

## Slip away to secluded Lake Moomaw and Bath County



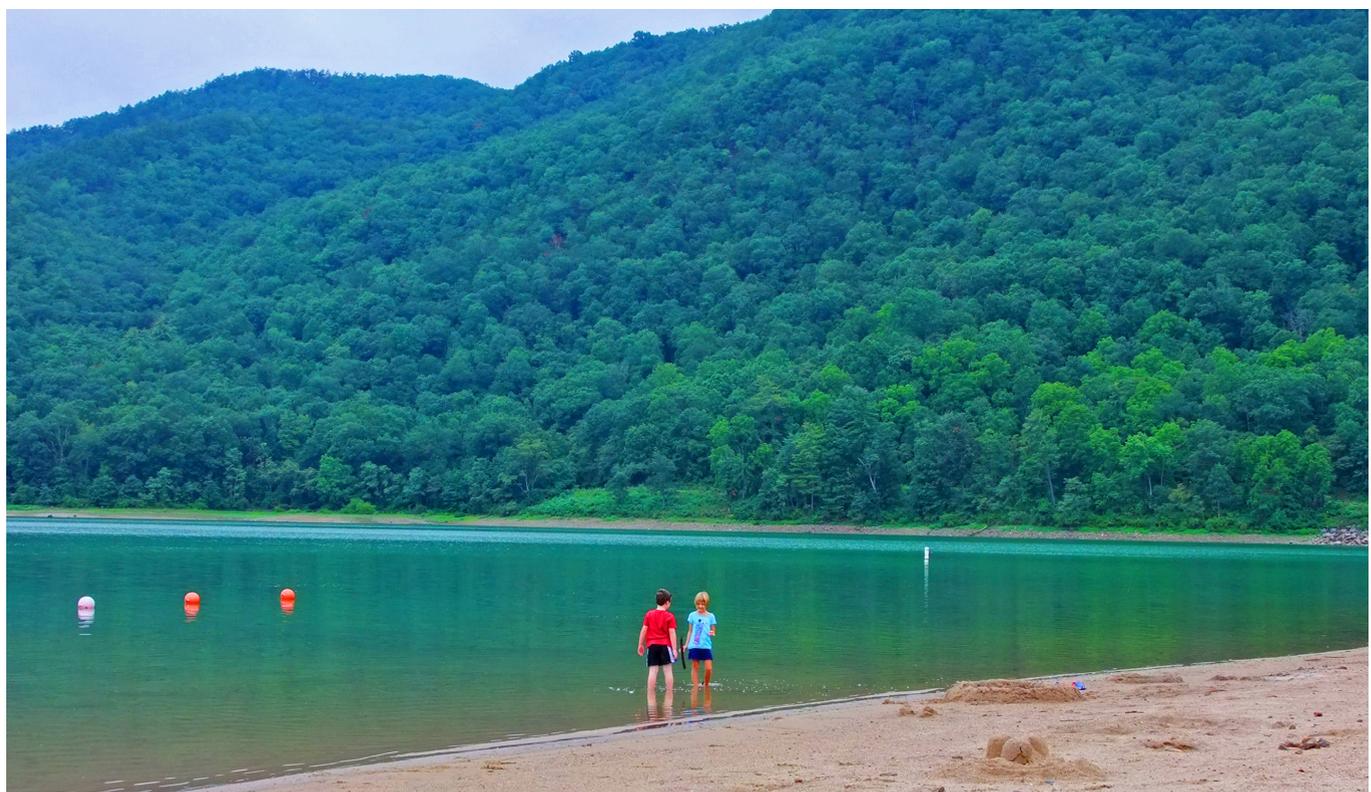
**H**ave you ever been to Lake Moomaw in Bath County? Well, the secret is out now, so visit before the paparazzi arrive!

This majestic spot is in the heart of Virginia's Allegheny Highlands. It is secluded and untouched, making it an ideal getaway for families.

With mountains and valleys in the horizon, it feels like a quick trip to Switzerland — without jetlag or passports. Created in the 1980s by the Army Corps of Engineers, the lake is 3.6 square miles and nearly surrounded by the George Washington National Forest. The area covers more than 2,500 acres with 43 miles of undeveloped wooded shoreline. It's hard not to relax there.

Lake Moomaw is a natural wonderland bursting with a wide variety of outdoor activities. Just an afternoon at the lake's incredible Coles Beach is well worth the trip. The emerald green water is so clear you can see your feet. Its sandy beach is long and wide with plenty of room for building sandcastles. The lake's shallow entry, designated swimming area, and clean bathhouse make it a great place for kids of all ages and abilities.

When it comes to fishing, Lake



*Above: Lake Moomaw has sandy beaches and a designated swimming area. Top: The Jackson River. Photos by Loretta Sherwood.*

Moomaw is a great place for families to fish. With its deep reservoir of 80 feet on average, it is well stocked for "two-story" fishing. Warm-water trophy fish such as bass, bluegill, and sunfish live close to the surface. In

the chillier water 15 feet below, there are lots of cold-water trout to catch.

The gentle waters of Lake Moomaw are also great for kayaking, canoeing, boating, paddle-boating, and even water skiing. There are

two marinas that sell gas, camping supplies, and sundries as well as rent boats at low cost. In addition, there are three launching sites and a docking area for private boats. The daily entry fee is a mere \$3 per car.