

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK - THURMONT VISTA TO WOLF ROCK AND CONTINUING TO CHIMNEY ROCK

By Marylou Stone

This park is a wonderful place to hike. You can spot birds and wildlife, identify trees and mushrooms, and even play in streams.

If you do this trail, it is a good idea to wear either hiking boots or tennis shoes since the trail is very rocky.

The trailhead begins off Park Central Road at the second parking area past the Visitor's Center. The trail climbs steadily for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Thurmont Vista. The view here is fantastic. There is one bench and a lot of great rocks to sit on. However watch out for snakes before sitting down.

The trail continues for another mile to Wolf Rock. This section is mainly level, but it does have some sections of up and down. Wolf Rock is a great place to explore. When climbing on rocks be careful because it is easy to slip and fall in crevices.

The trail continues on for another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Chimney Rock. This also has a great view. Round trip on this trail is 4 miles. When you return to Wolf Rock, there is one section of moderate climbing.

I hiked this trail on Memorial Day and spotted several Scarlet Tanagers and Black and White Warblers. I also spotted Tufted Titmouse, Oven Bird, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jays, Raven, Robbins, and Turkey Vultures. I also spotted several deer and one squirrel.

