

Tour De Patapsco Overview

What is the Tour De Patapsco?

It is 5 days worth of rides throughout just about every part of the Patapsco Valley State Park trail system, where we have minimized trail overlap in an effort to showcase the entire park. We have made the routes available for you to do on your own, or if a group setting is what you are looking for, Craig will be leading a Ride every Saturday from 9/12/20 to 10/10/20.

If you are on a ride that Craig is leading, please keep in mind that groups can be no larger than 10 people, and please no congregating and/or “hanging out” - we are serious about conducting these rides responsibly.

Could this all be done in one day? Sure, but we wanted this to be more accessible to everyone, so each day will be between 16.5 and 20 miles and will have between 1750' and 2400' feet of climbing, but for the crazies, we even have a 93-mile route posted.

It's just Patapsco. Won't it all be the same? That's a big nope! Some may be familiar, some new to you, but each ride will definitely have its own feel, as the different parts of the park have different terrain, and trails are definitely built differently in each part of the park. Most people don't realize that we have a little of everything here, from fast and flowing, to some decent hills, and definitely some more technical stuff.

Okay. What parts of the park are we hitting and when? Well, we will be hitting Avalon, Orange Grove, Glen Artney, Hillton, Rockhaven, Pickall, Hollofield, Alberton, Daniels, Woodstock, and McKeldin, so just about every area where we have rideable terrain. Also throwing in Rockburn Branch Park into the mix.

Is the start/finish in the same spot? Yes, they are. For the most part, the routes take us in big loops, where I tried to minimize hitting the same trail twice. In some areas, this is harder to do than others, but in most cases when we do double up it will be in opposite directions giving you a different feel of the trail

Will the courses be marked? That's a no. Again, the logistics of marking 90 miles of trails, and making sure they stay in place over the duration of Trailfest would be impossible. Instead, we have posted these as strava routes and made GPX files available for you, and I will be doing each of these as group rides. There will be a lead, a sweep, and probably some people in the middle that will know the route, and help guide / take care of any on trail issues. Not sure how big each ride will be, but if we get too big, we may need to split into groups, and the rides could be extremely slow, so stay patient.

Can we go ride by ourselves? Absolutely. This event is all about exploring the park and we encourage social distancing and self-led, virtual rides

Are the routes available for download (i.e. GPX files)? Yup. I've created them all in Strava as routes, and the GPX file can be pulled down from there. I have created separate rides for each day to describe the mileages/terrain, and will have a link to the strava route for that day there.

What happens if it rains? Well, we don't ride if it's muddy, so stay tuned to our MVD Facebook, and Meetup events, which is where I will post if I need to cancel a day or two.

We will be utilizing the standard MORE waiver.

Which days are we doing what?

Day 1: Saturday, 9/12/20 - "Avalon 1 of 2" - Think of this as "HoCo Avalon" - We will hit Avalon / Orange Grove / Rockburn. This will be the "easiest" ride.

Day 2: Saturday, 9/19/20 - "Avalon 2 of 2" - We will hit Avalon, Glen Artney, Hillton, Orange Grove, but different trails than day 1. A "Catonsville / Cascade ride".

Day 3: Saturday, 9/26/20 - "Flow and Rocks" - We will hit Hollofield, Pickall, Rockhaven

Day 4: Saturday, 10/3/20 - "Two big loops and a connector" - We will be in Mckeldin and Woodstock on this one.

Day 5: Saturday 10/10/20 - "Big ups and downs" - The final day in Woodstock, Alberton, and Daniels.

Any more questions? Shoot me an email and please, these are virtual rides that should not be more than 10 people total. Please don't congregate at trailheads - be safe!

Ride 1: Avalon / Orange Grove / Rockburn - 9/12/20

We will be starting in "Avalon" for this ride and will head over to the Howard County side, hitting most of the easier trails, including Rockburn, but also have some of the infamous log trails in the mix. We will have one big climb out of the park, but then it gets a bit easier, and flowier, with the exception of some logs later in the ride.

What's the Terrain? Easy to intermediate, with some technical spots / big logs thrown in that are all walkable, or have ride arounds. Expect mostly flow this day, but there are definitely some large logs, a short skinny bridge, some pretty treacherous root sections. Also, expect wet feet as there are multiple stream crossings.

I will be stopping a lot, as there are multiple turns on this route, and want to keep everyone together. Just be forewarned.

Mileage / Speed? Day one will be 17.7 miles and 1,784' feet of climbing. Due to the terrain, the front of the pack will be moving pretty good on this ride (i.e. 8 to 9 mph). Don't be scared of the pace, as we will stop a lot, give people a chance to breathe, and keep this super casual.

So, what's the route? It's a lot of looping/figure eighting of trails on the Howard County side, but we will hit the ridge extension, Purple/Rockburn Loop, Belmont Trail, head into Rockburn, and hit the powerline trail, the twisties, Jelly Bean, Frisby Golf Drag Strip, Nue Trail, Pain Cave, and then back into Patapsco to hit Morning Choice, Lewis and Clark, Barley and Hops, the old track loop, Nacho, another part of Morning Choice as well as Valley View, ending with Water Bars.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to "Export GPX" for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices: <https://www.strava.com/routes/26555122>

Ride 2: Avalon, Glen Artney, Hilton, Orange Grove - 9/19/20

This ride really incorporates most of the "Catonsville" side of Avalon (i.e. Avalon, Glen Artney, and Hilton). It also hits the Orange Grove area and Cascade/Garretts. What's cool about this ride is that it truly showcases some of the premier / newly built trails in the park, which have been put in over the last 5 years or so with organized trail days and the "Fun Series". Such trails as Allstars, Garrett's Pass, Bloede, Ridge Extension, Captain John will be on this one. Expect to go up and down a lot this day.

What's the schedule? I will give a brief overview of the ride around 10:00 / 10:15, with the plan to roll between 10:15 and 10:30. You will also need to sign a waiver before going, so arrive early to allow for parking, getting ready, signing the waiver, etc. We will have the standard MORE waiver for everyone to sign.

What's the Terrain? This ride will have some of the bigger hill climbs in "Avalon" on it so be prepared for those. Like all of Patapsco, those climbs do repay with some fun downs. Also, I think this has all of the rock gardens in Avalon, and a few pretty steep/technical downhill sections, as well as a bunch of flow. Due to the terrain and hills, I'd say this an intermediate ride for both skills and fitness and ask that you ride at your own pace. This one, I feel like the front of the pack will be ripping through the tech sections and downhills.

Also, keep in mind, I will be stopping a lot, as there are multiple turns on this route, and want to keep everyone together. Just be forewarned.

Mileage / Speed? Day two will be 17.7 miles and 2,020' feet of climbing. Similar mileage to day one, but much more elevation. Due to the terrain, the front of the pack will be moving pretty good on this ride (i.e. 8 to 9 mph). Don't be scared of the pace, as we will stop a lot, give people a chance to breathe, and keep this super casual.

So, what's the route? It's fun. We leave the main part of the park and head toward the lost lake via gunned, then head up soapstone / starstruck all the way up to the park and ride. We then bomb our way all the way back down Allstars, and then climb up the stone/cardiac / soapstone climb, and then we are on Santee all the way to Sawmill, then down the Buzzards Reroute, then

up ridge/cascade to landing road, back Garrett's, to Bloede, then up Garrett's to the Bike Buster Intersection, and then back down. Then we head up ridge, hit valley view, over to Captain John, and then back down the ridge extension to the main park.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to "Export GPX" for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices: <https://www.strava.com/routes/26220553>

Ride 3: Hollofield, Pickall, Rockhaven - 9/26/20

Of the 5 days, this will be the most technical ride of all of the rides. This one hits a lot of the rocks in Hollofield, Pickall, and Rockhaven. As this is a group ride I will be taking us on some of the more "manageable" terrain in these areas, where this terrain will only be cleared by advanced riders in some locations. All are walkable though.

What's the schedule? I will give a brief overview of the ride around 10:00 / 10:15, with the plan to roll between 10:15 and 10:30. You will also need to sign a waiver before going, so arrive early to allow for parking, getting ready, signing the waiver, etc. We will have the standard MORE waiver for everyone to sign.

What's the Terrain? This ride will have some of the most technical terrain in the park, and the power/punchiness of the hills/rock gardens will elevate your heart rate very fast. This will be an intermediate fitness, in advanced terrain ride. Think rocks, punchy hills, and more rocks. This is not a beginner-friendly ride.

Also, keep in mind, I will be stopping a lot, as there are multiple turns on this route, and want to keep everyone together. Just be forewarned.

Mileage / Speed? Day three will be 19 miles and 2,113' feet of climbing, but keep in mind you are working hard for these miles and hills due to the terrain. This will be a slower ride where the front of the pack will probably only be averaging around 7 mph (that's compared to 8 or 9 mph in Avalon). Don't be fooled by the mileage/elevation, this is a tough ride.

So, what's the route? Rocks. Please note, depending on the construction occurring in Pickall, this route may need to be modified. Starting in Hollofield, we'll pedal up the road to the new connector trail to the paved campground road. We'll make a right on the stone road (campground loop connector), then make an abrupt left onto the campground loop. We'll follow that over to the new OEC connector trail, then climb back up MORE fun than Route 40, do a short road bit over to Peaceful pond, down the flowy goodness of Out of Range, to the Last train to Ellicott City / BDTIP, cross over the Old Frederick Road Green Bridge, onto the Pickall trail on the other side, then climb up Festivus to Bestivus, to Restivus, to the Pavilion trail, and back down all of Festivus to the pickall trail again. As construction has devils horns a mess, we will skip that and do scared of devils horns, then climb up the through trail / Tarzan, then down Jane, to a middle connector backup to the through trail, and then down Stairway to Haven, then

head back millrace / pickall trail to the 701 climb, hit the newly open dogwood trail, then come back hollofield road, BDTITP, to the new ranger trails, and then back to the cars.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to "Export GPX" for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices:

<https://www.strava.com/routes/2731009602409367058>

Ride 4: McKeldin / Woodstock Loops - 10/3/20

So I'm hoping to not get us lost this day. LOL Of all the trails systems in the park, McKeldin is the area I know the worst. For this ride expect some long downs but also some long ups, along with a new connector trail to get us to and from each loop. There will be some technical sections but also a lot of flow and fast downs. This should be a fun day!

What's the schedule? I will give a brief overview of the ride around 10:00 / 10:15, with the plan to roll between 10:15 and 10:30. You will also need to sign a waiver before going, so arrive early to allow for parking, getting ready, signing the waiver, etc. We will have the standard MORE waiver for everyone to sign.

What's the Terrain? This one will have a little bit of everything, but mostly large climbs, flow, and some technical sections thrown in for fun. Nothing too aggressive, but will require intermediate fitness, and we will be in intermediate terrain.

Also, keep in mind, I will be stopping a lot, as there are multiple turns on this route, and want to keep everyone together. Just be forewarned.

Mileage / Speed? Day four will be 18.1 miles and 1,760' feet of climbing. Due to the terrain, the front of the pack will be moving at a moderate pace on this ride (i.e. 7.5 to 8 mph average, but expect fast on the downhills). Don't be scared of the pace, as we will stop a lot, give people a chance to breathe, and keep this super casual.

So, what's the route? It should be fun! We'll start in McKeldin, and head down the new Switchback/NTD trail, to switchback, to plantation, then back onto Switchback down by the river. Since we had all that fun, we will then be climbing back up the hill on that same trail, and then will turn left on Marriottsville Road, cross the river, then left onto the new Wood Mar trail (i.e. Woodstock Connector). We'll cross the river on Woodstock road and then do the Woodstock Loop (Quarry trail to Joes Trail, Church back to Quarry, Chevy Trail, then back the thru trail to Woodstock road). We'll then cross the river again, take Wood Mar the opposite direction, make a right on Marriottsville road, then a right onto switchback, back to the pavilions.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to "Export GPX" for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices: <https://www.strava.com/routes/26556828>

Ride 5: Woodstock Inn take over (Woodstock, Alberton, Daniels) - 10/10/20

So this one is all about the hills. The good news is that there are ways to bail to easier terrain to get back. Our ride will stay up on the ridges and hit a lot of the longer / harder climbs, but also reward you with some of the best downhills. Much of Trail fest and the enduro route are featured on this route. Get those legs and heart ready for this one!

I will be directly across from the Inn near the new bike station. We will meet there.

What's the schedule? I will give a brief overview of the ride around 10:00 / 10:15, with the plan to roll between 10:15 and 10:30. You will also need to sign a waiver before going, so arrive early to allow for parking, getting ready, signing the waiver, etc. We will have the standard MORE waiver for everyone to sign.

What's the Terrain? This one will have a little bit of everything, but mostly large climbs, flow, and some technical sections thrown in for fun. Nothing too aggressive, but will require intermediate fitness, and we will be in intermediate terrain. This route definitely features some of the longest climbs in the park, and they feel like they just keep coming at you.

Keep in mind, I will be stopping a lot, as there are multiple turns on this route and want to keep everyone together. Just be forewarned.

Mileage / Speed? Day five will be 18.3 miles and 2,450' feet of climbing. Pay attention to that elevation. You will be climbing during this ride! Due to the climbing, the front of the pack will be moving at a moderate pace on this ride (i.e. around 7.5 mph average, but expect fast on the downhills). Don't be scared of the pace, as we will stop a lot, give people a chance to breathe, and keep this super casual. Just know there is a lot of elevation that comes at you quickly (and believe it or not there is about a 2.5 mile flat section in this. LOL)

So, what's the route? Brutal climbs with fun downs! We'll start at the Inn, go across the bridge and into Woodstock. We will turn left on the Thru trail, then head up More fun (i.e. Dixon's ridge). We'll take More fun to the upper through trail, take the new washout climb up, up the BGE road and back onto the upper through trail, and then drop down to the train tracks/river. We then will be on Alberton road for about 2.5 miles (flat and breather). We'll pop out on to the road for a few minutes on Dog Wood, and mainly Hollofield Roads. We'll then cross the Old Frederick road bridge, and make a right into Daniels, climbing the Daniels Access trail. We will take the newer ridge trail all the way up to the church loops. We'll do church loop 3/4, and then drop down the Daniels road trail, cross over Daniels road, and then up the Switch Plate trail, over to the Daniel's singletrack, drop down to the river, then climb backup up to the Daniels single track. Then we'll go up Candyman to Allenford, up Horse fly Alley, Davis trails, to Affeldt/Affeldt Gasoline/No beach lost, then the Lil Bird loop, drop down the Davis trail to the Hoco Thru trail back to the Inn.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to “Export GPX” for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices: <https://www.strava.com/routes/26220377>

Tour De Patapsco - The Whole Enchilada!

The one ride I will not lead. You are on your own for this one if you dare. This is how to link the entire park together with minimal overlap, and minimal road riding. Can you say 97.2 miles, and 11,200' of elevation. This will be killer for anyone that pulls it off. Get some.

Here is the Strava Route. There is a button under the title to “Export GPX” for those who want to pull this down for their mapping devices:

<https://www.strava.com/routes/2732342134021755544>