

# North Bend

## Rail Trail



**THE NORTH BEND RAIL TRAIL** is a multi-use recreational trail operated by the West Virginia State Park system. Formerly a main line of the CSX system, the trail is part of the 5,500-mile coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail. Stretching 72 miles from I-77 near Parkersburg in Wood County to Wolf Summit in Harrison County, this scenic trail passes through 10 tunnels and crosses 35 bridges. Easily accessible from Interstates 77 and 79, the trail nearly parallels U.S. Route 50.



## **MULTIPLE-USE TRAIL GUIDELINES**

- Motor vehicles — except authorized patrol vehicles — are not permitted on the trail.
- Warning: Travel at your own risk.
- Bridges and tunnels may be hazardous.
- Litter request: Pack it in — Pack it out.
- Be considerate of adjacent private land owners.
- Stay on trail.
- When parking, do not block trail access or private drives.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas.
- Trail conditions vary.



### **Bicyclists**

- Fat tire bicycles are easier to ride.
- Carry a tire repair kit.
- Leave no trace.
- Never scare animals.
- Always yield trail.
- Ride on open trails only.



### **Equestrians**

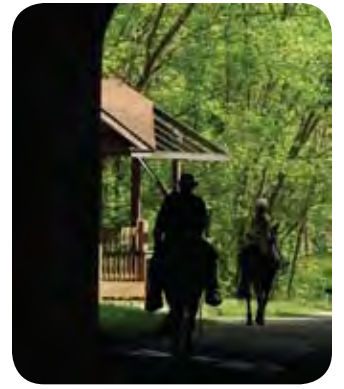
- Control your horse.
- Yield right-of-way to patrol vehicles.
- Always lead horse over bridges and through tunnels. A small flashlight may be useful in tunnels.
- Avoid cross-country riding. North Bend Rail Trail property is very narrow, so please respect private property.
- Do not canter horses.
- For health reasons, horses are not permitted within campsites or near eating or sleeping areas. Designated horse camping areas have hitching rails between trail and campsites.
- Tether horse to hitching rail or use a picket line between trees.
- Straw and hay are not permitted in campsites.
- Call ahead to make arrangements for wide loads, such as wagons.



### **Hikers**

- Allow equestrians and bicyclists to pass.







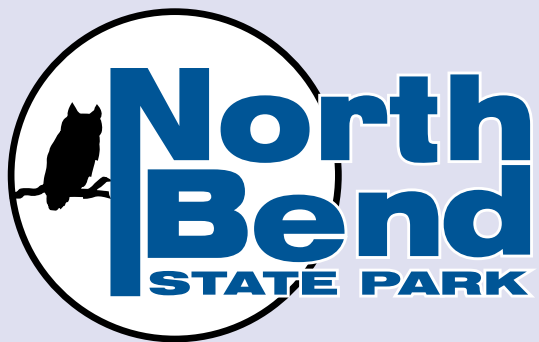
## **GHOST OF SILVER RUN TUNNEL**

**LEGEND HAS IT** that on foggy, moonlit nights near the Silver Run Tunnel (Tunnel 19), a beautiful woman in a long, flowing dress appears. For many years trains traveled through the hills between Grafton (near Tygart Lake State Park) and Parkersburg. When the train's engineer brought his train to a shuddering screeching halt in the Silver Run Tunnel on a foggy evening in 1910, his crew, and his bosses, thought that he was crazy. Up until that time he had been afraid to tell the story: A beautiful woman with raven hair, a long white gown with jeweled brocade would be standing in the middle of the tracks at the far end of the tunnel, but when he stopped the train, no one was there.

The railroad changed engineers. But the next engineer saw the same beautiful woman at the Silver Run Tunnel. He too repeatedly stopped the train, to find no one. Late one night, as he neared the tunnel, the woman was standing on the moonlit tracks. He threw open the train throttle and roared forward. Phones began to ring in the Parkersburg railroad terminal. "A train just passed with something white on the front. It looked like a woman," said the callers. When the train arrived in Parkersburg, there was nothing—not even a raveling of clothing or a hint that anything had touched the front of the train.

Where did the woman come from? Where did she go? And why did she want the train to come to a screeching halt? Only the ghost of Silver Tunnel knows for sure.





## ACCOMMODATIONS

### North Bend Lodge

- 29-modern guest rooms
- Full-service restaurant
- Wi-fi availability, free access
- Conference facilities
- Open year-round
- Advance reservations recommended

### Cabins

- Nine deluxe vacation cabins
- Fireplaces
- Equipped for housekeeping
- Linens provided

### Campgrounds

#### River Run Campground

- 49 sites, 26 with electric hookups

#### Cokeley Campground

- 28 sites, all with water and electric hookups





## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

### and along the trail

- Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park
- Fenton Art Glass
- Fort New Salem
- North Bend State Park
- Watters Smith Memorial State Park



## BONDS CREEK TRAIN WRECK

On May 31, 1956, the B&O westbound National Limited passenger train wrecked as it emerged from Tunnel #13 and the engine tumbled into Bonds Creek on the north side of the bridge. The engineer, Joseph C. Riley, and the fireman, Paul R. Hooten, were killed in the wreck. Forty-five other persons on the train were injured in the wreck, including members of the train crew, other railroad employees and 29 passengers.





# North Bend Rail Trail

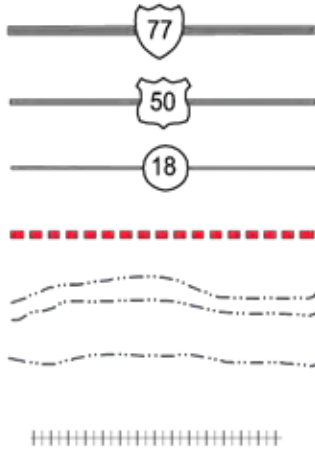
Route 1, Box 221 • Cairo, West Virginia 26337  
304-643-2931 • [www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.com](http://www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.com)

## What to Expect

Work on sections of the trail is a daily process. Sections damaged by water, drainage problems and other obstacles that may occur from time to time along the way are always in our maintenance program.

Please report unusual maintenance problems to 304-643-2931.

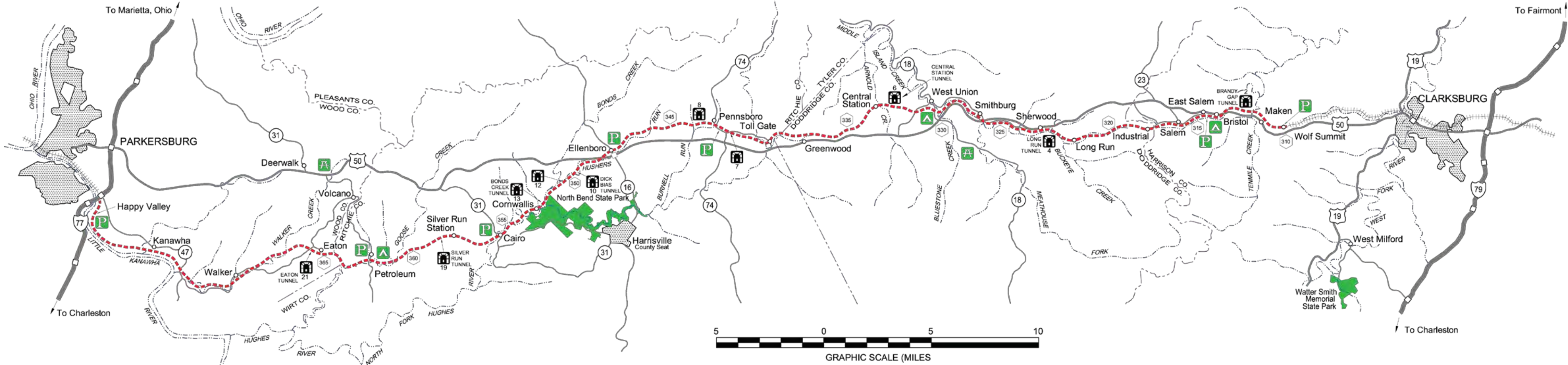
## LEGEND



INTERSTATE  
U.S. ROUTE  
W.V. ROUTE  
RAIL TRAIL  
RIVER  
STREAM  
RAILROAD



STATE PARK  
COUNTY PARK  
COUNTY LINE  
PARKING  
TUNNEL  
HISTORICAL B&O MILE MARKER  
REST STOP & CAMPING



## Major Access Points

**WESTERN TERMINUS**  
**Parkersburg Trailhead:** Take I-77 to the Staunton Avenue Exit. Turn east on state Route 47 and take the first right turn (about 0.2 mile from interstate) onto Old WV state Route 47. Continue about 0.7 mile and turn right on Happy Valley Road. Travel approximately 0.4 mile until you see a large house on the left. Immediately after the stone wall (Millers Landing) is the North Bend Rail Trail trailhead. Park on the gravel section opposite the trailhead.

**Walker:** Exit state Route 47 at Walker Road, proceed to where road meets trail (barricade on left).

**Petroleum:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto Goose Creek Road and proceed seven miles to town.

**Cairo:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto state Route 31 and go 4 miles to town; state Route 31 crosses the trail and parking is available on the blacktop in town square, or on the gravel or by the old Bank at Cairo.

**Ellenboro:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto Route 16 north, .25 mile to trail.

**Pennsboro:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto state Route 74: go north 1 mile, state Route 74 crosses the trail at the Depot.

**Greenwood:** Exit U.S. Route 50 at Greenwood exit; access trail behind the WV Department of Highways garage and the Greenwood Motel.

**West Union:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto state Route 18 north; the longest bridge of the trail is visible as you approach West Union; access in town or park above athletic field.

**Smithburg:** Exit U.S. Route 50 at Smithburg exit; turn right at the bottom of the hill onto old U.S. Route 50, proceed almost .5 mile to Deport and Spencer Park.

**Salem:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto state Route 23 south; proceed into town to the Depot; trail runs through Salem.

**Bristol:** Exit U.S. Route 50 onto Raccoon Run road, this road crosses trail almost immediately.

**EASTERN TERMINUS**  
**Wolf Summit:** Exit U.S. Route 50 at Wolf Summit.

## Trail Description

### I-77 Wood County Section

#### Miles

- 0.0 Western Terminus NBRT - **Closed to Public**
- 0.9 Trail Head: Parking
- 1.0 Happy Valley Road: Parking
- 2.7 Trail crossing private campground
- 4.7 Bridge #51 - Stillwell Creek
- 6.5 Trail crossing road following along river road
- 7.2 State Route 47 overpass
- 8.2 Bridge #50 - Walker Creek
- 8.6 Bridge #49 - Walker Creek
- 10.3 Bridge #48 - Walker Creek
- 11.0 Bridge #47 - Walker Creek
- 11.1 Town of Walker
- 14.0 Tunnel #22 - abandoned
- 15.0 Tunnel #21 (1,840 feet long) - Eaton Tunnel, second longest tunnel
- 16.2 Trail crossing county Route 7
- 16.6 County Line - Wood/Ritchie

### Ritchie County Section

- 17.7 Bridge #45 - Walker Creek
- 17.8 Bridge #44 - Goose Creek
- 18.1 Bridge #43 - Goose Creek
- 18.2 Bridge #42 - Goose Creek

- 18.8 Town of Petroleum (elevation: 700 feet) Rest area: pit toilet, camping, shelter, fire ring and parking
- 18.9 Bridge #41 - Goose Creek
- 19.2 Bridge #40 - Goose Creek
- 19.9 Bridge #39 - Goose Creek
- 19.9 Bridge #38 - Goose Creek
- 20.1 Bridge #37 - Goose Creek
- 22.8 Tunnel #19 (1,376 long) - Silver Run. Take a flashlight, reported to be haunted.
- 23.4 Silver Run Road (county Route 31/4)
- 23.5 Hand pump and well - (not potable)
- 23.7 Abandoned spring house
- 24.2 Picnic area
- 26.0 Town of Cairo (elevation: 678 feet) Parking, bike shop, WV crafts
- 26.0 Bridge #36 - North Fork Hughes River
- 27.0 Bridge #35 - North Fork Hughes River
- 27.3 Tunnel #17 - Abandoned
- 27.3 Picnic area
- 27.6 Bridge #34 North Fork Hughes River
- 27.6 Picnic area
- 27.9 Bridge #33 North Fork Hughes River
- 28.0 Crossing county Route 8 (Bonds Creek Road)
- 28.1 Crossing county Route 8 (Bonds Creek Road)

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- 28.3 Crossing county Route 8 (Bonds Creek Road)
- 28.4 Town of Cornwallis (elevation: 686 feet)
- 28.5 Bridge #32 Bear Run
- 28.9 Bridge #31 Bonds Creek
- 28.9 Riley-Hooton Memorial/Access road to North Bend State Park south of trail; Camping: .75 mile to park campground; Food and lodging: two miles
- 28.9 Tunnel #13 - Bonds Creek Tunnel (353 feet long)
- 29.0 Matt Turner Memorial Gazebo
- 29.4 Tunnel #12 (577 feet long)
- 29.6 Picnic area
- 31.1 Bridge #30, Hurshers Run
- 31.1 Tunnel #10 (377 feet long) - Dick Bias Tunnel
- 31.3 Bridge #29 - Hurshers Run
- 32.0 Bridge #28 - Hurshers Run
- 32.0 Private Crossing
- 32.1 Hobo Rock & Spring, North of Trail
- 32.8 Way Station Road
- 32.9 U.S. Route 50 Overpass
- 33.1 Ritchie County Middle/High School Picnic area
- 33.4 NBRT Overpass of state Route 16, steepest grade on trail

- 33.4 Town of Ellenboro (elevation: 785 feet) Food, glass and marble factories, parking
- 34.5 Bridge #27A
- 34.9 Ball Field Crossing
- 35.1 Bridge #27, Hurshers Run
- 35.1 Crossing Wright Road
- 37.0 Old U.S. Route 50 Overpass
- 37.5 Crossing Horner Run Road (paved)
- 37.6 Tunnel #8 (588 feet long)
- 38.0 Picnic area
- 38.7 Town of Pennsboro (elevation: 861 feet) B&O Depot being restored, Parking, lodging, food and bike service
- 38.5 Crossing state Route 74
- 39.1 Picnic area
- 39.6 Tunnel #7 (779 feet long)
- 40.5 Picnic area
- 41.7 Bridge #26 - North Fork Hughes River
- 42.1 Town of Toll Gate (elevation: 798 feet)
- 42.1 Crossing county Route 10
- 42.6 Crossing county Route 50/26
- 42.7 County Line - Ritchie/Doddridge

### Doddridge County Section

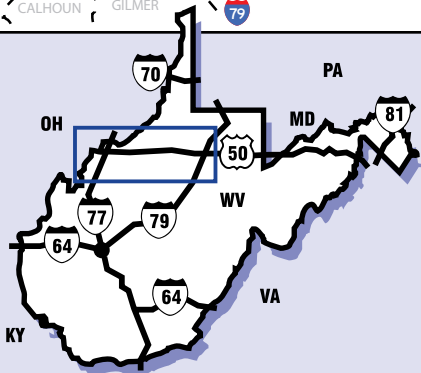
- 43.1 Crossing county Route 50/6
- 44.1 Town of Greenwood (elevation: 856 feet)
- 44.5 Crossing county Route 36 (Duckworth Road)
- 45.7 Crossing county Route 36 (Duckworth Road)
- 47.8 Town of Central Station (elevation: 815 feet)
- 48.0 Crossing county Route 36/10
- 48.3 Crossing county Route 1/1
- 48.3 Bridge #25 - Arnold Creek
- 49.3 Crossing county Route 11/8 (Tunnel Hill Road)
- 49.5 Tunnel #6 (2,297 feet long) Central Station tunnel, longest, wet inside
- 50.0 Rest area: pit toilet, camping, shelter, fire ring to be added soon
- 50.1 Bridge #24, over old U.S. Route 50 (cement with side rails)
- 50.8 Paved portion of trail begins
- 51.0 Town of West Union (elevation: 836 feet) Food
- 51.5 Crossing state Route 18
- 51.5 Bridge #23, over state Route 18/Middle Island Creek, decked and longest bridge on the trail, Parking
- 51.6 Paved portion ends
- 51.7 Bridge #22, over Middle Island Creek, decked

- 52.0 Picnic area
- 53.6 Bridge #21, over Middle Island Creek, decked
- 54.2 Town of Smithburg (elevation: 794 feet) Smithton Depot - restored Spencer Park Picnic area, five primitive campsites, parking
- 54.2 Crossing county Route 50/9
- 54.5 U.S. Route 50 bridge overpass
- 55.1 Bridge #20, over Middle Island Creek, decked
- 56.1 Bridge #18 - Buckeye Creek
- 57.9 Bridge #17 - Buckeye Creek
- 57.9 Crossing county Route 15 (Long Run Road)
- 58.1 Tunnel #4 (846 feet long) - Long Run
- 58.8 Tunnel #3 (abandoned)
- 59.3 Crossing county Route 38/1
- 60.2 Buckeye Creek Bridge
- 60.3 Crossing county Route 38 (Long Run Road)
- 61.6 Crossing county Route 38 (Long Run Road)
- 62.0 Picnic area
- 63.6 Crossing county Route 38 (Long Run Road)
- 63.6 Town of Industrial (elevation: 1,075 feet)
- 63.8 County Line - Doddridge/Harrison

### Harrison County Section

- 63.8 Town of Salem (elevation: 1,046 feet) Food and lodging (**how far?**)
- 65.0 Public access and parking
- 65.1 Salem Depot/Museum
- 66.3 Crossing county Route 50/2 (Turkey Run Road)
- 66.6 Rest area: Pit toilet, camping, shelter
- 67.1 Crossing county Route 50/6 (Raccoon Run Road)
- 67.1 Town of Bristol (elevation: 1,090 feet) Primitive camping
- 67.5 U.S. Route 50 Overpass
- 68.0 Crossing Flinderton Road
- 68.1 Salem Fork Bridge
- 68.1 Picnic area
- 68.2 Tunnel #2 (1,086 feet long) - Brandy Gap, damp and rough
- 68.7 Crossing Halls Run Road
- 69.2 Bridge #14 - Ten Mile Creek
- 69.2 Crossing county Route 5 (Marshville Road)
- 70.9 Trail Access, parking
- 71.0 Town of Wolf Summit (elevation: 1,136 feet) Old U.S. Route 50, county Route 11 - Eastern Terminus
- 71.0 Begin unimproved section to end of trail
- 72.0 End of trail





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Route 1, Box 221  
Cairo, West Virginia 26337  
**304-643-2931**  
**[www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.com](http://www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.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.