



STATE OF DECAY 2

HEARTLAND



Welcome--or welcome back--to Trumbull Valley!

Heartland is the new story-based expansion for State of Decay 2, based in an area we haven't visited since the original State of Decay. Things around here are a little different than you might remember, so we put together a short guide to help you understand what you're getting into.

On a surface level, Heartland feels much like the State of Decay experience you're used to. You lead a community of survivors struggling to stay alive in a hostile, zombie-filled environment. You scavenge for weapons to arm your survivors, and for resources to build up your base so that it provides a safe and well-stocked home. You recruit new survivors to add crucial skills to your community. And of course, you kill a whole lot of zombies along the way.

Unique Characters

One crucial difference between Heartland and a traditional State of Decay experience is that we've populated Trumbull Valley with a specific set of unique, hand-crafted characters with their own backstories, personalities, skills, traits, and goals.

For example, Heartland offers two pairs of starting characters, and each pair features two uniquely crafted survivors with different traits and skills who have come to Trumbull Valley for their own personal reasons. Your choice of starting characters guides the story and impacts the experiences you'll have in many ways, allowing for multiple compelling playthroughs of the Heartland DLC.



In addition, every survivor you meet in Heartland is a **unique, hand-crafted character** with their own backstory, personality, skills, traits, and goals. Some of these survivors may reach out to you, either over the radio or in person. Others are waiting for you to discover them by exploring Trumbull Valley. Be sure to venture off the beaten path to make the most of your Heartland experience!

Focused Story

Because Heartland features a specific set of unique characters, we've also focused the story of your community. Your choice of starting characters also sets up the initial storyline that you'll pursue during the opening couple of hours of gameplay. Choose the "Seeking for Santos" storyline, and you'll control Quincy and Helena as they track down a lost ally of the Network faction. On the other hand, if you select the "Last Wilkerson" storyline, you'll take charge of Larisse and her aunt Fiona as they track down Mickey Wilkerson: the father that Larisse never knew.

Once you're deeper into the game, you'll encounter additional stories, each one hand-crafted and placed in specific locations on the Trumbull Valley map. You might encounter a grumpy

local woman who's managed to make enemies of everyone else in town, or the last survivor of a tragic Red Talon mission into the valley. Perhaps you'll make friends with the always-dangerous Wilkerson gang, or help a forlorn survivor make amends with his estranged husband.

Many of these stories include **branching endings** or recruitment options, ensuring that the decisions you make along the way have big consequences for your community and the valley itself. This also lets your future replays of Heartland feel new and different!

New Challenges

Our fans have been clamoring for new threats to survival, and Heartland delivers.

Blood plague runs rampant in Trumbull Valley. Not only are plague zombies a constant threat, but you'll also encounter four different **plague-infected freaks**. Each of these plague freaks--the bloater, screamer, feral, and juggernaut--have evolved new ways to kill you.



Dramatic Conclusion

The final segment of the Heartland story features a series of challenging encounters that will push your survivors to the limit. You'll want to bring plenty of supplies (and some highly skilled characters) to improve your chances of success!



Heartland Tips

Here are a few hints that will help you succeed in Heartland:

Explore the map

Trumbull Valley holds plenty of surprises, from caches of valuable supplies to potential recruits just waiting for you to find them.

Complete your missions

Even if you don't receive an immediate payoff, your diligence will be rewarded with new recruit options, new trading partners, information about the area, or other useful benefits.

Recruit everyone

Every recruitable survivor you meet has a unique skill only possessed by that character. These skills unlock new facilities and facility actions that are crucial to your success.

Beware the plague

Blood plague is far more common in Trumbull Valley than what you're used to, so even careful survivors will likely develop serious infection along the way. Keep your eye on your survivor's infection meter, and don't hesitate to swap them out if they edge too close to a full-blown case of blood plague.

Bring a friend

You can invite other players to join your Heartland session while you're in Trumbull Valley. They'll bring a survivor from one of their normal (non-Heartland) communities, just like they would when playing a typical multiplayer experience in State of Decay 2.

