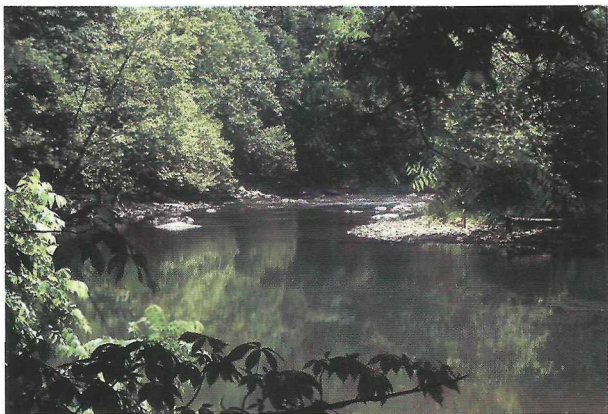


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Bluestone National Scenic River

Bluestone



Bluestone National Scenic River (NSR) is a living landscape that provides an unspoiled experience for visitors and a haven for a variety of plants and animals. Created in 1988, this Wild and Scenic River protects a 10.5 mile section of the free-flowing Bluestone River.

Our nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers System was established for the purpose of protecting for the present, and preserving for the future, undeveloped, free-flowing rivers that possess "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, natural, cultural, geological and recreational values. The scenic beauty, biological diversity, and primitive nature of the Bluestone Gorge make it ideal for inclusion in the system.

The responsibility of protecting Bluestone NSR is shared between the National Park Service, WV State Parks, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. A section of Bluestone NSR lies within the boundaries of Pipestem Resort State Park, and the remaining portion is also utilized as a West Virginia Wildlife Management Area.

Visiting the Bluestone

Bluestone NSR is located near Route 20 between Hinton and Athens, West Virginia, and is most easily accessed through its two neighboring state park areas, Bluestone State Park and Pipestem Resort State Park. Another way to access the park is via a narrow, graveled road that provides access to the Bluestone Turnpike Trail at the former Lilly town site at the confluence of the Little Bluestone River.

To reach the Bluestone NSR from Bluestone State Park, follow signs for Old Mill Campground and then continue to a small parking area near an iron gate. From Pipestem Resort State park, the Bluestone can be accessed by an aerial tram (fee charged, May-October), hiking down the River Trail, or viewed from rim overlooks. The Lilly road access can be reached by turning on Ellison Ridge Road off Route 3 at Nimitz, and following it approximately five miles until turning left on the gravel Bluestone Road ending at the riverside.

Directions

Bluestone NSR is a day use area; the adjoining state parks offer camping and other services. (1-800 CALL WVA)

The Bluestone Turnpike Trail, which follows the river for nine miles from the Mountain Creek Lodge (at the base of the tram at Pipestem Resort State Park) to Bluestone State Park, is open for hiking, biking, and horses. Fishing on the Bluestone requires a West Virginia license.

Opportunities for canoeing and kayaking are usually limited by adequate water levels to spring and early summer. The Pipestem tram will transport canoes, kayaks, and bicycles. (fee charged)

Hunting is permitted within the Wildlife Management Area of the Bluestone NSR according to WV regulations. All users should use caution and wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

