

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK - BROWN'S FARM TRAIL

By Marylou Stone

The National Park Service has a great description of this trail. "Brown's Farm Trail is an easy $\frac{1}{2}$ mile loop trail that passes through wetlands, a pine grove, a turn of the century farmstead, an eastern hardwood forest, and back across a mountain stream."

This delightful trail starts just inside the Owens Creek Picnic Area on the right. Be aware that the Owens Creek Picnic Area is only open mid-April through the third weekend in November.

To reach the trail, take Park Central Road to Foxville-Deerfield Road and turn right. The picnic area will be on the right.

The trail is mainly hard packed dirt with a few rocky places and has several wooden bridges to cross. At the beginning of the trail, the Park Service has provided a written description of each area of interest. Be sure to pick one up at the beginning or your hike and put it back at the end for someone else to use.

I walked this delightful trail on a cool fall afternoon. The entire time I was walking several Pileated Woodpeckers were drumming on the surrounding trees looking for insects. I also spotted several Tufted Titmice, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Downy Woodpeckers, and Northern Cardinals as well as several squirrels and chipmunks.

