

Bethel Creek Campsite

A great little campsite about in the middle of the Pine Mountain Trail....

On January 25, 2014 volunteers with the PMTA relocated Bethel Creek Campsite (in name) 2310 feet or about 4/10 of a mile east of the old location (east of Mile 13 marker 600'.) This is 737 feet west of the BootTop Trail/Pine Mountain Trail intersection. The original Bethel Creek Campsite location was wiped out in the 2011 tornado that hit FDR State Park. The original site could not be maintained (nor had any tree cover). The new campsite location is somewhat smaller than the old one and will accommodate at most 5 tents. The site is located in sight of the Pine Mountain Trail a short distance off the trail, south side. Note: there is only one fire-ring authorized here (so like all PMT backcountry campsites please don't add fire-rings or move them.) The one grand fire ring is the best of all the PMT campsites. There is a lot of downed wood near the site. With water nearby, campfires are permitted (unless a fire-ban park wide comes up.) The main Water source is a year-round spring-head, just 140' west of the campsite (just 27' off the trail), however in cooler months water flows past the camp itself under a walkway bridge. . Old Bethel Creek Campsite now has an engraved sign there by the trail noting it is closed (**no camping or fires there**). It was located 1,710' west of Mile 13.

Note: on the PMTA map (2015 and newer) the site is located correctly. On 2013 and older editions of the map, the old site was/is shown west of Mile 13. Where the old campsite was, there on the 2015 map only (by mistake) is an unnamed tent symbol. There is only one fire ring at the new camp location, and again there is room for **only 5 tents**. This is a single permit use site, meaning only one person/couple or small group of about 10 will be issued a permit for this site.

Directions to the site: From the west once you pass Molly Hugger Hill Parking Lot (Mile 11.2) continue to travel east on the PMT past Mile 12, cross Hines Gap Road, through the tornado damage areas to just 600' past Mile 13 to the site. Coming from Dowdell Knob Trailhead (Mile 14.5) come west past Mile 14 downhill on the trail, past the BootTop Trail intersection 737 feet on west to the site. There is a wooden sign by the trail leading off the PMT to the camp, and a brown thin Carsonite sign on the opposite side of trail with arrows pointing to the camp and down to the water source.





Walkway/ bridge added in 2016

The water source is a year round spring head just 140' west of the campsite (just 27' off the trail.) This is the start of Bethel Creek itself.



OLD BETHEL CREEK CAMPSITE LOCATION

As of February 7, 2014Old Bethel Creek Campsite has an engraved sign there noting it is closed (no camping or fires there.) It was located 1710' west of Mile 13. Old Bethel Creek Campsite was first closed after extensive damage to the general area in and around it from the tornado that hit the trail on April 28, 2011. The site was cleared as an Eagle Scout Project and was back open as of March 9, 2012. But the summer of 2012 weeds again took over. The camp was cleared again as of May 11, 2013 but the site was not used much and again the weeds took over (thus leading to its permanent closing at its old location). Photo far below shows Eddie Hall and Leon Camp at the site before the tornado.



My friend Leon Canup of Newnan and I were standing approximately here in the Bethel Creek camp prior to the 2011 tornado.



If I recall, I placed the camera on a rock in the fire ring there .