

## Little Bennett Regional Park - Clarksburg, MD

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
6.2 mls	**	<b>\$</b>	Ŕ	<b>*</b>	<b>જે</b>
Hiking Time:   3.5 hours plus a half hour for lunch					
Elev. Gain: Parking:	Park off Clarksburg R	oad at the Kingsley pa	arking area.		

Little Bennett Regional Park has a labyrinth of over 21 miles of trails in its 3,700 acres. There are also 16 historic sites in the park that can be found in the full brochure, with the circuit we have mapped here taking you past the Norwood Tobacco Barn, Wims Meadow, and Wilson's Mill. There is also an extensive wetland area on the Western Piedmont Trail, which is home to the Eastern Bluebird and Timberdoodle.

If you're looking for a great boy scout camping area the hike-in campsite on the Purdum Trail is one of the best we've seen. Open from March through November, the site can be reserved for a nominal fee at 301-528-3430.

The hike outline below is a 6.2 mile circuit that uses many of the multi-use trails on the northern side of Little Bennett Creek. Horses and mountain bikers are likely to be encountered on this circuit. If you're looking to add a little more distance, you can make the hike 10+ miles by adding Bennett Ridge, Whitetail, and the Stoney Brook trails on the south side of Little Bennett Creek.

- Mile 0.0 From the Kingsley parking area the Hard Cider trailhead is located to the right of the kiosk. Follow the Hard Cider Trail as it winds over several small ridges and crosses a footbridge then arrives at the intersection of the Purdum Trail.
- Mile 1.0 Turn left uphill on the Purdum Trail and in a short distance the trail will split. Take the left fork and continue to where the trail joins a gravel service road.
- Mile 1.1 Stay left on the service road for 0.3 miles to the hike-in campground. The campground has several large fire rings, picnic tables, as well as wooden seating. After passing the campground the Purdum Trail passes the intersection of the Loggers Trail in another 0.1 miles. Continue straight on the Purdum Trail to the Browning Run Trail intersection.
- Mile 1.6 Turn left on the Browning Run Trail as is gently climbs a rise. At this point the trail is wide and resembles an old horse and carriage lane. At the top of the rise there is a field to the right, and the trail turns left downward. Follow the trail downhill and cross a creek and wooden walkway. After crossing the walkway the trail enters a field. Stay right and continue on the Browning Run Trail to the top of the rise to the intersection of the Pine Knob Trail.
- Mile 2.4 At the Pine Knob Trail stay right downhill towards the Browning Run Parking area. At the parking area the trail passes the Lewisdale Trail. Stay on the Browning Run Trail and carefully cross Clarksburg Rd. The trail will cross another footbridge, then climb to the 4-way intersection of the Tobacco Barn Trail.
- Mile 3.3 Turn right downhill on the Tobacco Barn Trail passing another field on the left. The Tobacco Barn Trail will then cross Browning Run. There is no footbridge at this crossing, and after heavier rains this can be a challenge to ford. The Tobacco Barn Trail will climb through another field and pass an unofficial trail on the left, then arrives at the ridge an ruins of the Norwood Tobacco Barn. Jeremiah Norwood owned a 68 acre farm on this site in the late 19th century.
- Mile 3.8 The Tobacco Barn Trail now turns right uphill. Continue straight on the Timber Ridge Trail. Shortly pass another unofficial trail on the right where the Timber Ridge Trail turns left. Cross a wooden walkway, after which the trail steeply climbs a rise. Continue to where the Timber Ridge Trail ends at the intersection of the Pine Grove Trail.
- Mile 4.4 At the junction of the Pine Grove Trail turn left. Pass through a stand of pine, then descend to the intersection of the gravel Western Piedmont Trail.
- Mile 5.0 Stay left on the gravel service road/Western Piedmont Trail and immediately pass the small Earls' Picnic Ground. Follow the gravel road until it crosses Browning Run over a small bridge. Turn right taking a side loop past Wims Meadow. James 'Jim' Wims was a local farmer who purchased the property in 1919. He took the field out of production, and converted it into a recreation area for children to play baseball. Continue on the side trail until it rejoins the Western Piedmont Trail.
- Mile 5.4 Turn right on the gravel Western Piedmont Trail for the remainder of the hike back to Clarksburg Road and parking area. On the way to the parking area pass 2 trail intersections, as well as a wetland area that is home to both the Eastern Bluebird and Timberdoodle.
- Mile 6.2 Arrive back at the Kingsley parking area after crossing Clarksburg Road.