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.

Nearby Attractions

- Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park*
- Cranberry Glades Wilderness Area
- Greensbrier 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.
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. Pocking 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.