

## ***M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure***



02-21-2009; [PVSP-McKeldin Area Circuit](#), MD: The McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley State Park consists of 1403 acres on the Howard and Carroll County border. It has 8 miles of well maintained trails, most of which are multi-use. The focal point for hikers has to be the Switchback and McKeldin Rapids Trails as they follow the banks of the north and south branches of the Patapsco River.

Janet and I tried to do this hike about 3 weeks ago but had to abort due to icy trail conditions. When Precious and I arrived today the skies and trails were clear. We started out on the Tall Poplar Trail and then the Plantation Trail, finally descending on the Switchback Trail to explore both branches of the River. The riverside hike was pretty attractive with [mini-rapids](#), [deep pools](#) and [quiet sections](#). We pretty much had the trails to ourselves until we reached the south-west section of the Switchback Trail. There we passed or were passed by the occasional runner, biker and family taking a stroll. Up until that point and when we did what I like to call the "internal" blue, purple and orange loops we were pretty much alone. I don't know if it's like this all of the time but for today things were pretty peaceful.

The Coup de Grace had to be the McKeldin Rapids Trail with several [small rapids](#) prior to reaching the [larger rapids](#) of the same name.

All in all we hiked 7.5 miles, as we backtracked on some trails to make sure we explored every inch of trail save the Medicine Tree Trail. This is a great hike for beginners and families with kids over 8 or so.