

SPENCERTRAILS

I N F O R M A T I O N P A C K



THE OUTDOOR RECREATION HUB OF CENTRAL WV

COME PLAY IN ONE OF WEST VIRGINIA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES.

TheCultureTrip.com recently named Spencer as one of the Ten Most Beautiful Towns in West Virginia and we agree. With a vibrant downtown and rich history, there is so much to see and learn about in the hub of Central West Virginia.

- 25 miles of biking and hiking trails.
- Award winning winery at one trailhead.
- Historic Ben's Run Dam and the Civil War Park Battlefield.
- Seven different city parks and recreation properties ranging from 1,700 acre Charles Fork Lake to the playgrounds at downtown Washington Park and a modern city pool.
- Camping, dining, historic parks, antique mall, Chestnut Ridge Artist Colony, and more backroads for bicycling than you can ever explore.

TRAILS

Twenty-five miles of hiking/biking trails and counting! With almost 2,300 acres of city property surrounding Spencer, the sky is the limit for adventure. As SpencerTrails continue to improve and expand, we want you to be a part of it. Go to spencertrails.com and sign up as a volunteer and help make the trails be everything you'd love to see in a state-of-the-art trail system.

RECREATION

A modern city pool, new playgrounds, tennis/basketball courts and more exist within a stone's throw of the lower Ben's Run trailhead. Charles Fork Lake is quickly becoming one of the premier flat-water paddling destinations with 72 acres to explore. Hook up to one of the electric serviced campsites and be on the trails in no time from Charleston or Parkersburg.

HISTORY

Since the early 1990's Spencer has been an epicenter for mountain biking, but for over 150 years Spencer has been the economic hub of Central West Virginia and acquired quite a rich history from the 1/4 mile long Spencer State Hospital to a wild civil war stand-off. There's so much authentic Appalachian culture to discover and we welcome visitors with a smile and a handshake. Even our trails are named after famous local historic and cultural figures and landmarks. Did you know that Spencer was even once named New California? If you are curious about our trail names or have questions about our history, just ask or stop into City Hall and ask.

The Bens Run Dam

Ben's Run is named for Benjamin Wright, who lived in this valley in the early years of Spencer's history. The property was purchased by the Chrystal Water & Power Company at the beginning of the 20th Century for the purpose of constructing this reservoir to supply the town with water. Prior to its draining, the lake was often frequented by area youth for swimming. In the decades that followed, locals would venture into the forest from the former Spencer Elementary School to discover the ruins. Today, the Ben's Run Trail System brings you up close and personal with this iconic relic of our past.

May 4, 1903
Chrystal Water & Power Co. of Spencer incorporated. The company made purchases of real estate to erect ice plant on Church Street and a plot of ground to southwest on which to construct a reservoir.

April 10, 1911
Spencer Water & Ice Co. chartered. Town is supplied with ample water and ice for iceboxes as a utility.

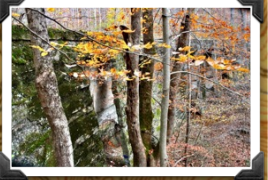
July, 1913
Spencer Water & Ice Co. appoints a committee to enlarge the water supply and erect a small dam for storing water in order to tide the town over in time of scarcity of water.

1950's
The Spencer Water & Ice Co. begins competing with new electric refrigerators and eventually closes. The Ben's Run Dam is perforated and lake is drained.

November 21, 2015
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for opening new Ben's Run Trail System. Made possible by \$40,000 grant awarded to City of Spencer for recreational trails from WV Dept. Transportation.



Construction of Ben's Run Dam 1913-1914



Ben's Run Dam 2014

TRAIL FEATURES

All SpencerTrails are well marked with signs at all trail junctions, "You Are Here" maps at strategic locations, and kiosks at trailheads. Never lose your way. At Ben's Run Trails, special blazes help new hikers choose easy loops that they can follow without any worry. From the lower trailhead by the City Pool, choose the orange blazed "BR" loop for a two-mile hike. From the upper trailhead at Chestnut Ridge Winery choose the blue blazed "BR" loop for a one-mile hike. All Ben's Run trails are marked with special designed "Fire Tacks" which make the trails light up at night with a headlamp.



BENS RUN TRAILS

The trails at Ben's Run System were developed in 2015 with the help of a \$50,000 joint project between the WV Dept of Transportation and City of Spencer. This system features a winery, the historic Ben's Run Dam, and unique trail features. Best of all is that it is located right in town so you can ride right off the trail and to your favorite restaurant.

Download the GPS files or paper maps on spencertrails.com.

CHARLES FORK LAKE

The trails at Charles Fork Lake are our oldest and best. These trails have been the home of the Tour de Lake mountain bike race since 1994. This West Virginia Mountain Bike Association Points Series XC Race has been one of the premier bike races over the decades and for one reason - the trails are great. Of course, having great volunteers, a massive prize payout, incredible course markings, and easy-to-get-to setting doesn't hurt!

The best is yet to come for Charles Fork Lake. As we continue to make improvements to the trail system we have our eyes set on several hundred acres of CFL property that still yet has no trails. The sky is the limit, but we need folks like you to jump in and have fun with us.

Download the GPS files or paper maps at spencertrails.com.

BE SOCIAL

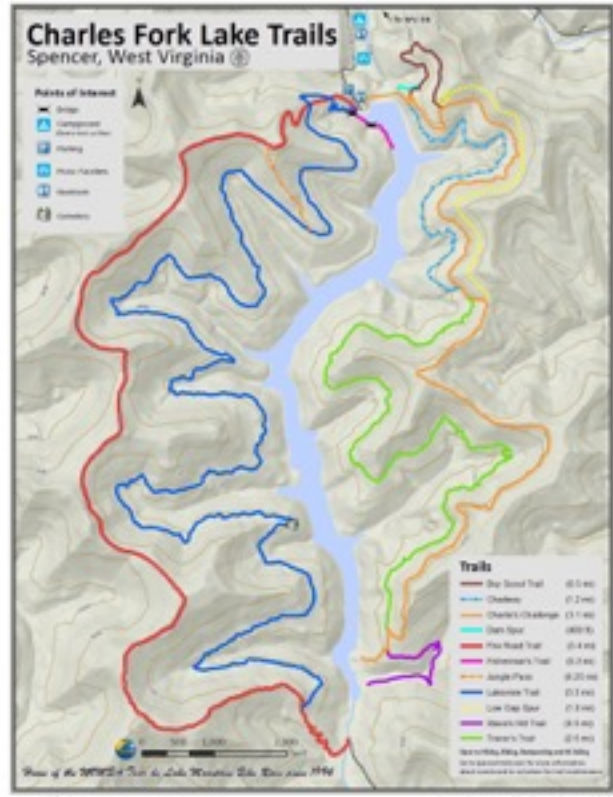
On Social Media? Be sure to tag all your photos on Facebook and Instagram with **#SpencerTrails**. You never know, we might feature your awesome photos on our SpencerTrails Instagram or on our Facebook page at Tour de Lake at Charles Fork Lake. Also, download the **STRAVA** app and join the Ben's Run and Charles Fork Lake **STRAVA** Segment Challenge. Compare your rides, runs and hikes to your friend's or challenge yourself to get faster each visit. Learn what segments people like the most.

STAY AND PLAY

Make plans to camp or stay at one of Spencer's beautiful, historic Bed & Breakfasts to enjoy a whole weekend with us.

While here, be sure to stop in and see...

- SPENCER ANTIQUE MALL
- HERITAGE PARK
- SPENCER CIVIL WAR PARK
- MILETREE LAKES
- SPENCER ARTIST COLONY
- CHESTNUT RIDGE WINERY
- LOCAL FOOD INCLUDING CHURCH STREET DELI, MARKET STREET BAKERY, GREEN LEAF MARKET, SPENCER FARMER'S MARKET, AND MORE



SPENCERTRAILS - A PROGRAM BY THE CITY OF SPENCER

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