

Frederick County, MD Rural Roads Tour #1

The Highlands

Tour mileage: Approx. 70 miles

Drive time: about 3 hours (not including stops)

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 what 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 one lane, narrow, curvy, and hilly. They are all beautiful gems. The roads in the Rural Roads Program that you will be driving on 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. Enjoy!

Tour #1, The Highlands, starts west of Thurmont, on Tower Road, north west of Cunningham Falls State Park and south of Catoctin Mountain National Park. It includes Frederick's municipal watershed, and areas to the west around Wolfsville, and Middlepoint, and to the east, Mountaindale. There are 2 places listed along the tour that provide food: Mountaindale General Store, in Mountaindale, and Lillo's Pizza in Wolfsville.

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 .6 miles and stay in the right lane.
3. Bear right on US 15 North for 17.8 miles to SR 77 West (Foxville Rd) in Thurmont. *(At mile 9, US 15 parallels the Catoctin Mountains on the left; at mile 13.7, SR 806, is the exit for The Catoctin Furnace – historic ironworks; at mile 15 is the exit for The Catoctin Wildlife Preserve – Zoo.)*
4. Go West (Right) on SR 77 (Foxville Rd) for 5.4 miles to TOWER RD *(Driving up SR 77, Cunningham Falls State Park is on the left and Catoctin Mountain Park is on the right).*
5. Turn left on TOWER RD (hidden sign) for 4.3 miles. *(Should you miss TOWER RD you can turn around at the next intersection, Stottlemeyer Rd. The road becomes gravel in 2.1 miles. This area is wooded and rocky. Catoctin Mountain timber was harvested from 1776-1903, using "clear cut" methods for the purpose of making charcoal to feed Catoctin Furnace for the production of*

"pig" iron, cast iron. Before 1900, nearly 30% of the area was forested with American Chestnuts. Sadly, almost all of these trees have disappeared.)

6. Turn left on MINK FARM RD for 1.0 miles. (*ThorpeWood is on the right at .6 miles with a beautiful lodge and non-profit for youth and military vets. Mink Farm Resort is on the left. This used to be a mink raising farm. Today many of the descendants of those furry creatures inhabit the hills and terrorize the backyard chickens and other pets. ThorpeWood is the site of Maryland's first hybrid American Chestnuts.*)
7. At driveway 13002 Mink Farm Rd (on left) turn around for 1 mile back to Tower Road. (*Bussard Branch, the little stream that crosses the road is a native trout, called brookies, stream.*)
8. Continue straight onto paved section of TOWER RD for .6 miles.
9. Turn Right on Middlepoint Rd for 1.8 miles to SR 17 (Wolfsville Rd).
10. Turn Right on Wolfsville Rd for .6 miles.
11. Turn Right on Spruce Run Rd for .1 miles.
12. Turn Left on HAYES RD for 1.4 miles to Brandenburg Hollow Rd. At .6 miles, cross Stottlemeyer Rd. (*This is a very quaint single lane road. Please drive slowly and watch for oncoming traffic.*)
13. Turn Left on Brandenburg Hollow Rd .8 miles to Stottlemeyer Rd
14. Turn Right on Stottlemeyer Rd for .1 miles to SR 17 (Wolfsville Rd). (*Historic Town of Wolfsville. Lillo's Pizza on left.*)
15. Turn Left on SR 17 for .6 miles to WILDCAT RD. (*Don't miss SR 17 turning left in Wolfsville.*)
16. Turn Right on WILDCAT RD for 1.1 miles to Meetinghouse Rd. At .4 miles road bears left, just after pavement begins. (*Wildcat Road is what a typical bootleggers road looks like. These rugged hills were populated with many moonshine stills and an escape road was necessary when the revenuers arrived.*)
17. Turn Left on Meetinghouse Rd for 1.4 miles to SR 17 (Wolfsville Rd). (*Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, 1863, is on the left.*)
18. Turn Left on SR 17 (Wolfsville Rd) for .2 miles to Highland School Rd.
19. Turn Right on Highland School Rd for 1.7 miles to RUM SPRINGS RD. (*Cross Middle Creek and ascend the mountain with beautiful vistas of the Appalachian Mountains. This area is known for its rhyolite outcroppings that were sought by the Woodland Indians for making arrowheads.*)
20. Turn Left on RUM SPRINGS RD for 2.3 miles to Gambrill Park Rd. (*Ford Fields Rd was eliminated from the tour because it shortly dead ends.*)
21. Left on Gambrill Park Rd for 1 mile to section of GAMBRILL PARK RD in the Rural Roads Program.



22. Bear Right on GAMBRILL PARK RD (unmarked) 6.0 miles to MOUNTAINDALE RD. There are many large pot holes and cross drains so please drive slowly. (at 1.0 miles Fishing Creek Rd, unmarked, goes off to the right. The terrain is similar to Gambrill Park Rd and Delauter Rd east. For brevity sake, Gambrill Park Rd was selected for the tour. Feel free to explore Fishing Creek Rd for the entire length and Delauter Rd. Please note that Delauter Rd ends with a ford that is accessible only with a high 4-wheel drive vehicle.) GAMBRILL PARK RD starts out as rocky, wooded and very arid. However, when you descend half way down the mountain, at 4.4 miles, the hemlocks start to appear. Further down, there is a crescendo of hemlocks. These magnificent trees are being killed by the wooly adelgid beetle. Do drive slowly because of all the recreaters – biking, hiking, birding, walking and horseback riding.)
23. Bear Left on MOUNTAINDALE RD (unmarked) for .4 mile to the end of the municipal watershed. (On the right is the Frederick City Reservoir.)
24. Continue on MOUNTAINDALE RD for .7 miles and bear Right across Fishing Creek to Mountaindale General Store. (Feel free to get out of your car and walk around. The store sells drinks, snacks, and sandwiches. Adjacent to the bridge, there are many old fishing 'camps', including an old trolley car; many of them are still used.)
25. Head back right on MOUNTAINDALE RD, continue past the entrance to the watershed (.7 miles) for 2.6 miles to FISHING CREEK RD (unmarked). Keep left on MOUNTAINDALE RD where GAMBRILL PARK RD ends (unmarked) at 1.2 miles. (Just inside the watershed designation, on the left, is an old saw mill that was used by the City of Frederick. If someone in city hall needed a table, a tree in the watershed would be cut down and at this sawmill the lumber would be sawed and a table would be forthcoming).
26. Turn Sharp Left onto FISHING CREEK RD (unmarked) for 2.1 miles to Hamburg Rd.
27. Turn Left onto Hamburg Rd (unmarked) for 3.3 miles. It will turn into Yellow Springs Rd.
28. At Stop Sign go straight on Yellow Springs Rd 3.2 miles, which turns into Rosemont Ave.
29. Continue on Rosemont Ave 1 mile to US 15 South towards Frederick.



30. Turn Right (South) on US 15 for 1.6 miles to I-70 East (to Baltimore)

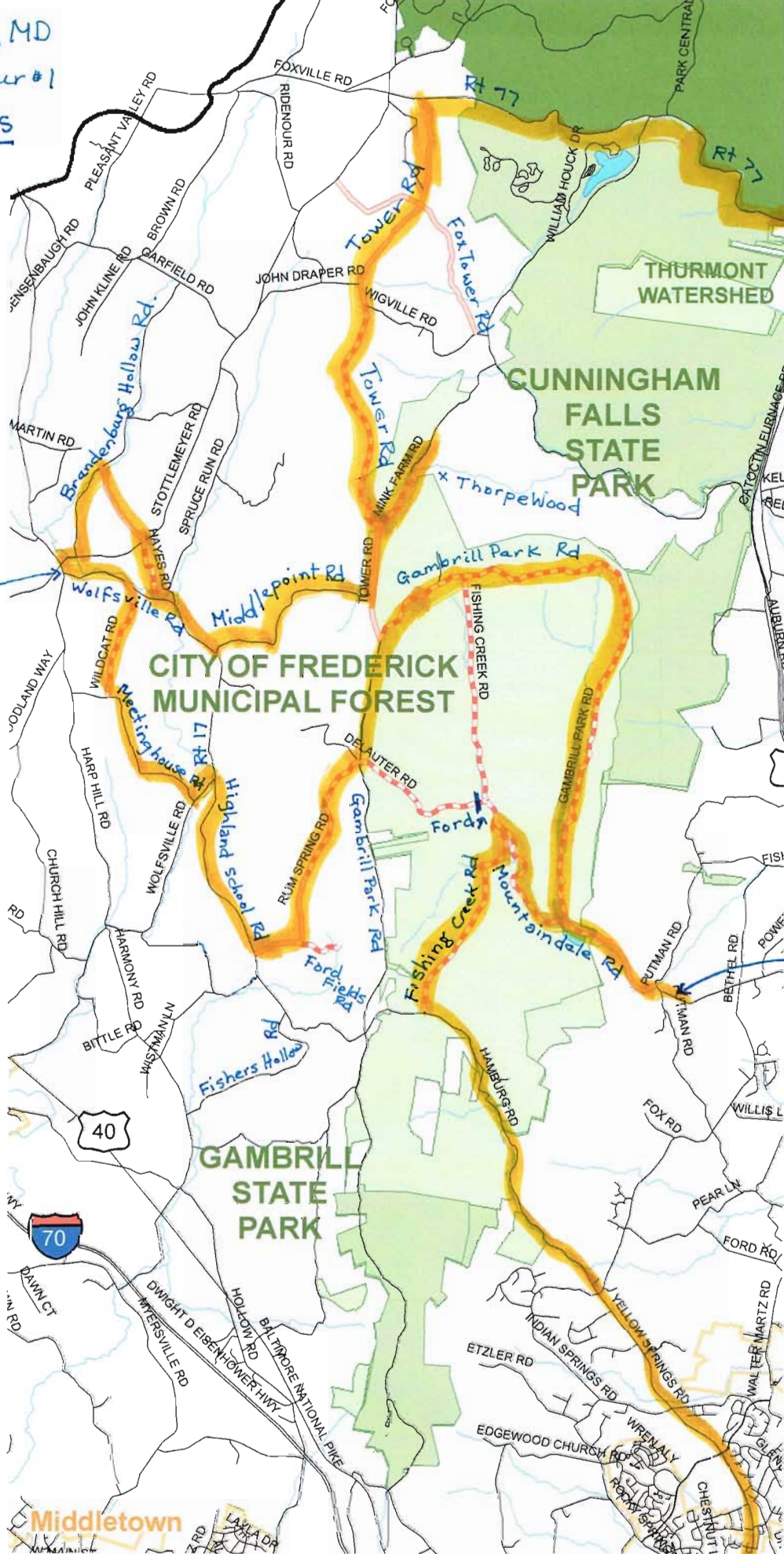
31. Follow I-70 East for 1.2 miles. Move to right lane after merge for East Street exit.

32. Turn Left on east street for .7 miles to the Visitors' Center - END OF TOUR

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

Frederick County, MD
Rural Roads Tour #1
The Highlands

Town of Wolfsville



From Rt 15

Mountaindale General Store

To Rt 15

Rural Roads Tours



Tour #2
Emmitsburg
Area

Tour #1
The Highlands

Tour #3
Unionville
Area

Tour #5
Catoctin
Creek

Tour #4
Sugarloaf
Area



Legend	
Rural Roads	Parks and Forests
Surface Type	Private
— Asphalt	— Municipal
— Tar and Chip	— State
— Gravel	— National
— Non Rural Roads	
— Streams	
— Rivers and Lakes	
— Towns	
— County Boundary	

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FREDERICK COUNTY RURAL ROADS



DISCLAIMERS

While efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, Frederick County accepts no responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional inaccuracies in the content of this map. Reliance on this map is at the risk of the user.

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