

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

LOCATED IN THE GREENBRIER RIVER VALLEY
north of Lewisburg, **Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park** is the site of West Virginia's last significant Civil War battle.

On November 6, 1863, the Federal army of Brigadier General William W. Averell, in his second attempt to disrupt the Virginia-Tennessee Railroad, faced again the Confederate troops of Brigadier General John Echols. Throughout the morning, Echols' smaller Confederate Army held the high ground and blocked the highway with artillery, but in the afternoon was overwhelmed by the crushing advance of Federal infantry on his left flank. Following the collapse of his lines, General Echols retreated south into Virginia with the remnants of his command.

Federal troops occupied Lewisburg on November 7. There General Averell divided his army, sending his infantry back to Beverly with prisoners and captured livestock while he, with his mounted troopers, moved east towards Covington, then north to the Potomac River to re-supply. In early December he led a third and ultimately successful attack on the Virginia-Tennessee Railroad at Salem, Virginia.

Operations in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1864 drew remaining Confederate troops out of West Virginia, thus leaving the new state securely under the control of the federal government for the remainder of the war.

In 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) created Camp Price, P-68, on the battlefield site. The men of the camp built the Lookout Tower, picnic shelters, other buildings, and three log vacation cabins. In 1961 two of the cabins were closed and removed, while the third remains on its original site and now serves as a Civil War museum.



CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY TRAIL

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is an official Civil War Discovery Trail site.

The Civil War Discovery Trail links more than 300 sites in 16 states to inspire and to teach the story of the Civil War and its haunting impact on America. The trail, an initiative of the Civil War Trust, allows visitors to explore battlefields, historic homes, railroad stations, cemeteries, parks and other destinations that bring history to life. For more information on the Civil War Discovery Trail and other programs of the Civil War Trust, call 1-800-CWTRUST.



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Museum

- Open seasonally

Hiking

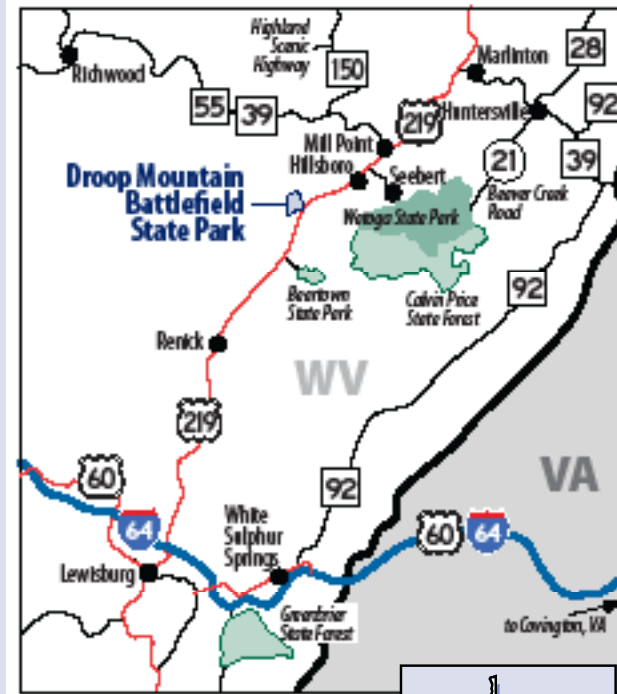
- Miles of hiking trails
- Scenic overlook
- Lookout Tower

Picnicking

- Two reservable areas with shelters
- Two play areas for children

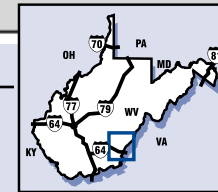
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Beartown State Park
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
- Cranberry Glades Wilderness Area
- Greenbrier River Trail
- National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia
- Pearl S. Buck Birthplace
- Seneca State Forest
- Watoga State Park



LOCATION

Located in the southeastern part of the state, Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is located on U.S. Route 219, 15 miles south of Marlinton and 27 miles north of Lewisburg.



Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

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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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TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Big Spring Trail

Length: .33 mile with very steep grades

Time: 20–30 min.

The trail begins at the West Overlook and ends at a mountain spring. This is a dead-end trail down the mountainside that offers pure spring water and a strenuous climb back.

Cranberry Bogs Trail

Length: .5 mile mostly level, easy walking

Time: 30–45 min.

Hikers can start at the park office and end at the South Picnic Area. This is the most popular trail in the park, winding through a mountain bog where interesting plants, tall pines and wildlife can be seen. This trail is suitable for cross-country skiing in the winter.

Horse Heaven Trail

Length: .25 mile with a moderate grade

Time: 15–20 min.

This trail starts at the pump house near the cannon and ends at the South Picnic Area. The trail follows a series of small cliffs and gives access to Horse Heaven Rock, where horses killed in the Battle of Droop Mountain were disposed.

Minie Ball Trail

Length: .5 mile with very long, steep grades

Time: 30–45 min.

This is the most rigorous park trail, located in a ravine where Union soldiers climbed the mountain to attack the Confederates waiting above. The trail begins at the first sharp curve in the road near the office and ends at the tower.

Musket Trail

Length: .5 mile with a moderate grade

Time: 20–30 min.

Originating near the park office, this trail follows a steep hillside. Stumps of American chestnut trees alive during the time of the battle still remain. The trail ends at the Lookout Tower.



Old Soldier Trail

Length: .67 mile with level, easy walking

Time: 45–60 min.

This easy trail follows an old grade road that passes near the spot where Major Robert Augustus Bailey was shot while trying to rally his men around the Confederate Flag. The trail begins near the battlefield monuments and ends at the stone shed near the tower. It is an excellent cross-country ski trail in the winter.

Overlook Trail

Length: .5 mile with moderate grade

Time: 20–30 min.

The trail begins at the pump house near the cannon and ends at the park office. The trail follows a series of rock cliffs. Following the cliffs, visitors can observe several small caves, an old bear den, a scenic overlook and Civil War trenches.

Tower Trail

Length: .5 mile, level to moderate grades

Time: 10–15 min.

This trail begins at the park office and ends at the stone shed near the Lookout Tower. This is the shortest route from park office to the Lookout Tower.

