River Access near Town of Caldwell
 21. White Sulphur Springs: Greenbrier State Forest and Federal Fish Hatchery, Oakhurst, and The Greenbrier Resort and Bunker
- Nearby*: *Ronceverte*: Organ Cave



Recreational Qualities

Along The Midland Trail

“Twenty-One Centuries of exploration, conquest, American industrial history.”

Listen closely, and you will hear the echoes of the past. The footfalls of hooves. The creaks of wagon wheels. Feet marching in cadence to the drumbeat of war. Steam whistles and chugs of locomotives.

The Midland Trail offers diverse recreational activities, many dependent upon the area's natural elements. Others depend on cultural elements synonymous to the people of the Midland Trail. Past residents are typical of those in the Appalachians whose geographic isolation was the true mother of invention. The very elements of nature, which today brings visitors to the Midland Trail, kept earlier residents in the area. Even now, residents often choose to build in their own backyard, rather than travel to others, thus enhancing a non-resident's visit to the Trail.

Also, recognizing the diversity of its visitors, the Trail includes opportunities for both active and passive recreational experiences; driving the road itself or visiting on a quiet bench in a town's park may qualify as a pleasurable recreational experience.

Kenova's Virginia Point Park, situated at the western-most point of West Virginia, is located at the confluence of the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers. The park's scenic qualities are enhanced by its recreational facilities; soccer fields, softball field, camping hook-ups, and gazebo/shelter.

Historic Dreamland Pool, built in 1927, provides additional recreational opportunities. While visitors can no longer enjoy the open-air dance pavilion, orchestras, and entertainers that attracted large crowds in the 1940s, the facility continues to afford a good time with its pool, tennis courts, and basketball courts.



Camden Park (1903), West Virginia's only amusement park, is just west of Huntington. The park offers 24 rides, including Kiddieland, old-time wooden roller coasters, and a log flume.

Along with scenic views provided by the Ohio River, Huntington offers many recreational opportunities. Harris Riverfront Park, an ideal setting for family outings, picnics and walks, also offers festivals, carnivals, and concerts.

On the south side of town, adults and children enjoy unwinding at the 70-acre Ritter Park with tennis courts, a fabulous playground, jogging trails, and room to play. In late spring, enjoy the parks accredited Rose Garden. Beech Fork State Park and Lake offers another nearby recreational opportunity.

The 536-acre Barboursville Community Park offers many recreational activities including fishing, golf, hiking, horseshoes, and tennis. The park hosts a July 4th celebration and the West Virginia Soccer Tournament. A new amphitheater will be used for plays and concerts. Like parks in towns across America, Barboursville's Main Street Park, provides a place for townspeople and visitors to relax and socialize.

In Putnam County, Waves of Fun Water Park in Hurricane's Valley Park and a Skate Park in Hurricane City Park are evidence of recreational activities found in the county as a result of growth.

The first of public green spaces in Kanawha County is found at St. Albans Roadside Park, where Route 60 hugs the Kanawha River, offering a place to enjoy a scenic view, a playground, picnic facilities, and a boat ramp for activities on the Kanawha River.

Dunbar boasts several parks, including Wine Cellar Park, listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The park is enjoyable for picnics, family gatherings, and fishing in its well-stocked 7-acre lake.

Although South Charleston is an active city of commerce and industry, its residents and visitors enjoy nature and recreation in a variety of settings. Trails such as the Trace Fork Canyon Trail in Little Creek Park provide an island of wilderness in an urban environment. Birders can identify eight species of wood warblers. In winter, kinglets, pine siskin, and other winter birds find shelter in the hemlocks. The trail boasts 240 species of plants, five species of salamanders, two species of toads, and numerous mammals. Little Creek Park also has West Virginia's only lighted Soap Box Derby Track, which hosts several races and events spring through autumn.

Always resourceful, West Virginians take advantage of opportunities to recycle. Rock Lake Putt-Putt Golf and Games offers fun for the young and young at heart with three 18-hole courses, go-



cart racings, arcade games, and Laser Storm on the site of the former Rock Lake Pool, which was converted from a rock quarry in the 1930s.

Since residents and visitors are unable to enjoy outdoor activities year-round due to weather, the city of South Charleston built the South Charleston Community Center, which houses a 25-meter indoor swimming pool, two racquetball courts, basketball courts, tanning beds, and a health club. The gym has seating for 1500 and is open daily.

The City of Charleston also maintains several city parks. Haddad Riverfront Park is located in downtown Charleston. The renovated levee has docking available, as well as a 2500-seat amphitheater. Nearby, at the confluence of the Elk and Kanawha Rivers, is Magic Island. Magic Island’s walking track, sand volleyball courts, and large grassy areas, are a quick walk from the downtown area.

Cato Park, on the city’s West Side, is Charleston’s largest city park. It maintains a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, Olympic-size pool, and picnic areas.

Coonskin Park is part of Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission. Located just 10-minutes north of downtown, its over 1000 acres are perfect for many activities. The outdoor enthusiast will enjoy hiking or biking woodland trails. Others may choose from a newly opened 7500 square foot skateboard park, miniature golf, pedal boats, playground, Olympic-size pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and a handicapped accessible 18-hole par three golf course. Coonskin recently added the Schoenbaum Amphitheater and the Schoenbaum Soccer Stadium.

Although the Kanawha River is one of the nation’s busiest commercial waterways, there are ample opportunities for public access for recreational use. Daniel Boone Park, just east of the Capitol Complex, has a public access boat launch, picnic

facilities, and fishing available. Other water activities, such as boating, skiing, and tubing are popular on this healthy river.

East of Charleston is Glasgow, a small residential community of nearly 1000. It is primarily situated on the Midland Trail. The town provides residents and visitors a city park and pool for summer recreation, as well as a boat dock and launch for river activities. Similarly, the community of London has a public park.

Recognizing that many travelers along the Midland Trail prefer the “great outdoors,” the New River Campground in Gauley Bridge offers both full hookups or rustic sites. Gauley Bridge Teepees allows guests the opportunity to camp in an authentic handcrafted tepee.

The Ansted-Hawks Nest area boasts many recreational opportunities. While not designated a natural orifice, The Mystery Hole is a renowned, fun, roadside attraction two miles west of Hawks Nest. The Mystery Hole allegedly sits over a hole in the ground where the law of gravity does not apply.

Hawks Nest State Park is one of West Virginia’s most popular state parks with its lodge, pool, golf, hiking trails, park naturalist, aerial tram, and jet boats. Fifteen-passenger jet boats leave its marina for a closer look at the Hawks Nest Dam and Tunnel, and the New River Gorge Bridge 876 feet above. The Park’s aerial tram inches down the Gorge to the Marina.

Ansted’s recently created 2.5 mile Ansted-Hawks



Nest Rail Trail retraces the rail path used to convey coal from the mines around the town of Ansted to larger tracks at the bottom of the New River Gorge. The trail is unique in that hikers and bikers can access the bottom by using the Gorge Tram from Hawks Nest Lodge. Bike racks are being installed on the gondola to encourage round trips. Along the way, visitors see the entrance to Mill Creek Colliery Mine, rebuilt bridges, and beautiful unspoiled foliage, cliffs, and streams.

Many ethnic groups have contributed to the Trail’s culture. Food is, and was, important. Watching nationally known Blue Smoke Salsa being made in its downtown manufacturing facility is a newly popular activity. Ansted’s Annual Street Luge Competition takes advantage of the town’s unique topography and appeals to the more adventurous.

Rugged mountains in the west and savannah-like farms in the east mark the dramatic topography of Greenbrier County. Scenic views are plentiful, as are recreational opportunities to enjoy the area’s natural qualities. Creeks, such as Big and Little Clear Creeks, and Meadow Creek are stocked for fishing. The Meadow River Wildlife Management Area consists of 2374 acres of primarily wetland habitat with in-season hunting for waterfowl, woodcock, deer, raccoon, turkey grouse, and squirrel.

The Meadow River Park/Greenbrier Youth Camp, a renovation project of the MTSHA, is located between Rainelle and Rupert, and is open for public camping. Greenbrier Hills Golf is a 9-hole public course located on Route 60. Picnic sites can be found at various areas along the trail, for example in Rupert.

The recreational “mother lode” is found in Eastern Fayette County. South of Hico are the recreational offerings of the New River Gorge National River.

One of the oldest rivers in the world and one of the few one earth that flows north, the New River offers

the visitor spectacular vistas and recreational opportunities. Recently designated the New River Gorge National Park, the area is a mecca for rafting, rock climbing, biking, hiking, and camping. The New River is home to the best whitewater rafting on the East Coast, while whitewater rafters consider the Gauley one of the best rafting rivers in the world.

Babcock State Park is also located in Fayette County and although known for the picturesque Glade Creek Grist Mill, it is a haven of rugged, serene beauty for lovers of the outdoors. There are over twenty miles of hiking and climbing trails, guided horseback rides, bike rentals, fishing, and a park naturalist. Vacationers may choose between cabins or camping

Rolling pasture land, limestone topography, and flowing streams dictate the scenic, natural, and recreational qualities of Greenbrier County. The Greenbrier River Trail, part of West Virginia’s Rails to Trails program, is a 76-mile hiking and biking trail running along the Greenbrier River from Caldwell to Cass. It provides access to the river for fishing, canoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, and biking. Roadside picnic areas, such as Lewisburg’s Roadside Park, offer sites to relax.

Spelunkers enjoy the below ground recreational activities at Ronceverte’s Organ Cave and Lewisburg’s Lost World Caverns, both Registered Natural Landmarks. Organ Cave is the second largest commercial cave on the East Coast, with over 40 miles of mapped passageways. Lost World Caverns is a cave approximately 11/4 mile in length and reaches a depth of 235 feet below the natural entrance.



Greenbrier State Forest, near White Sulphur Springs, offers hiking, picnic facilities, rustic cabins, swimming, hunting, camping, and scenic overlooks on its 5130 acres. White Sulphur Springs is home to a visitors center for the 800,000-acre Monongahela National Forest, as well as Sherwood Lake, a 164-acre lake offering boating, swimming, fishing, picnic facilities, and camping.

Visitors at the federal fish hatchery in White Sulphur Springs can take a self-guided tour of the facility which produces 10 million trout eggs annually for shipment to other hatcheries.

White Sulphur Springs also offers more refined recreational opportunities. One of the United States' most famous resorts, The Greenbrier, offers more than fifty activities. They include golf, tennis, lawn games, horseback riding, falconry, hiking, biking, kayaking, rafting, gun sports, fishing, and swimming.

Oakhurst Links, established in 1884 by a Scottish family, was the first established golf club in the United States. Visitors today can golf the original course using replica equipment. Oakhurst Links is a fitting conclusion to the Midland Trail's recreational activities, as it ties together the important natural and cultural aspects of recreational qualities.

