

Old National Pike District Park

By Marylou Stone

The Old National Pike, or Rte 144, is how this park gets its name. The park is located on Rte 144 between New Market, Maryland and Mt. Airy Maryland.

This park has two very pleasant trails. The first is the Woodland Trail which makes a one-quarter mile loop in the woods. It does climb slightly and is a dirt trail but is very pleasant. I hiked it in late fall and spent a lot of time identifying the different trees. I found American Beech, Red Maple, Yellow Poplar (or commonly called Tulip), Northern White Oak, and Sweetgum. On this trail I also spotted the following birds: Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and a Northern Cardinal.

The second trail is eight-tenths of a mile long and is paved. It makes a loop and every tenth of a mile is a one-tenth mile marker. The trail does have one small section that steeply climbs a hill but this provides for a better workout than a level trail. This trail also has a historical marker that points out one of the old mile stones on the Old National Pike.

This trail does look down on a wetlands area over by the farm complex. The birds were thick in this area. I spotted the following birds: White Throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Mockingbird, American Goldfinch, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, Mourning Doves, and a Red-tailed Hawk.

