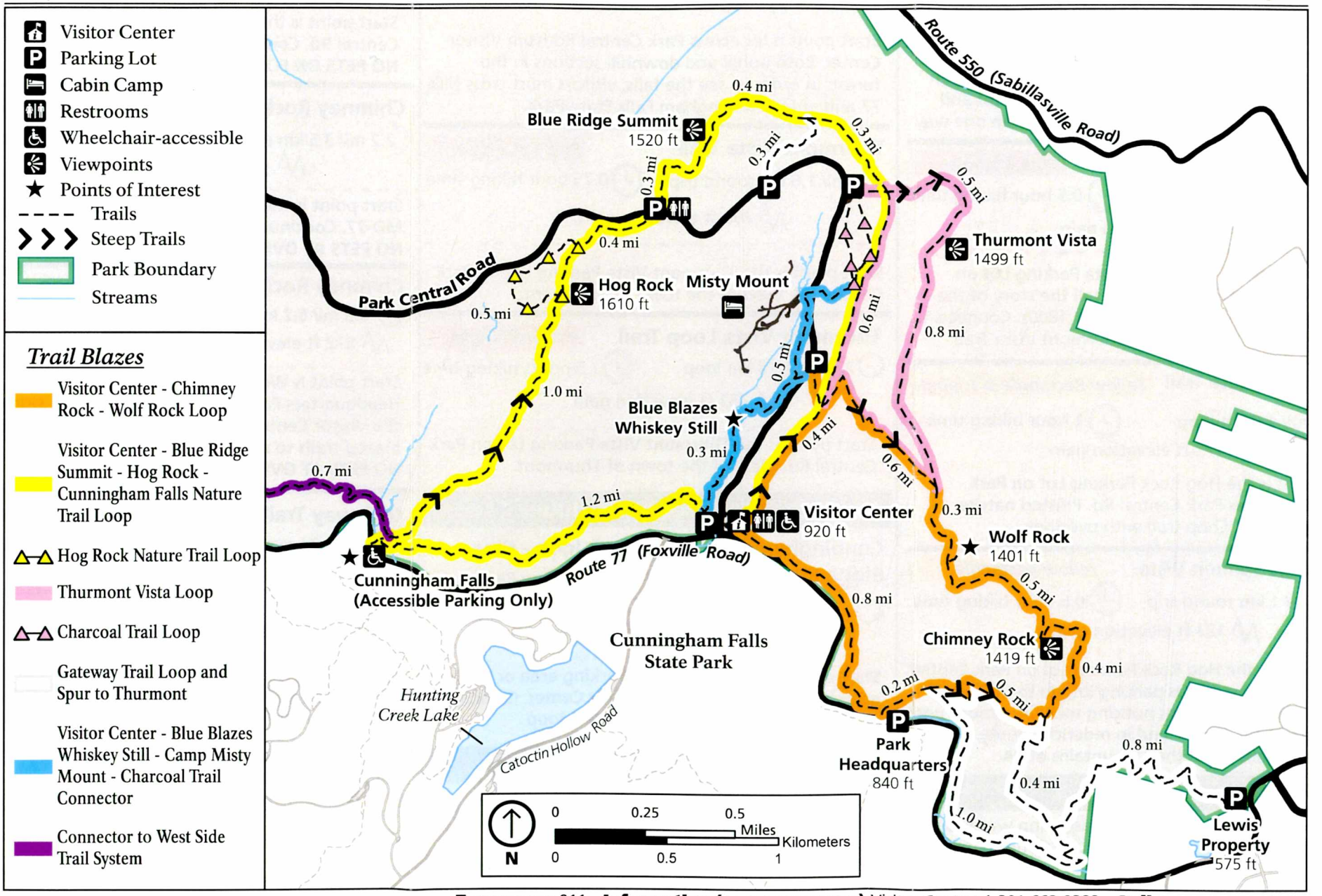
Catoctin Mountain Park
East Side Trail System

June 9, 2026

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Easy Hikes

Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail — *Blue Triangle*

0.6 mi/1km round trip | 0.5 hour hiking time | 55 ft elevation gain

Start point is lot across Park Central Rd from Visitor Center. The trail crosses the bridge. Trailside signs tell the story of the moonshine industry and the raid in 1929.Going past still connects to Misty Mount and Charcoal Trail. Adds additional 0.5 mile/1km one way.

Charcoal Trail — *Pink Triangle*

0.5 mi/ 0.8 km loop | 0.5 hour hiking time | 39 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Thurmont Vista Parking Lot on Park Central Rd. Trailside signs tell the story of the charcoal industry in the 1700s and 1800s. Connects to the Wolf Rock Trail and the Thurmont Vista Trail.

Hog Rock Nature Trail — *Yellow Rectangle & Triangle*

1 mi/ 1.6 km loop | 1 hour hiking time | 173 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Hog Rock Parking Lot on Park Central Rd, cross Park Central Rd. Printed nature guide available. Loop trail with overlook.

Blue Ridge Summit Vista — *Yellow Rectangle*

0.6 mi/ 1 km round trip | 0.5 hour hiking time | 123 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Hog Rock Parking Lot on Park Central Rd. On the same side as parking lot, go to trailhead. Follow yellow rectangles noticing rock formations until overlook. View is farm land in rederick County, the Harbaugh valley, and then mountains of PA.

Fun to Know

- Cunningham Falls, the tallest cascading waterfall in MD is 78 feet in height, located in Cunningham Falls State Park, across Route 77.
- The cabins at Camp Misty Mount were built by the WPA from American Chestnut logs.
- The whiskey from the original still on Blue Blazes creek could hold up to 2,000 gallons.

Moderate Hikes

Cunningham Falls Trail — *Yellow Rectangle*

2.8 mi/ 1.6 km round trip | 2 hours hiking time | 489 ft elevation gain

Start point is lot across Park Central Rd from Visitor Center. Both uphill and downhill sections in the forest. in order to see the falls, visitors must cross MD-77 and enter Cunningham Falls State Park.

Thurmont Vista Trail — *Pink Rectangle*

1 mi/ 1.6 km round trip | 0.75 hour hiking time | 200 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Thurmont Vista Parking Lot on Park Central Rd. View of the town of Thurmont.

Thurmont Vista Loop Trail — *Pink Rectangle*

2.6 mi/ 4.18 km loop | 1.5 hours hiking time | 431 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Thurmont Vista Parking Lot on Park Central Rd. View of the town of Thurmont.

Moderate to Strenuous Hikes

Cunningham Falls - Hog Rock loop - Blue Ridge Summit - VC Loop — *Yellow Rectangle*

4.6 mi/ 7.4 km loop | 2.5 hours hiking time | 1,037 ft elevation gain

Start point is at the Hog Rock Parking area or the lot across Park Central Rd from Visitor Center. Combines all the yellow blazed trails to make a loop.

Good to Know

- Combining all three of the major loops in the park completes an 8.5 mile loop. The blaze colors transition between orange, pink, and yellow
- Stay on the trail and enjoy the wildlife you see from a safe distance. This is the wildlife's home, make sure to respect it and give it space.
- The East Side of the park is busier because of the overlooks and its proximity to MD-77.

Strenuous Hikes

Wolf Rock Trail — *Orange Rectangle*

1.8 mi/ 2.9 km round trip | 2 hours hiking time | 569 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Wolf Rock Parking Lot on Park Central Rd. Continues to Chimney Rock.
NO PETS ON FORMATION

Chimney Rock Trail — *Orange Rectangle*

2.2 mi/ 3.5 km round trip | 2.5 hours hiking time | 591 ft elevation gain

Start point is the Park Headquarters Parking lot on MD-77. Continues to Wolf Rock.
NO PETS AT OVERLOOK

Chimney Rock - Wolf Rock - VC loop — *Orange Rectangle*

3.9 mi/ 6.2 km loop | 872 ft elevation gain | 3 hours hiking time

Start point is Wolf Rock Parking Area, Park Headquarters Parking lot, or on the other side of the Visitor Center Parking lot. Combines all orange blazed trails to make a loop.
NO PETS AT OVERLOOK OR ON FORMATION

Gateway Trail — *White Rectangle*

4 mi/ 6.3 km round trip | 3 hours hiking time | 1,206 ft elevation gain

Start point is at the Lewis Property parking area, on MD-77. Follow the white trail blazes along the Big Hunting Creek to Park Headquarters.

Need to Know

- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times.
- Do not attempt to cross streams during icy conditions or flooding.
- Be sure you are physically able to do the hike.
- Take plenty of water.
- Check for ticks after hiking.
- Be sure someone knows where you are.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Artifacts are protected by law.
- Filter or treat water from streams before drinking.
- Cell and GPS services are unreliable.
- Park closes at dusk.