

Cathedral State Park



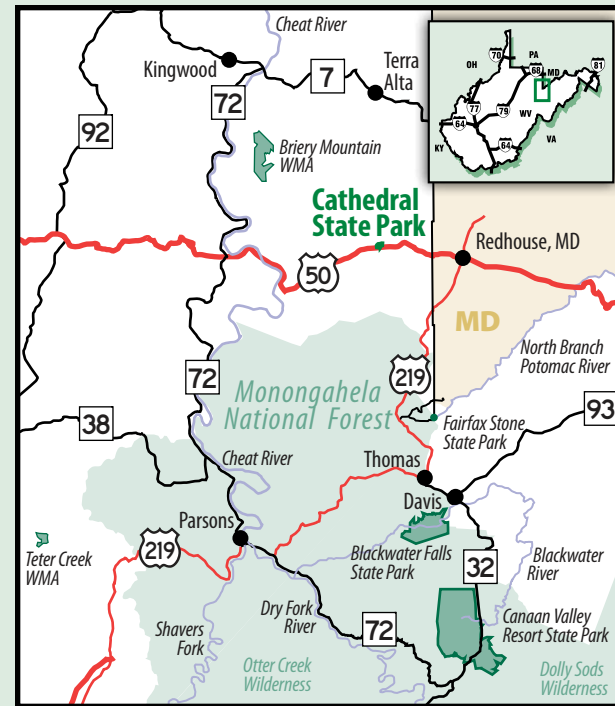
CATHEDRAL STATE PARK is an ancient hemlock forest of majestic proportions, and one of the last commemorations of the vast old growth hemlock forests that once flourished in the Appalachian highlands. Trees up to 90 feet in height and more than 16 feet in circumference form cloisters in the park. Throughout the woods, eastern hemlock is the dominant species.

The land was purchased in 1922 by Mr. Branson Haas. Mr. Haas was a workman for the Brookside Hotel, which stood where the park superintendent's residence now stands. He sold the forest to the state of West Virginia in 1942, with the provision that it remain untouched by ax or saw. Mr. Haas served as caretaker until his death. On October 6, 1966, Cathedral State Park was entered in the National Registry for Natural History Landmarks, as "an area that possesses exceptional value in illustrating the natural history of the United States."

The well-known largest hemlock tree in the state was felled by lightning in 2004.

On May 20, 1983, the Society of American Foresters recognized Cathedral in its National Natural Areas Program, as an "outstanding example of a vegetative community in a near natural condition"... "with its associated biotic, edaphic, geologic and aquatic features dedicated for scientific and educational purposes." The area was registered because it is "maintained in the natural condition, by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention."

Cathedral State Park consists of 132 acres, located on U.S. Route 50, in Preston County in northeastern West Virginia. The region is hilly to mountainous, but the park is located on rather gently sloping ground with an elevation varying from 2,460 to 2,620 feet.



LOCATION

Cathedral State Park is located on U. S. Route 50 near Aurora, West Virginia, approximately five miles west of Redhouse, Maryland, and 30 minutes north of Blackwater Falls State Park.

Cathedral State Park

12 Cathedral Park Drive
Aurora, West Virginia 26705
304-735-3771
www.cathedralstatepark.com

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, 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.

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CHECKLIST

Trees & Shrubs

- American Beech
- Aspen
- Black Cherry
- Chestnut
- Cucumber Tree
- Hemlock
- Mountain Laurel
- Red Maple
- Red Oak
- Red Spruce
- Rhododendron
- Sarvisberry
- Sugar Maple
- White Pine
- White Oak
- Yellow Birch

Others:

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-

Wildflowers

- Bellwort
- Bloodroot
- Blue-eyed Grass
- Bluet
- Canada Violet
- Common Woodsorrel
- Dwarf Cornel
- Ginseng
- Hepatica
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Ladies' tresses
- May Apple
- Miterwort
- Nightshade
- Partridgeberry
- Painted Trillium
- Pink Lady's Slipper
- Plume Lily
- Spring Beauty
- Squirrel Corn
- Toothwort
- Trailing Arbutus
- Turk's Cap Lily
- Wild Geranium
- Wild Lily-of-the-Valley
- Wood Anemone

Others:

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Birds

- American Crow
- American Goldfinch
- American Robin
- Barred Owl
- Blackcapped Chickadee
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Blue Jay
- Cardinal
- Cedar Waxwing
- Common Screech Owl
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hermit Thrush
- House Wren
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Northern Oriole
- Northern Parula Warbler
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Ruffed Grouse
- Scarlet Tanager
- Solitary Vireo
- Tufted Titmouse
- Wild Turkey
- Wood Thrush

Others:

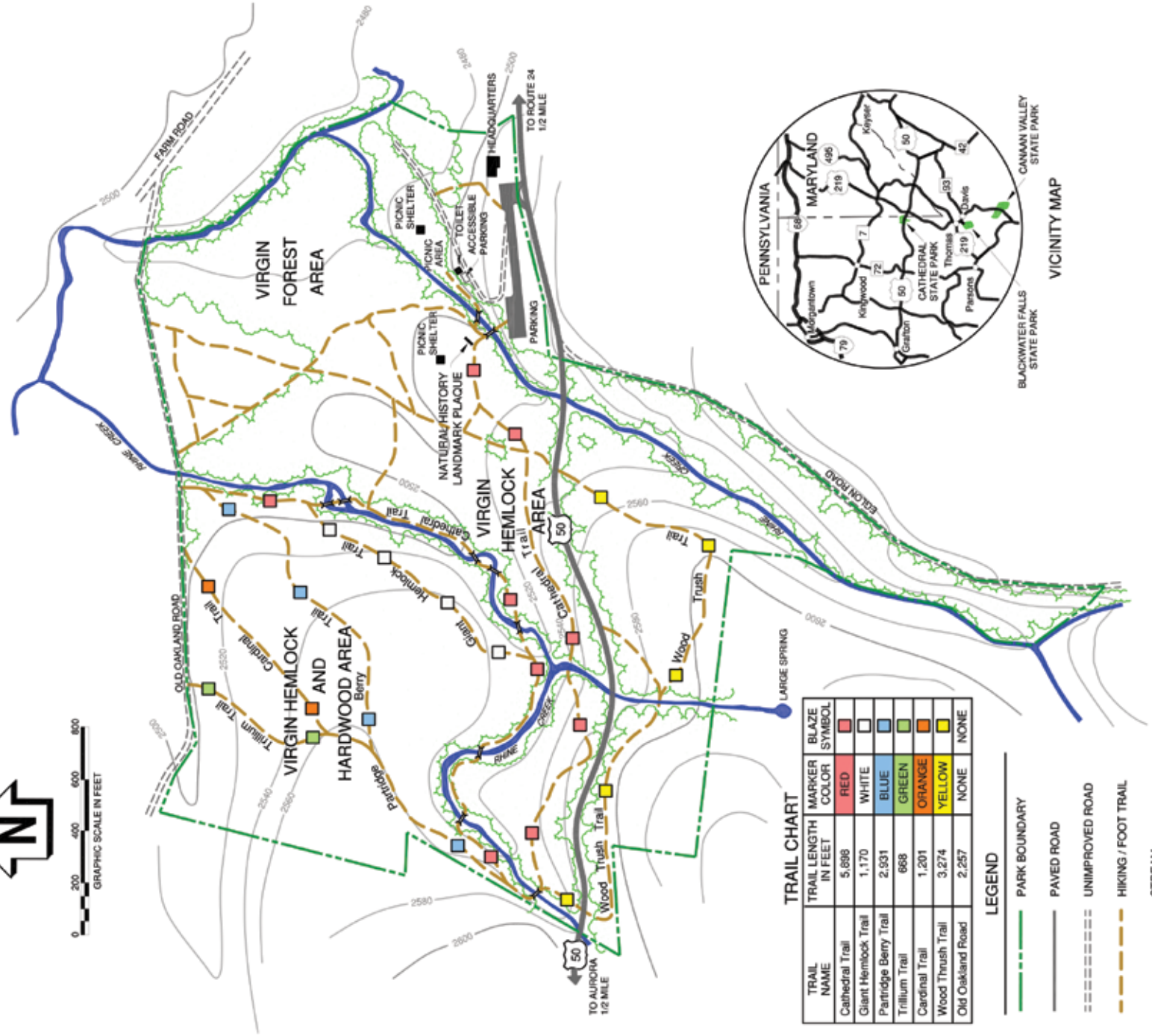
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Animals

- Bat
- Chipmunk
- Deer Mouse
- Fox Squirrel
- Gray Fox
- Raccoon
- Red Fox
- Red Squirrel
- Skunk
- Vole
- Whitetail Deer
- Woodchuck

Others:

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TRAIL NAME	TRAIL LENGTH IN FEET	MARKER COLOR	BLAZE SYMBOL
Cathedral Trail	5,898	RED	[Red square]
Giant Hemlock Trail	1,170	WHITE	[White square]
Partridge Berry Trail	2,931	BLUE	[Blue square]
Trillium Trail	668	GREEN	[Green square]
Cardinal Trail	1,201	ORANGE	[Orange square]
Wood Thrush Trail	3,274	YELLOW	[Yellow square]
Old Oakland Road	2,257	NONE	[None]

LEGEND	
[Dashed green line]	PARK BOUNDARY
[Solid black line]	PAVED ROAD
[Dashed black line]	UNIMPROVED ROAD
[Dashed orange line]	HIKING / FOOT TRAIL
[Blue line]	STREAM
[Green wavy line]	TREE LINE
[Black square]	BUILDING OR SHELTER
[Dashed grey line]	CONTOUR LINE



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