



Dear Patapsco Trail Fest Family and Friends,

We have been deliberating over how to bring you the 2020 Patapsco Trail Fest with the atmosphere of community and shared trail experiences that makes PTF special.

We have heard from you, and it's loud and clear all of us have missed the community and being outdoors at Patapsco Valley State Park... well, we think we have it worked out.

Patapsco Trail Fest 2020 will go virtual - We have seen great success with virtual formats throughout all of the trail activities that comprise the event, so let's do this!

By going to a virtual format, we can still enjoy the camaraderie, competition, and fun of PTF albeit in a slightly different way. A virtual event allows everyone to safely participate on their own terms and times that work best for them. The timed events (event tracking) will be recorded in an app called Strava and they will be the same routes that were planned for 2020 Patapsco Trail Fest.

Don't like the weather? The river isn't right? Don't have time to ride today? You can ride, run, hike, climb, camp, and paddle anytime between September 18 and October 18th. Get out there when conditions are perfect for you! For our far-away friends, you will have an option to complete your event (wherever you are) and earn your finisher's award.

While we will miss sharing a beer and stories around the campfire, we can still have a shared experience, race with our friends, and support the Park and trail community that makes Patapsco special.

Of course, there will be opportunities for you to complete all the routes without uploading to Strava and you can still show your support for the park by donning Trail Fest swag during and after the event.

FAQs

When does the event take place?

September 18 - October 18

What are the events at PTF2020?

Runs: 6k, 11k, Half Marathon, Full Marathon, and the Slam!

Mountain Biking: 30 Mile Race, 20 Mile Enduro and Ride, and the Craig Pool Tour of Patapsco

Climbing: Top rope climbing and bouldering on PVSP's best routes

Paddling: Most river miles paddled and timed sections of the Patapsco

Hiking: Suggested routes and organized hikes for all ages and abilities

Search for Sasquatch: Family run or hike searching for bigfoot!

All Valley Family Rally: Run, Hike or Ride, campout, and cleanup.

Kids Rides: Family-friendly routes in new areas of the park.

Equestrian: For the first time ever we are planning equestrian routes!

What is Strava?

<https://www.strava.com/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strava>

What is a virtual event?

Many large events have gone virtual, we have had our doubts about the viability of the format too - but, they have been extremely successful. A virtual event is essentially an event that occurs in a specified time period, is recorded to GPS and tracking apps, and is shared and celebrated via social media and the event website. Your safety, and the safety of park staff, our volunteers, and vendors are paramount - we too look forward to getting back to in-person events!

Will there be podium awards?

Everyone who registers can get a shirt, mask, hat, buff. The leaderboards/activity postings will be on electronic channels and updated regularly to encourage (or heckle) each other and generally keep the stoke on at PVSP. You'll be out there and the Valley will know it!

Will there be an awards ceremony?

No, but we will be recognizing the "winners" of 2020 PTF on our electronic platforms. Event shirts, medals, hats, swag, etc. will be mailed to you at two dates, for the folks that register early we'll mail mid-September.. For entrants registered during the event, we'll be mailing early November. There will be no in-person pickup of 2020 PTF Swag.

How are the courses tracked?

You simply upload your run or ride on Strava. We will use an app called EZ Race that will automatically pull your run/ride data from Strava, more info to come...

Update:

Go to <https://www.ezrace.app/trailfest> to register with EZ Race. After registering with EZ Race, click on the Connect to Strava Link. If you have an account, log in to Strava; if not, click on Sign Up and create an account, which can be done for free. When prompted to Authorize EZ Race to connect to Strava, ensure "View data about your public profile" and "View data about your activities" are both checked, then click Authorize. Back in EZ Race, select the events you want to participate in and register. Then go out and run, ride, or paddle, recording your activity in Strava or on a GPS device and upload it to Strava when you finish. When saving your activity, be sure to include #PTF2020 in the title of activity and the activity is viewable to everyone so EZ Race will recognize the activity and include it in tabulated results. It's that easy.

What is my registration paying for?

All proceeds go to Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park. Now more than ever the park needs our support, the past several months have seen record-setting attendance as staffing has been delayed and the giving community has necessarily tightened their belts. There will be additional opportunities to give to the park you love. The event costs include t-shirts, finisher awards, hats, stickers, postage for sending out awards, and virtual infrastructure (web sites, apps, etc.). We are making registration for non-competitive events as low as possible and, if you or your family find the cost-prohibitive, we will be posting "scholarship" opportunities that will cover part or all of registration.

Registration

Update:

You must register and pay for each running event (Marathon, Half Marathon, 11K, and 6K) you are participating in on UltraSignup. If you register for a running event and want to participate in the bike races, you may do so at no additional cost. If you register for one of the bike races on UltraSignup, you may participate in both races at no additional cost. All running and bike registrants from both UltraSignup and BikeReg are eligible to participate in the cycling challenges (total distance, elevation gain, and specific goals). After registering for the event on UltraSignup or BikeReg, be sure to sign in to EZ Race so your efforts are recognized.

Where are the courses?

We will publish the courses within Patapsco Valley State Park on Ride/RunWithGPS. All of these routes will include the super challenging segments that PVSP is known for, and many will include the new trail sections that have been built over the past year, including the OEC Connector and the Dogwood Trail!

Update:

Courses for all the events have been published on RideWithGPS at <https://ridewithgps.com/events/132575-virtual-ptf-2020>.

Will there be course markings?

No, we will provide course descriptions, and all courses will be published on Strava. Climbing will be at the walls/boulders that are most climbed at PVSP and this will be administered by our partners at Mid Atlantic Climbing, American Alpine Club, and Earthtreks. Looking to paddle?, our partners at Baltimore Canoe and Kayak have you covered with suggested routes, and you can put on your hiking boots with routes planned by the Mountain Club of Maryland. Our partners at Bigfoot Endurance have a super fun family event planned - the Search for Sasquatch! Our All Valley Family Rally will take place in diverse areas of the park and we'll team up with our pals from Patapsco Heritage Greenway for an opportunity to clean up and give back to the park we all love.

Update on course marking:

Some course markings have been added to the CrossCountry, Enduro, Marathon, and Half Marathon courses. The markings consist of arrows on carsonite posts. These markings are intended to provide confirmation as participants progress through the course and not meant as a substitute for navigation using the routes provided.

Please be sure you are familiar with your course!

Will there be aid stations?

No, this will be a self-supported virtual event. We will set up the courses to maximize the opportunity for aid. For example, the long ride and marathon will start at or near Woodstock so that you will reach Pickall and Hollofield later in the run for bathrooms, water, and provisions that you can personally stage.

Course Notes

The racing routes all contain several road crossings and two river crossings. Please use caution when crossing roads and watch for traffic. (Here's the link for the PTF2020 routes: <https://ridewithgps.com/events/132575-virtual-ptf-2020>) All timed segments end prior to road crossings so there is no need to race across an intersection to complete a segment. The river crossings are typically 20-inches deep or less but can be deeper depending upon weather during the preceding days.

Use caution and do not attempt to cross if conditions are unsafe. There is construction in the Pickall area near the southern river crossing - please obey signs and follow instructions if given by the construction crew. Portions of the course parallel and come close to the active railway line but the routes have been designed to avoid crossing the rails by taking advantage of tunnels and bridges. At no point will you have to cross over the tracks, if you think you do you are going off course. All trails are open to all users throughout the event - be respectful and follow proper trail etiquette. Most importantly, be safe and have fun!

Crosscountry Details

The course consists of ten segments - riders times will begin when they start a segment and end when they complete all ten segments. Riders might not receive credit for a segment if they deviate from the course so follow the route as closely as possible to prevent it from being discounted. Segments include:

strava.com/segments/25440279
strava.com/segments/25452839
strava.com/segments/25632374
strava.com/segments/25632254
strava.com/segments/25453671

strava.com/segments/25453772
strava.com/segments/25453794
strava.com/segments/25453938
strava.com/segments/25453954
strava.com/segments/25454238

Enduro Details

The course consists of eight timed segments - all eight segments must be completed during a ride to count for event placement. Riders are expected to follow the route and their ride may be discounted if they fail to do so. Segments may be attempted multiple times during the same ride and riders may begin at any location on the course. The best segment time from any qualifying ride will be used for determining placement. Segments include:

strava.com/segments/25440324
strava.com/segments/25452870
strava.com/segments/25453012
strava.com/segments/25453591

strava.com/segments/25453631
strava.com/segments/25453690
strava.com/segments/25453972
strava.com/segments/25454256

What are the cycling challenges?

In addition to the bike races, EZ Race tracks different cycling accomplishments for rides within the park. This includes total distance cycled, total elevation gained, reaching milestones such as a 10, 20, 30, or 50 mile ride and for the really ambitious or crazy, a 100k or 100 mile ride. There are also activities or segments that highlight some of the new trail additions to the park like the OEC Connector, Woodmarr, and the Captain Smith Loop.

Be sure to tag your ride titles with #PTF2020 so they are included. Also, please use the tag only on activities that are part of Trail Fest and not rides on road, trainers, or in other locations. As a rule of thumb, if 50% or more of the activity is on trails within the valley, tag it.

