

The Lure of Mountain Retreats

Second-home buyers discover a variety of amenity-rich new communities in the mountains

By Jeff Marcus

For a true four-season second home, forget the beach and head for the hills. Mountain living is an increasingly popular choice for mid-Atlantic second-home buyers who want their getaway to offer year-round appeal and be within a reasonable driving distance of metropolitan areas. Our region, and West Virginia in particular, offers a wide choice of mountain lifestyle communities, from rustic retreats to lavish homes in resort communities. Here's a look at some of the best options:

Sunset Mountain Village, West Virginia

In 2006, David Walters of Cincinnati, Ohio, bought property in Sunset Mountain Village with his wife, Beverly. They were looking for a community with great views and easy access to West Virginia's Snowshoe Mountain Resort. "When we saw the lots at SMV we knew immediately that this was the place we were looking for," Walters says. "The views

are outstanding, the layout of the lots and the neighborhood are excellent and the commute to Snowshoe is easy."

Sunset Mountain Village is a beautiful, established community located in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Nestled in the heart of the Appalachians, the community offers owners easy access to the winter sports and other amenities offered by Snowshoe Mountain, plus world-class trout streams, hiking, biking and golf.

For more information, call Sunset Mountain Village at (866) WVA-MTNS, or visit www.sunsetmountainvillage.com.

The Woods Resort, West Virginia

The Woods is a casual mountain resort, just 90 minutes from the Washington or Baltimore beltways, but a world apart from everyday hassles. Located on 1,800 acres near Hedgesville, at the northern gateway to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, The Woods Resort offers 36 holes of great golf,



Home sites at Sunset Mountain Village offer panoramic views of West Virginia's Pocahontas County.

year-round recreation, outstanding dining, the pampering Sleepy Creek Spa and homes and home sites with views that take your breath away. More than 1,200 families own homes at The Woods. Most are vacation homeowners from the Washington, DC, and Baltimore suburbs. A growing number are retirees from the northeastern U.S. and primary residents attracted by the rapidly expanding economy of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

The Woods offers home sites and housing styles for almost every taste and budget. Homebuyers can choose from a variety of detached homes ranging in price from \$233,500 to \$500,000.

Golfers can choose between the resort's 18-hole championship Mountain View course and the new Stony Lick mid-length course. Other outdoor recreational activities include two 25-meter pools, lighted tennis courts, basketball/volleyball courts, a softball field and a horseshoe pit. Many guests prefer to spend their leisure time walking or jogging the many miles of lightly traveled country roads surrounding The Woods. (The adjoining Sleepy Creek



West Virginia's Woods Resort offers 36 holes of golf on two courses: the championship Mountain View course and the new mid-length Stony Lick course.