

West Virginia
State Parks and Forests

Watoga

State Park

www.wvstateparks.com



WATOGA STATE PARK is 10,100 acres of woodland in mountainous Pocahontas County, just 14 miles south of Marlinton. There is a multitude of recreational activities for visitors, from an invigorating hike up the mountain to Anne Bailey Lookout Tower to a refreshing afternoon of boating or fishing on Watoga Lake, not to mention great vacation cabins.

Native Americans gave the name “Watoga,” or “the river of islands,” to the Greenbrier River area because of the river’s wide, shallow nature, which causes many sandbars and islands to be formed. The river forms several miles of the park’s boundary.

Wildlife abounds at Watoga. Raccoon, wild turkey, beaver, grouse, red and gray fox, squirrel and woodchuck are among the more common inhabitants. Sightings of black bear are frequent, and it is a rare occasion when guests do not see whitetail deer.

A seasonal restaurant and commissary/gift shop are located in the park’s CCC-era administration building. Both are open daily from late April through Labor Day with reduced hours from Labor Day to mid-October. The restaurant offers down-home cooking for breakfast, lunch and dinner and was recognized in 2009 as one of West Virginia’s 101 Unique Places to Dine.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Swimming Pool

- Outdoor swimming with solar heating
- Memorial Day to Labor Day



Picnicking

- Mountain Picnic Area
- Pine Run Picnic Area
- Picnic shelter may be reserved up to one year in advance

Watoga Lake

- 11-acre impoundment
- Paddle and rowboat rental – Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Fishing – trout, bass, catfish and bluegill



Greenbrier River Trail Access

Things to Do

- Brooks Memorial Arboretum
- T.M. Cheek Overlook
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum
- Recreation building with nature cove
- Game court areas
- More than 40 miles of hiking trails
- Summer naturalist and recreation program
- Greenbrier River – fishing, canoeing

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Beartown State Park
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
- Cranberry Glades
- Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
- Greenbrier River Trail
- Highland Scenic Highway
- Falls of Hills Creek
- National Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Pearl S. Buck Birthplace (Hillsboro)
- Seneca State Forest



CCC INFLUENCE

With the onset of the economic depression in 1929, one of the first Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps in West Virginia was established in June 1933 and designated as S-52, Camp Watoga, and located near the eastern boundary of the area on Beaver Creek. Major work projects included forest fire hazard reduction and white pine blister rust control. In May 1934, a decision was made to develop Watoga State Park. A second CCC camp, Camp Seebert, SP-1, located on the Greenbrier River at the mouth of Island Lick Run, was occupied in October 1934. A third camp, Camp Will Rogers, SP-7, was allocated but short-lived.

Today's Watoga preserves and continues use of many of the original structures, including Watoga Lake (known as Lake Killbuck in 1935), cabins with meticulous details, hinges, latches and fireplaces, the park administration building and restaurant, miles of trails and roads. Most of the logs and lumber used in the construction program was salvaged blight-killed American Chestnut.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabins

- 10 modern cabins (two accessible)
- Frame construction
- Wood paneled walls
- Stone fireplaces, furnaces and air conditioning
- Open year-round



24 standard cabins

- Log and stone construction
- Open last weekend in April to late October

Modern conveniences

- Cots and cribs available (fee based)
- Check-in 4 p.m.; check-out 10 a.m.
- Pet-friendly cabins designated

Campgrounds

- Sites include: picnic table and grills, central bathhouse
- Sites for tent and trailer camping
- One tent or trailer per site
- Check-out noon



Beaver Creek Campground

- 38-unit facility
- 12 sites with electricity
- Eight miles south of Huntersville
- Nearby hunting (in season)
- Open Memorial Day weekend through deer season

Riverside Campground

- 50 sites along the Greenbrier River
- 38 sites with electric hookups
- Open April 1 – October 31

Laurel Run Primitive Campground

- 12 sites, no hookups
- Pit toilets
- Nearby hunting (in season)
- No central bathhouse
- Horse camping permitted
- Open year-round

RESERVATIONS

Individual reservations may be made one year in advance by writing or calling Watoga directly, or by dialing **1-800 CALL WVA** and asking for Watoga State Park. This toll-free line may be used anywhere in the continental United States or any Canadian province in the Eastern time zone. Advance reservations are suggested at all times.

Cabin Reservations

Cabins at Watoga are completely furnished for housekeeping. Cabins may be reserved for a minimum of one week during the summer, beginning the second Monday in June through Labor Day, Monday to Monday. Beginning six weeks in advance (to the Monday of the week), reservations may also be made for three-night rentals (Friday, Saturday and Sunday only) and/or four-night rentals (Monday – Thursday only). Beginning five weeks in advance (to the Monday of the week), reservations may be made for a Friday-to-Friday week. Cabins are rented by the day, two-day weekend or longer, and three-night minimum on federal holiday weekends from mid-April to the second Monday in June and from Labor Day to January 1. Other rental options are available during early and late summer and posted online.

When making cabin reservations for four nights or more, a deposit of one-half the rental fee is required, with the balance due upon arrival; the full rental fee is required for reservations of three nights or less. Reservations made by telephone have 10 days to make deposit payment. Reservations less than 10 days of arrival, as available, are accommodated and a method of guarantee provided at the time the reservation is made. In case of cancellations, deposits will be returned (except for a \$20 handling fee for cottages), if notice is given at least 30 days in advance for cottages and 48 hours in advance for lodge rooms. Check-in time for cottages is 4 p.m. and check-out is 10 a.m.

Campsites

Watoga offers 25 sites for reservations — 22 with electric hookups and three without. Reservations are taken for Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day for sites designed for reservations; the remaining sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. After Labor Day and prior to observed Memorial Day weekend, all campsites are on a first-come, first-served basis, as available.

A minimum stay of two nights, up to a maximum of 14 nights, is required when making campsite reservations. Reservations must be made 48 hours or more in advance of arrival, as available. Full payment and a \$5 handling fee per site is required.

Reservations are made for the year beginning each February 15. Only mail-in reservations will be taken from February 15 – March 14. Mail-in reservations postmarked before February 15 will be returned. Phone reservations, in addition to mail-in reservations, will be taken beginning March 15. Walk-in, mail-in, and phone-in reservations will be taken beginning April 1 and throughout the season, as available. Online reservations are not available for campsite rental.

Reserved campsites that are accessible to persons with disabilities will be held from February 15 – March 14. Proof of disability must accompany the deposit, and the site must be occupied during the reservation period by the disabled individual for the reservation to be honored. Beginning March 15, sites become available for all rentals. Reservation procedures remain the same.

Cancellations

Cabins: Deposits will be returned less a \$20 handling fee per unit cancelled, if notice is given at least 30 days in advance.

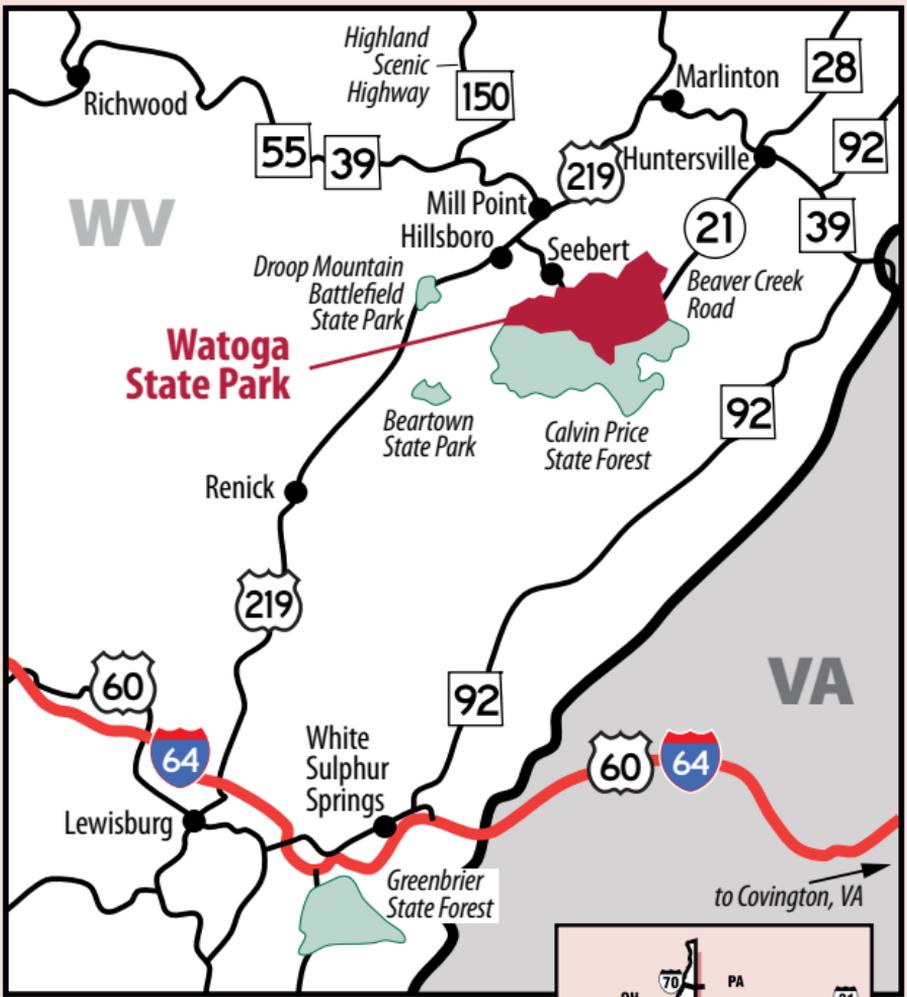
Campsites: The full deposit will be refunded, less the \$5 handling fee and the first night's campsite fee when cancellation is more than seven days in advance of arrival. Cancellations for campsite rentals less than seven days prior to arrival forfeit the full deposit and handling fee of the campsite.

Pet Friendly

Pets (dogs and cats) are permitted in designated pet-friendly cabins only. The pet policy and associated fees are available online, www.wvstateparks.com. No pets are allowed in the cabins or cabin areas, except in designated pet friendly cabins. Pets (dog and cats) are permitted in the campground, provided leash guidelines are observed.

Payment Methods

Personal checks, money orders and major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Diners Club) are accepted. Identification may be required.



LOCATION

Watoga State Park is located in the Appalachian Highlands near the state's eastern border. Just north of Hillsboro and south of Mill Point on U.S. Route 219, a sign will direct you to Watoga State Park. From this point, travel two miles to the western park entrance. An alternative route is to turn south from state Route 39 at Huntersville and travel nine miles to the north entrance of the park.

WATOGA State Park

HC 82, Box 252
Marlinton, West Virginia 24954
304-799-4087
www.watoga.com

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO USE FACILITIES AND PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS

Visitors are responsible for observing park rules and regulations.

"It is the policy of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons without regard to gender, race, color, age, religion, national origin or disability. Proper licenses, registration and compliance with official rules and regulations are the only sources of restrictions for facility use or program participation."

"The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer."

Information provided in this brochure is current as of design date, but subject to change thereafter.