

Directions: From the North and East via Interstate 79, use Exit 57 onto US Route 19 South to State Route 55. Take WV 55 through Richwood to the Falls of Hills Creek. The parking lot is approximately 65 miles from Exit 57.

From South and East via Interstate 64 use Exit 169 onto US 219 North to State Route 39/55. West on WV 39/55 to the Falls of Hills Creek. Parking is approximately 42 miles from Exit 169 in Lewisburg.

The [Cranberry Mountain Nature Center](#), has maps, guidebooks and information on nearby attractions and campgrounds. The Nature Center is open from April through November.

Hours:

Open daily May through October

Weekends April and November

Closed December through March

Geology: Here in the Hills Creek area, there are exposed layers of hard sandstone rock over very soft layers of red shale. Water running down these alternating hard and soft layers began to cut rapidly in the soft shales and much slower in the hard sandstone. As a result, the shale was eroded from underneath the sandstone causing blocks of stone to break off when the shale no longer supported them.

Wildflowers: As well as the scenic beauty of the gorge and waterfalls, the trail offers an abundance of spring wildflowers. Over 40 different species have been recorded and many can be easily viewed and photographed from the trail. Please remember this is a unique and fragile area with steep slopes and easily erodable soils. Remaining on the trails and boardwalks will assure that the soils and delicate plant life will be protected. Picking wildflowers is prohibited in the Scenic Area, so please take only pictures!

Photo Tips: Because of the steep, narrow gorge, there are few hours during the day when sunlight hits the waterfalls. The best time for photographs is mid-day when the sun is highest. In summer months, the water flow can be quite low, so the best viewing times are after heavy rains.

Caution:

- The stairs along the trail are steep and may be slippery at times. Please use the handrails.
- The return trip from the lower falls can be strenuous. Rest often if necessary.

- Short cutting trails causes erosion and kills vegetation. Stinging nettle is common along the trail. Please stay on the trails.
- Lock your car and keep all valuables out of sight.

Notes:

- Two accessible toilets are available for use.
- Camping is not permitted in the Scenic Area.
- Dogs are welcome if they are leashed.
- Horses and motor vehicles are prohibited on the trail.
- Picking flowers and removing rocks is prohibited.
- There are no trash cans along the trail, so please carry out all trash when taking snacks and drinks into the Scenic Area.

More information on this recreation area is available through the

[Cranberry Mountain Nature Center](#)

(304) 653-4826 (voice and TTY)

or

Gauley Ranger District

932 North Fork Cherry Road

Richwood, WV 26261

(304) 846-2695, Ext. 0



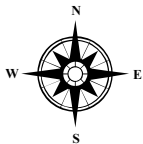
Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
(304) 636-1800 Telephone/TTY

Falls of Hills Creek



Tucked away in a narrow gorge just off the [Highland Scenic Highway](#) is a hidden treasure known as the Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area. This popular 114 acre area contains three waterfalls - 25 feet, 45 feet, and 63 feet. The lower falls, at 63 feet, is the second highest waterfall in West Virginia. A three quarter mile trail leads visitors to spectacular views of the three waterfalls as Hills Creek descends 220 feet between the upper and lower falls. The first 1700 feet of trail is a paved, wheelchair accessible path to the upper falls viewing platform. The remainder of the trail is more strenuous with stairways and boardwalks leading to the lower falls. There are 382 stair steps to the lower falls. The complete trip takes about an hour, or longer, if you want to rest often or just enjoy the scenic beauty.

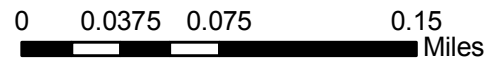
**LARGE PRINT
AVAILABLE UPON
REQUEST**



MNF GIS Staff
 UTM, Zone 17, NAD 83
 August 4, 2006

Legend

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Accessible Trail | Trail Surface Type |
| Parking Areas | Paved - Accessible |
| Restroom Facility | Natural Path |
| Trail Starting Point | Wooden Stairs |
| Observation Deck | Boardwalk /Stairs |
| Bridge | Major Highway |
| Steel Staircase | Forest Service Road |



**Falls of Hills Creek
 Monongahela National
 Forest**

Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Map Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.