



Frederick County, MD Rural Roads Tour #5

The Catoctin Creek

60 miles, approximately 2 ½ Hours

There are 5 separate tours of Frederick County's Rural Roads. The selection of roads for these tours is being compiled to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the enacting of the county's Rural Roads Program.

Each Rural Road has some gravel section. They

contribute to the county's rural character both as glimpses into life used to be like, and as champions of natural beauty. All 5 tours start and end at the Frederick County Visitors center, 151 S. East Street in Frederick. Hopefully, taking one tour will motivate you to see them all and become a supporter of these beautiful roads.

All of the county's Rural Roads contain sections that are single lane, narrow, curvy and hilly. They are all beautiful gems. The roads in the Rural Roads Program that you will be driving on in this tour are capitalized and underlined. Some roads have been excluded for safety and brevity. Do not attempt this tour during inclement weather, at night, or in a low-hung vehicle. Please drive slowly and cautiously. Enjoy!

Tour #5, The Catoctin Creek, starts west of Middletown, on Shank Road. It includes roads west and south of Middletown, including some roads that played a critical role in the Battle of South Mountain. The tour continues south around the town of Jefferson and follows the Catoctin Creek almost to Lander, the forgotten village adjacent to the C and O Canal.

1. From the Frederick Visitors Center turn Right (South) on East Street for .6 miles to I-70 West.
2. Turn Right on I-70 west for 4.8 miles to US Alt. 40, Exit #49.
3. Exit US Alt. 40 and turn Left (West) on US Alt 40 at the light for 6.5 miles through Middletown to SHANK RD. (At 4.2 miles, *The Main Cup on the left is a good place to eat.*)
4. Turn Right on SHANK RD for 1.1 miles to Station Rd. Road meanders along the Catoctin Creek with intimate views.
5. Turn Left on Station Rd for .9 miles to Mt. Tabor Rd
6. Turn Right on Mt. Tabor Rd for .1 mile to Frostown Rd
7. Turn Left on Frostown Rd for .5 miles to DAHLGREN RD. (At .1 mile on right is the Lucy School, a fine example of adaptive use of historic barn and green architecture in the classroom behind.)
8. Turn Left on DAHLGREN RD for 1.5 miles to US Alt 40. (Dahlgren Rd was an active thoroughfare for both sides during the Battle of South Mountain; at end of road Dahlgren Chapel is on the right. Across US Alt 40 to the right is the South Mountain Inn.)
9. Turn Left on US Alt 40 (East) for 1 mile to Fox Gap Rd.
10. Turn Right on Fox Gap Rd for .9 miles to Reno Monument Rd. (This was one of the earliest trails used by the settlers in the early 1700's.)
11. Turn Left on Reno Monument Rd for .3 miles to Bolivar Rd.

12. Turn Right on Bolivar Rd for .7 mile to Marker Rd. *(South Mountain Creamery is on the left selling farm fresh ice cream and other locally made products.)*
13. Turn Right on Marker Rd for 1.8 miles to Quebec School Rd. *(Stone building on left is historic Fox's Tavern; at 1.5 miles bear left to stay on Marker Rd.)*
14. Turn Left on Quebec School Rd for 1.1 miles to Picnic Woods Rd.
15. Turn Right on Picnic Woods Rd for 2.8 miles to Broad Run Rd (SR 383). *(At 1.4 miles at Stop Sign, Picnic Woods Rd continues to the left; at 2.0 miles on left is old Church of the Brethren. At 2.0 miles, cross Burkittsville Rd (SR 17).)*
16. At stop sign, continue straight on Broad Run Rd (SR 383), for .7 miles to Sumantown Rd.
17. Turn Left on Sumantown Rd for .3 miles to HARLEY RD.
18. Bear left on HARLEY RD for 1.3 miles to BENNIES HILL RD. *(At .6 miles on right is the first organic farm farm in Maryland; at .7 miles on right is an earth bermed house.)*
19. Turn Right on BENNIES HILL RD for 1.4 miles to Roy Schaefer Rd. *(As the road descends to the Catoctin Creek, it becomes narrow with very limited visibility. At .4 miles, road turns left and crosses Catoctin Creek on a rare pony truss bridge that is on the National Register of Historic Places. The road meanders along Catoctin Creek and one of its tributaries. At .9 miles, red brick house on left was John Shafer, the miller's, house.)*
20. Turn Right on Roy Shafer Rd for .2 miles to Paul Rudy Rd.
21. Turn Right on Paul Rudy Rd for .8 miles to Sumantown Rd. *(At .3 miles the road travels through the Hood Farm – some of the finest Brown Swiss Cows in Frederick County.)*
22. Turn Right on Sumantown Rd for 1.9 miles to Broad Run Rd (SR 383). *(At .4 miles, road crosses Catoctin Creek on an historic iron truss bridge. At .5 miles on left is the new Catoctin Creek Park and Nature Center. At 1.5 miles bear left to stay on Sumantown Rd.)*
23. Turn Left on SR 383 for 200 feet to POFFENBERGER RD.
24. Turn Left on POFFENBERGER RD for 3.6 miles to Old Middletown Rd. *(At 1.0 miles road crosses Catoctin Creek on an historic iron truss bridge cr.1878, and meanders along the creek. At 2.3 miles is the 1810 Historic Lewis Mill, home of Catoctin Pottery. Frederick County's experimental Driving Surface Aggregate one mile test site, a special formulation of gravel including fines, applied wet and then rolled to give a tight road with less dust and potholes, begins at 1.8 miles and ends at 2.8 miles.)*
25. Turn Right on Old Middletown Rd for .6 miles to SR 180.
26. Turn Left on SR 180 East (Jefferson Pike) for .3 miles to Lander Rd.
27. Turn Right on Lander Rd for 1.4 miles to SIGLER RD.
28. Turn Right on SIGLER RD for .8 miles to "Y" in road. Turn Around. *(This little creek, Abraham's Creek, powered many mills including the Chilcotte woolen mill. Shortly beyond the turn around is a deep "wet" ford with NO place to turn around.)*
29. Return .8 miles to Lander Rd.
30. Turn Right on Lander Rd for 1.3 miles to SR 464, Point of Rocks Rd. *(At .2 miles, turn right to stay on Lander Rd.)*
31. Turn Right on SR 464 for 1.6 miles to AUSHERMAN RD *(at 1.5 miles cross Catoctin Creek.)*
32. Turn Right on AUSHERMAN RD for .8 miles to private drive.



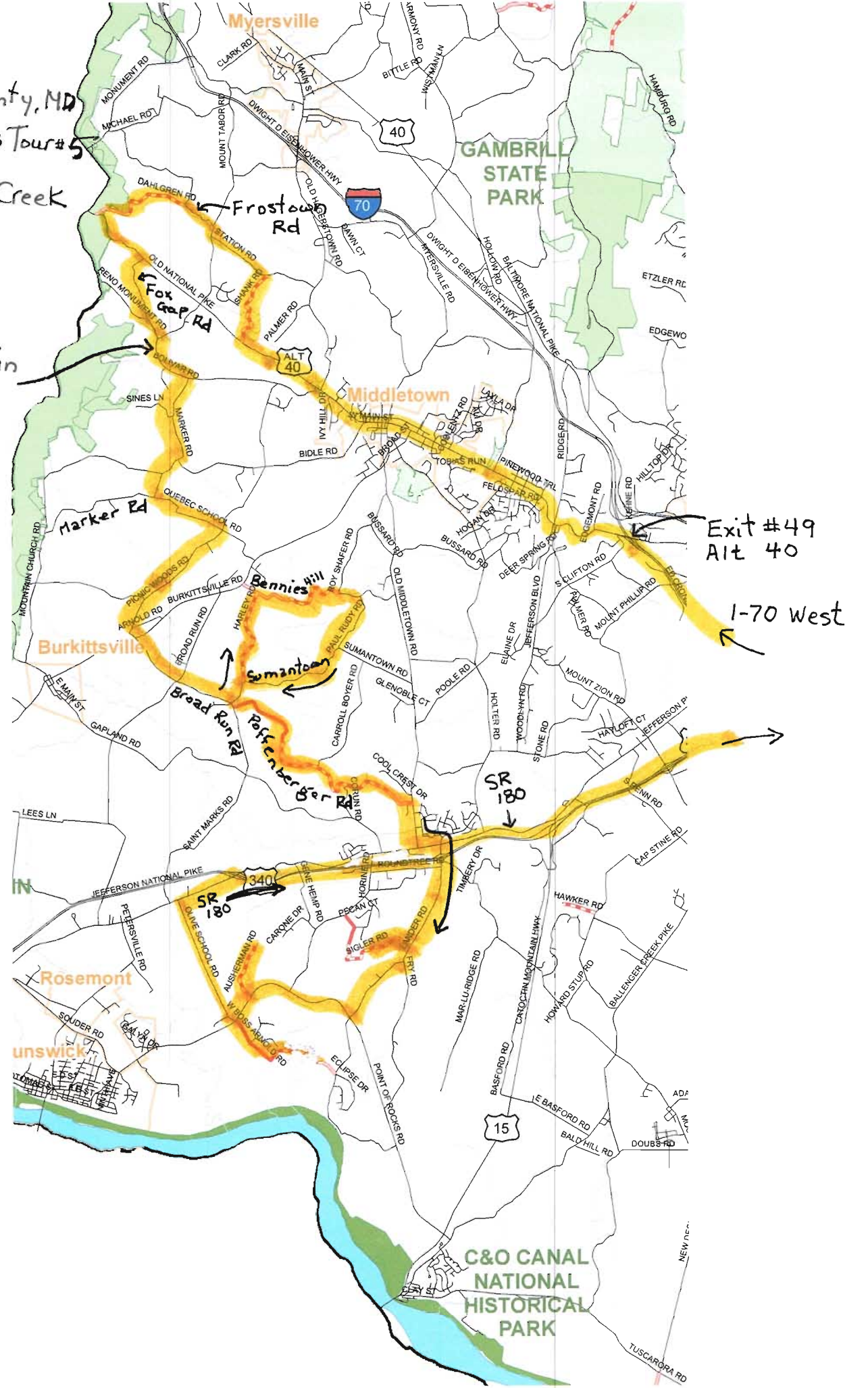
33. At private drive #3906, turn around .8 miles back to SR 464. (*Beautiful bucolic views as the road meanders along Catoctin Creek*).
34. Turn Right on SR 464 West for .3 miles to BOSS ARNOLD RD and Olive School Rds.
35. Turn Left on WEST BOSS ARNOLD RD for 1.1 miles to Dead End at Catoctin Creek (*at .7 miles road turns left*).
36. Turn around for 1.1 miles back to SR 464.
37. Continue across 464 on Olive School Rd for 1.8 miles to SR 180 East.
38. Turn Right on SR 180 East, Jefferson Pike, .7 miles to US 340 East.
39. Turn Right on US 340 East for 8.2 miles to I-70 East.
40. Take I-70 East for 1.6 miles to East Street, Exit 54. (*Stay in Left lane.*)
41. Bear Left on East Street for .7 miles to the Visitor's Center on Left. (*Cross Monocacy Blvd. and continue straight at circle.*) END OF TOUR.



Prepared by Friends of Rural Roads, 301-371-4274

Frederick County, MD
Rural Roads Tour #5
Catoctin Creek

South Mountain Creamery



Exit #49
Alt 40

I-70 West

SR 180

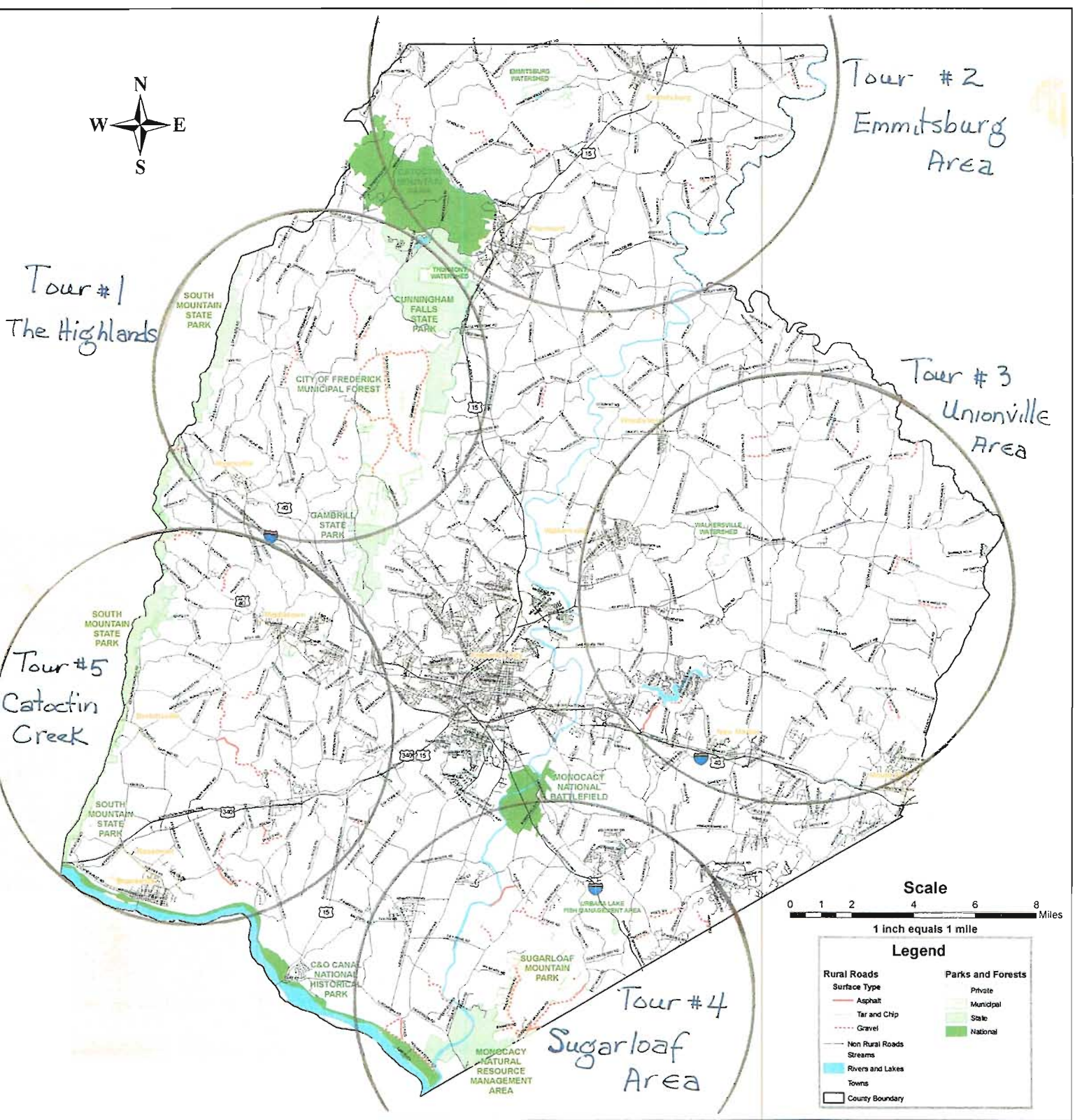
SR 180

340

15

NEW

Rural Roads Tours



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 Department of Program Development
 and Management
 GIS Section



FREDERICK COUNTY RURAL ROADS



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 The County is currently developing its road centerline data. Road centerlines may contain inaccuracies and both features and attribute information may be missing.