

# Beartown

State Park





**BEARTOWN STATE PARK** is a natural area of 107 acres located on the eastern summit of Droop Mountain, seven miles southwest of Hillsboro, West Virginia. The land was purchased in 1970 with funds from the Nature Conservancy and a donation from Mrs. Edwin G. Polan, in memory of her son, Ronald Keith Neal, who lost his life in the Vietnam War. Development of the park has been kept to a minimum in order to preserve the natural attractions of the area. However, basic bathroom facilities are provided, and a boardwalk allows easy access to this unique area. Interpretive signs along the boardwalk guide visitors and provide information about the ecology of the area. The park is open daily from April to October. For visitation at other times, contact the Superintendent at nearby Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park.

No fee is charged to enjoy Beartown State Park.





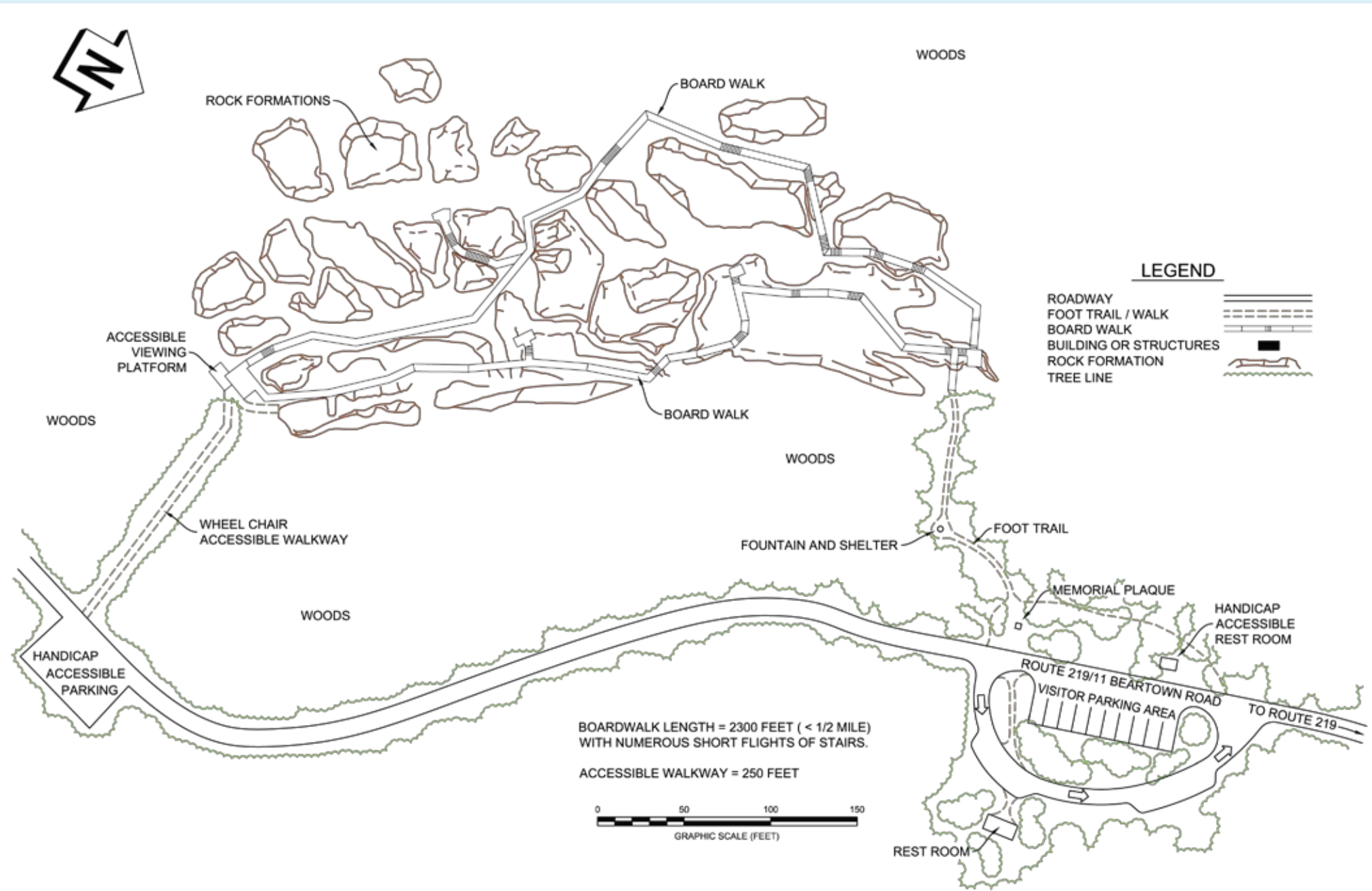
## ABOUT BEARTOWN

The name Beartown State Park was chosen because local residents claimed that the many cave-like openings in the rocks made ideal winter dens for the black bears of the area. Also, the many deep, narrow crevasses were formed in a somewhat regular criss-cross pattern and appear from above like the streets of a small town.

Beartown is noted for its unusual rock formations, which are composed of Droop, or Pottsville, Sandstone formed during the Pennsylvanian age. Massive boulders, overhanging cliffs, and deep crevasses stir the imagination of most visitors. Pocketing the face of the cliffs are hundreds of eroded pits, ranging from the size of marbles to others large enough to hold two grown men. Ice and snow commonly remain in the deeper crevasses until mid- to late summer. Vegetation clings tenaciously to life, sending roots into mere cracks in the rocks.



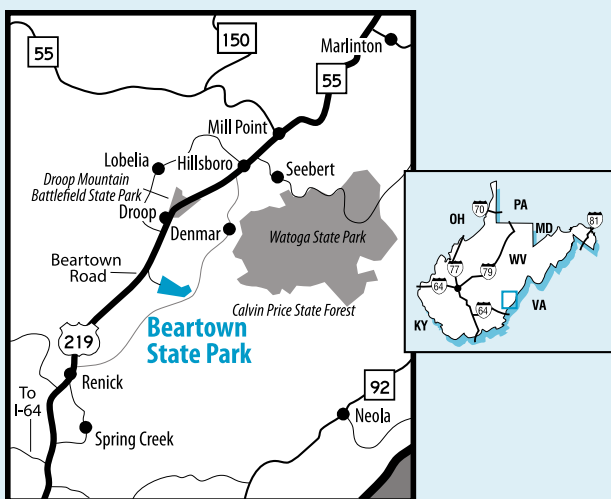
At Beartown State Park, the forces of nature continue to work by slowly breaking down even the largest rocks, only to deposit them elsewhere and build new ones. Witnessing the evidence of this process is a rare opportunity to forget for a while the hectic pace of modern life.



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**STATE PARK**

HC 64, Box 189  
Hillsboro, West Virginia 24946  
304-653-4254



## LOCATION

Located in the southeastern part of West Virginia, Beartown State Park is located seven miles southwest of Hillsboro, WV, off U.S. Route 219.

## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park\*
- Cranberry Glades Wilderness Area
- Greenbrier River Trail
- National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Green Bank
- Pearl S. Buck Birthplace
- Watoga State Park\*

\* For house or cabin rentals and camping information, phone 1-800-CALL WVA.

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[www.beartownstatepark.com](http://www.beartownstatepark.com)

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305

### 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.