

## Map Text May 2002

*Some text will be on Side 1, Side 2, or on both sides.*

### **TITLE:**

Creating A Vision for a West Virginia Trail System: Linking Communities and Public Lands

### **Side one title:**

Existing Trails and Public Lands

### **Side two title:**

Proposed Trails

### **Introduction**

West Virginia is blessed with one of the most beautiful and lush green mountain landscapes in the United States. However, it is a landscape often inaccessible to visitors and residents. As the state's tourism industry continues to grow, West Virginia finds itself challenged to increase access to this landscape yet protect it from over-development and preserve its natural beauty, history and heritage.

The Statewide Trail Plan and map provides a guide for making the wonders of West Virginia accessible to residents and visitors for a variety of uses, without compromising its natural, historical or cultural integrity.

### **How to Use the Map** *(Side Two?)*

This map demonstrates future possibilities for West Virginia Trail System planning. It is not for trip planning. To plan trips using existing trails, please contact the trail manager for mapping. *(both sides?)*

The map:

- provides a snapshot of existing and proposed trails and public lands
- provides a visual of possible linkages between trails, communities, public lands and adjacent states
- serves as a companion piece to the first West Virginia Statewide Trails Plan
- provides trail planners with a powerful tool for fundraising and project development
- provides contacts for people interested in volunteering and assisting with projects

The map includes land- and water- based trails, and motorized and non-motorized trails. It includes existing and proposed trails.

**Land-based trails** are on land, from flat to mountainous terrain.

**Water-based trails** follow waterways, such as a river or lake.

**Motorized trails** are designed and managed for off-road vehicle uses, such as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), trail bikes or four-wheel drives.

**Non-motorized trails** are designed and managed for non-motorized uses, such as hiking, bicycling, or horse use.

**Existing trails** are corridors that have been acquired for public use. Some sections may be officially open to the public, while other sections may be under construction.

**Proposed trails** are projects in various stages of planning, from visionary to under construction.

They have varying degrees of support. During early phases of visioning and concept planning, the

current landowner may not have been approached about the potential use of his or her land. It is often a long process to establish a trail and get community and financial support to sustain it.

### **What trails are included on the map?**

Most trails included on the map are community-based trails mapped during the 12 regional trail workshops in 1998. Some additional trail information was gleaned from TEA-21 trail grant applications to the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

Most trails on public lands were not included on the map. Public lands are assumed to have trails and public access, and their trails have been included if they link to other community trail efforts.

### **Mapping process**

More than 120 people provided mapping assistance during the 12 regional trail workshops in 1998. People drew existing and proposed trails onto 100,000 scale topographic maps of West Virginia and provided contact information for each one. Status, location and contact information were confirmed. Additional trails were identified through various sources.

Numerous trail planners and managers reviewed the digitized trails map to ensure accuracy. However, trail status is constantly changing as sections of trail are acquired and built, and other projects are initiated.

The digital map is also freely available for download from the web page at West Virginia State Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technical Center in the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University at [www.wvgis.wvu.edu](http://www.wvgis.wvu.edu).

The purpose of sharing the map on the Internet is to encourage broad use of the map, continual updating of trail projects and future inclusion of additional trails on public lands. This project is a stepping-off point for further networking, trail development and statewide mapping.

### **Trail types** *(put by legend?)*

The map is color coded by trail type.

**Rail-trails** are non-motorized multi-use trails on abandoned rail corridors converted for public trail use. They are typically level and smooth, suitable for all ages and abilities. Typical uses include walking, running, biking and roller-blading (if paved). Some allow equestrian use.

**Non-motorized trails** are typically single-track through mountainous terrain. These trails usually allow one or more of the following: hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding.

**Roadside trails** use a road right-of-way corridor. This could be a parallel off-road path, a paved road shoulder or bike lanes on the road. Users include bicyclists and walkers.

**Motorized trails** accommodate ATVs, trail bikes or four-wheel-drive vehicles. Some motorized trails also allow non-motorized trail use.

**Water trails** are trails for motor boats or paddlers in rivers, streams or lakes. There are designated put-ins and take-outs. Some trails have self-guided informational maps. Many water trails offer land-side camping or docking facilities with visitor services nearby.

**Nationally designated trails** are trails that have applied for and received national designation, such as National Scenic Trail and National Recreational Trail. They are typically managed locally in West Virginia.

**Amtrak** is a commuter train, which may provide multi-modal opportunities for trail users. For example, many trail users will use Amtrak as a shuttle back to the beginning of their trip. Some Amtrak routes allow bicycles on the train.

**Excursion trains** are tourist trains that provide scenic rail trips. They may also be used as a shuttle for trail users.

**Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area** is a nine-county region in southwestern West Virginia that provides managed multi-use trail systems for motorized and non-motorized trail users.

**State & federal lands** include state parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, U.S. Corps of Engineers lands, national forests and national wildlife refuges. Trails on these lands have not generally been mapped due to project limitations.

**Roads** that are mapped are the four-lane major highways. Their presence on the map helps orient the reader.

**River access points** indicate official put-in and take-out boat launch sites managed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. They always have a parking area and often feature a ramp.

### **Credits:**

This trail map was produced in collaboration with numerous agencies and organizations. The West Virginia Trail Plan Committee (representing state, federal and local governments and trail interest groups) provided input to the process and is listed in the West Virginia Trail Plan. The West Virginia Trails Coalition coordinated the planning process.

The West Virginia University Natural Resource Analysis Center, West Virginia State Geographic Information Systems Technical Center at West Virginia University and MapsByMike.com collaborated to produce the GIS mapping. The National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program provided assistance to the production of the plan and map. The West Virginia Development Office edited and designed the documents. The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and West Virginia Bureau for Public Health financed the publication. The West Virginia Division of Tourism assisted with initial distribution. *(add logos)*

Map was last updated in May 2000.

All mileage figures are approximate.

**Public lands contact info:** *(Side One. If there is room, we can list all state lands with small font – let me know & I'll get you the list)*

For all state parks, state forests, and wildlife management areas, dial 1-800-CALL-WVA.

The brochure "A guide to Wildlife Management Areas in West Virginia" may be obtained from West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305. 304-558-2771.

### **Water trails** *(Side One)*

The water trails listed below are those rivers or lakes with designated river access points, also known as put-ins / take-outs or boat launches. Rivers can be dangerous due to whitewater and all paddlers should consult a river manager or guidebook before attempting a trip. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources manages the state's rivers. The National Park Service manages nationally-designated rivers.

West Virginia has only one natural lake. The rest of its lakes are reservoirs formed by damming a river or stream and are often managed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or a hydropower company.

Further development of water trails may result in public information materials including maps of the waterway and surrounding area, and listings of nearby services such as ATM machines, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, lodging, parking areas, parks, public access points, public docks, public phones and public restrooms.

Many rivers are accessed for fishing purposes. The brochures "Public Fishing and Boating Stream Access Sites in West Virginia" and "West Virginia Fishing Regulations" may be obtained from: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston, WV 25305. 304-558-2771.

### **Rivers:** *(Side one. This list is optional, can be very small font)*

Back Creek  
Buckhannon River  
Cacapon River  
Cheat River  
Elk River  
Gauley River  
Glade Creek  
Greenbrier River  
Guyandotte River  
Hughes River  
Kanawha River  
Little Coal River  
Little Kanawha River  
Marsh Fork of Big Coal River  
Meadow River  
Monongahela River  
New River  
Ohio River  
Potomac River  
Shenandoah River  
South Branch Potomac River  
Tug Fork River  
Tygart River  
West Fork River

### **Lakes:** *(Side one. This list is optional, can be very small font)*

Beech Fork Lake  
Bluestone Lake  
Burnsville Lake

Cheat Lake  
East Lynn Lake  
Jennings Randolph Lake  
Mount Storm Lake  
R.D. Bailey Lake  
Stony River Reservoir  
Stonecoal Lake  
Stonewall Jackson Lake  
Summersville Lake  
Sutton Lake  
Tygart Lake

**Contacts:**

**West Virginia Division of Natural Resources**

304-558-3380  
wildlife@dnr.state.wv.us  
www.dnr.state.wv.us/wvfishing/waters.htm

**National Park Service** (Bluestone, Gauley, New)

304-465-0508  
www.nps.gov/blue/  
www.nps.gov/gari/  
www.nps.gov/neri/

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District**

301-359-3861  
www.nab.usace.army.mil/recreation/

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District**

304-529-5211  
www.lrh.usace.army.mil/

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District**

412-395-7179  
lrp.recreation@usace.army.mil  
www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/rec.htm

## **Trains** *(Side One)*

Trains are often used for commuting and vacationing, as an alternative transportation, and as a potential shuttle service for people using trails.

**Passenger trains:** *(Side one. This section is optional, can be substituted for a 4-liner below)*

Amtrak

1-800-USA-RAIL

service@sales.amtrak.com

Along the two train routes, there are 11 Passenger Rail Stations in West Virginia.

The Capitol Limited:

Chicago IL -- Pittsburgh PA -- Connellsville PA -- Cumberland MD -- Martinsburg WV -- Duffields WV -- Harpers Ferry WV -- Washington DC

The Cardinal:

Chicago IL -- Huntington WV -- Charleston WV -- Montgomery WV -- Thurmond WV -- Prince WV -- Hinton WV -- Alderson WV -- White Sulphur Springs WV -- Charlottesville VA -- Washington DC

**Excursion trains:** *(Side one. This section is optional, can be substituted for a 4-liner below)*

Cass Scenic Railroad

1-800-CALL-WVA

cassrr@neumedia.net

www.cassrailroad.com

Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad

Cheat Mountain Salamander

Durbin Rocket

New Tygart Flyer

1-877-MTN-RAIL

www.mountainrail.com/

Potomac Eagle (Petersburg to Green Spring)

1-304-424-0736

www.wvweb.com/potomaceagle/

Western MD Scenic Railroad (Frostburg to Cumberland MD)

1-800-TRAIN-50

wmsrinfo@wmsr.com

www.wmsr.com/

**West Virginia State Rail Authority** *(these 4 lines could substitute for all the previous info on trains)*

304-538-2305

www.wvdot.com/4\_railways/4e\_travel.htm

www.wvdot.com/4\_railways/4c\_staterail.htm