

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT OVERLOOK TRAIL

By Marylou Stone

This is a wonderful trail to do on a clear day. At the Blue Ridge Summit Overlook you can spot Sabillasville, the water towers at Victor Cullen, Sabillasville Elementary School, and the peaceful fields and farms in the Harbough valley below.

This trail starts at the Hog Rock Nature Trail Parking Area where there are also a few picnic tables. About 1/3 of a mile from the start of the trail, is the overlook on the left. The trail continues for about another 2/3 of a mile where it intersects with the trail to Thurmont Vista. Turning around at this point will be about 2 miles round trip. If you continue onto Thurmont Vista, the roundtrip will be 3 miles.

This trail is very rocky and has two sections of steep descent past the overlook. Tennis shoes or hiking boots would be a good idea.

I did this trail on a hot, steamy, summer afternoon. The first bird I noticed was an Eastern Wood Pewee. His call sounds like the last word of his name and if you imitate him, he will answer back. I also spotted a snake cooling himself in the rocks at the overlook. I don't know what kind he was as I did not take time to identify him.

