2023 EVENT GUIDE

JUNE 23-25, 2023 | MISSOULA, MONTANA



BEER RUN | FIVE K | RUNNERS EXPO | KIDS MARATHON HALF MARATHON | MISSOULA MARATHON



THE LAST BEST RACE IN THE LAST BEST PLACE PRESENTED BY **RUN WILD MISSOULA**



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MONTANA MADE. MONTANA MAKING.



www.umontana.edu

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

3:00-4:00pm Special Presentation from Martinus Evans

& the Slow AF Run Club

Caras Park, Downtown Missoula, 123 Carousel Dr

4:00-8:00pm Missoula Marathon Runners Expo

Dozens of Vendors; Kids Marathon Registration + Bib & Cape Pickup; Tony Banovich 5K Bib & Shirt Pickup; Missoula Marathon & Half Marathon Bib, Shirt & Gearbag Pickup, *Caras Park, Downtown Missoula,*

123 Carousel Dr

4:30-7:30pm Live Bluegrass Music from Milltown Damn

6:00pm Beer Run & Welcome Gathering

Caras Park, Downtown Missoula, 123 Carousel Dr

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

7:00-7:30am Tony Banovich 5K Bib & Shirt Pickup

Caras Park, Downtown Missoula, 123 Carousel Dr **We Strongly Encourage You to Pick Up Your Packet**

Friday Evening

8:00am-4:00pm Missoula Marathon Runners Expo

Dozens of Vendors; Missoula Marathon & Half Marathon Bib, Shirt & Gearbag Pickup, Caras Park, Downtown Missoula,

123 Carousel Dr

8:00am Tony Banovich 5K Start

The Wilma, Downtown Missoula, 131 S Higgins

8:30-9:30am Kids Marathon Registration + Bib & Cape Pickup

Boone & Crockett Club, 250 Station Dr

10:00am Kids Marathon Start

Boone & Crockett Club, 250 Station Dr

1:00pm Elite Competitors Technical Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton Missoula-Edgewater

50 States Club Marathon Club Board Meeting

DoubleTree by Hilton Missoula-Edgewater

5:30-10:30pm Late Bib & Gearbag Pickup

Missoula Airport, 5225 Hwy 10 W

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

2:30pm

4:15-5:15am Bus Load for Transport to Start Lines

University of Montana [see map]

6:00am Missoula Marathon & Half Marathon Start

7:00am-2:00pm Post Race Celebrations

Caras Park, Downtown Missoula, 123 Carousel Dr

1:30pm Missoula Marathon & Half Marathon

Course Closure



WELCOME!

Our race committee along side the Missoula community are beyond excited to welcome you to Big Sky Country for the Missoula Marathon Weekend of Events! Whether you are a first time participant, a 50-stater, one of our legacy runners or anywhere in between, thank you for choosing Missoula.

Our bustling city by the the Clark Fork river is a hub for unique eateries, breweries & spirits as well as attractions for the whole family. Missoula is also the vibrant core of Western Montana recreation.

This weekend is a culmination of efforts from dedicated race committee members, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, suppliers, retailers, hoteliers, government agencies and more. Our community support and commitment to a top-notch runner experience has allowed us to be regularly named on best-of, must-do and bucket lists. But, without participants like you, we wouldn't thrive, so as a thanks, take full advantage of our home-grown hospitality!

We hope you go home with memories of an exceptional race in a beautiful place. You've done all the hard work to get to the start line, now let us encourage and support you to the finish!

Enjoy Every Step!

Trisha Drobeck
Race Director, Missoula Marathon
Executive Director, Run Wild Missoula





RUNNERS EXPO

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 4:00-8:00PM | SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 8:00AM-4:00PM | CARAS PARK

RUNNERS EXPO VENDORS

50 States Marathon Club Alpine Physical Therapy

Beartooth Bathrooms

Big Sky Brewing

Blue Peak Creative

Compeitive Timing

Culligan Water

Destination Missoula

Eau Claire Marathon

Ener-GHEE

ERA Lambros Real Estate

Flanagan Mazda

Hidow

Hunter Bay Coffee

Last Best Supply Co

Little Orbits of MT

Medsense Massagers

Missoula Marathon Official

Merchandise

Missoula Works Ventures

Montana Tees

MT Air National Guard

Natural Grocers

Negative Split

Paradis Sport

Robert's Run

RooSport Magnetic Pockets

Run Wild Missoula

Runner's Edge Specialty

Running Store

Slow AF Run Club

Spokane to Sandpoint Relay

TDS Fiber Internet

University of Montana

Vimazi

Youer

Your Home Improvement Co

Youth Homes



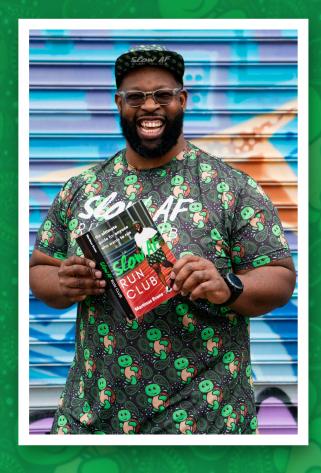
FEATURED GUEST - SLOW AF RUN CLUB MARTINUS EVANS

JUNE 23-24 | RUNNER'S EXPO

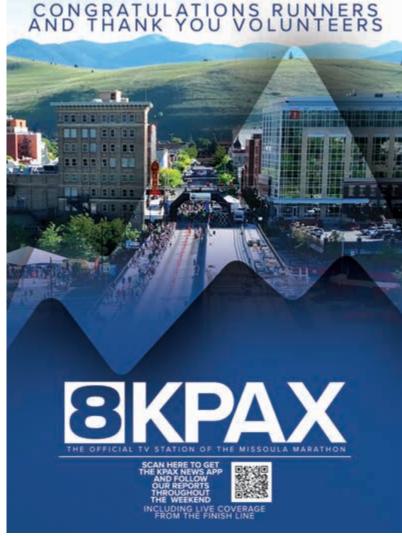
The Missoula Marathon is beyond thrilled to have Martinus Evans join us for our race in 2023! Martinus will be at the Runner's Expo Friday and Saturday to meet, inspire, sign, books, and sell merchandise. He will also be participating in some of the weekends races so participants will get a chance to run with him!

Martinus is an 8-time marathon runner, author, and award-winning speaker who empowers people to embrace the body they have right now, lace up their shoes, and MOVE. His passion led him to found the Slow AF Run Club, a global community of over 10,000 members who are challenging the preconceived notions of what a runner should look like.

Slow AF Run Club: The Ultimate Guide for Anyone Who Wants to Run is for those who may not fit the image of a "traditional" runner. It's a how-to guide aimed at helping those at the "back of the pack" feel empowered to lace up their running shoes and get moving in their body as-is.







NATURAL AND ORGANIC Good Food Store

For more than 50 years, we have worked to provide our friends, neighbors, and visitors with fresh, organic, and locally sourced food. We invite you over to enjoy all we have to offer.

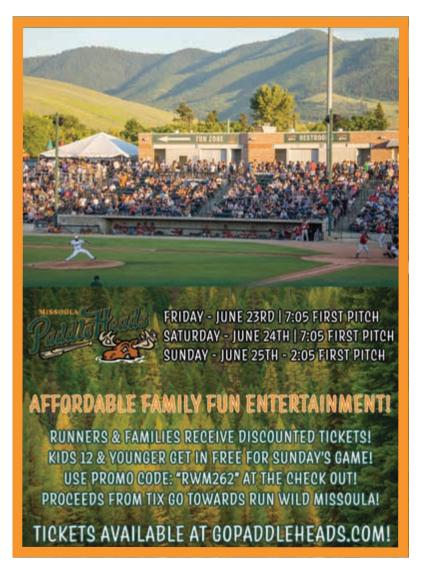
Deli & Café • Cheese Corner • Meat & Seafood Produce • Bakery • Beer & Wine • Health & Beauty Bulk • Floral • Supplements • Housewares • Gifts

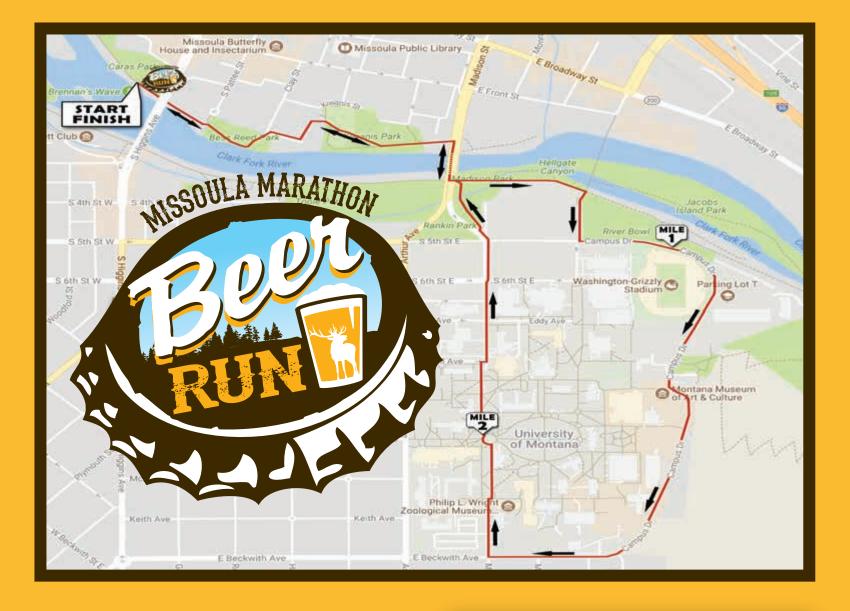
Best of luck to you all!





goodfoodstore.com 1600 S. 3rd St. West 406.541.3663





MISSOULA MARATHON BEER RUN LAST BEST BEER

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 | START TIME: 6:00PM | CARAS PARK

Come shake your legs out Friday night with a relaxed 3-mile route hosted by Run Wild Missoula!

This legendary 3.1 mile social run around Missoula is free and will start and end at Caras Park Pavilion, in beautiful downtown Missoula, and will conclude with a party in Caras Park with live music from Milltown Damn and a free beer for all finishers over 21, compliments of Big Sky Brewing Company.

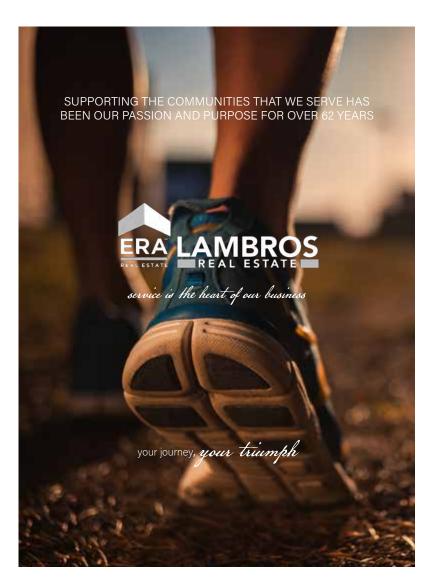
Extra beer and wine will also be available for purchase. Please feel free to converse with any of our specially clad Beer Run Guides along the course regarding questions about Missoula or the Missoula Marathon weekend.

Don't be afraid to join us. **This is NOT a beer mile** — you don't have to "chug" a beer midway through, nor is it a race. It's a nice, social run and walk where you can have a beer at the end, or not. So, please come, join the party and meet some of your fellow runners and walkers in a more casual setting!



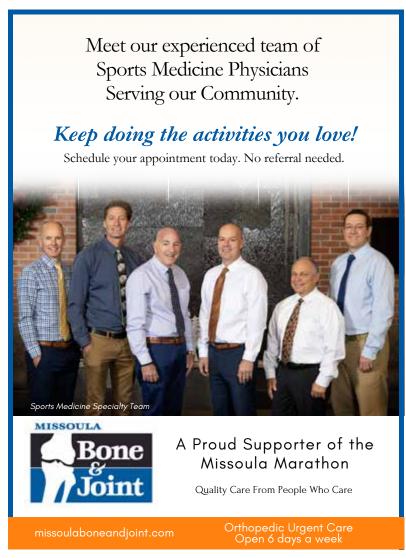












RACE INFORMATION

RACE PACKET PICKUP

You **MUST** pick up your race packet at the Runners Expo (Caras Park, Downtown Missoula) on Friday, June 23d from 4:00–8:00p.m. or Saturday, June 24th from 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m. There will be **NO** packet pick up on race day. You may have a friend pick up your packet for you. For late arrivals into Missoula, we have made arrangements for a late packet pick up at the Missoula Airport from 5:30–10:30p.m. on Saturday evening.

PRE-RACE PASTA DINNER

We do not have an official Missoula Marathon pasta dinner. With all the great restaurants in Missoula, we want to give you a chance to experience our city. At the Runners Expo, visit Destination Missoula or Missoula Downtown Partnership for restaurant ideas.

MISSOULA MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON

Start at 6 a.m. There are **NO** early start times.

TEMPERATURE

Mild to warm & low humidity. Expect to start off in the low 50s and end in the 70s if you finish around noon.

COURSE AND COURSE SAFETY

(Full list of course rules in the Race Info/FAQ tab at www.MissoulaMarathon.org)

The course is coned and marked very well, but it is open to traffic. There will be volunteers or police officers at most intersections. Please remain on the right side of the road unless otherwise directed. The last 10K of the races are split, marathon left side of the road and half marathon right side of the road.

Music devices and earbuds/earphones are strongly discouraged. For your safety and the safety of those around you, it is recommended that you leave the music at home on race day. Baby joggers are allowed, but we ask that you start toward the back. Dogs are not allowed (with the exception of required service animals).

It is strongly recommended that all handcycle and wheelchair participants wear a helmet. Due to the course being open to traffic, a flag (at least 5' off the ground) and/or flashing light(s) on each wheelchair or handcycle is recommended.

Participants should be aware that the marathon and half marathon courses merge at the 15.8 mile point of the marathon (mile 2.7 of the half marathon). Marathon participants are likely to encounter half marathon participants after the merge point. Wheelchair and handcycle marathon participants with finishing times faster than 2:00 (2 hours) can expect large numbers of half marathon participants from the merge point to the finish. Please use caution when overtaking slower participants.

Half marathon participants should be aware that marathon participants, both runners and wheelers, may be overtaking them after the merge point. Half marathoners with finish times over 1:40 (1 hour, forty minutes) – be aware that you are likely to be overtaken by wheelchair and handcycle marathon participants who may be traveling at a much faster speed than you. Please obey any commands from course monitors and/or escort bicycles/vehicles.

We ask that all faster participants yield right of way and go around when overtaking slower participants. All participants, please use extra caution when overtaking and passing other participants on the section of bike path near mile 20.5. Over the last 5.5 miles ±, the half and marathon will be split by

cones to give you more room. Half marathoners please stay on the right side of the cones. Marathoners please stay on the left side of the cones. Please do not cut across cones when turning at corners.

If you experience medical issues while on the course, please look for a volunteer, bike monitor, or police officer. There is a fully staffed medical tent at the finish. If you have to drop out of the race, please let a volunteer at an aid station or law enforcement officer know and they will arrange for you to be transported.

COURSE TIME LIMIT

The half and marathon course officially close at 1:30 p.m., a 7 1/2 hour limit. There will be no official time for anyone taking longer than seven and a half hours. Aid stations, traffic control, volunteers, etc. will relinquish their posts based upon the 7 1/2 hour completion time. You will be kindly asked to move to a sidewalk should you chose to continue.

TOILETS

There are port-a-potties at each start, the finish, and at every aid station on the course.

AID STATIONS

There are 14 aid stations for the marathon and 8 aid stations for the half marathon. They are approximately every 2-3 miles then every mile during the last 10K. Each aid station will have Powerade (lemon-lime) at the 1st table and water at the 2nd table. Cliff Shot Gel will be handed out at 3 aid stations. Please check the course map to see which aid stations will have gel. There will be two flavors of Cliff Shot Gel: Strawberry (CAFFEINE) and Vanilla (NO CAFFEINE).

SECURITY CONCERNS

- Pre-Race shuttles are for participants wearing bibs only.
- Please check your gear bags promptly upon your arrival at the starting line. Bags left unattended are subject to search and removal.
- Participants will be ushered through the finish chute to the gear bag pickup zone. They will then leave the finish area and walk to the food and post-race area in Caras Park. Participants can wait for other finishers at the post-race events area in Caras Park. There will be no re-entry into the participant area once finishers exit to Caras Park.

GEAR BAGS

You will be given your gear bag at packet pickup. Please make sure your gear bag has your correct race number written on it. Both start lines will have a drop off area and your bag will be transported to the finish area courtesy of UPS. Please do not leave any valuables in your gear bag. We will only accept the gear bags provided, there will be NO other bags accepted. When you pick up your gear bag at the finish, you will be required to show your bib number.

BUS SHUTTLE

There is **NO parking** at either the marathon or half marathon start. The bus pick up for both races will be at the University of Montana. *Please see the bus loading map for more info.*

AGE DIVISIONS

(Marathon) 0-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+

(Half) 0-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+

(5K) 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+

PACE GROUPS

We strive to have pacers for the following times:

Marathor

3:00 (6:52 mi pace), 3:10 (7:14 mi pace), 3:20 (7:37 mi pace), 3:30 (8:00 mi pace), 3:40 (8:23 mi pace), 3:50 (8:46 mi pace), 4:00 (9:09 mi pace), 4:10 (9:32 mi pace), 4:20 (9:55 mi pace), 4:30 (10:17 mi pace), 4:40 (10:40 mi pace), 4:50 (11:03 mi pace), 5:00 (11:26 mi pace).

Half Marathon

1:30 (6:52 pace), 1:40 (7:37 pace), 1:50 (8:23 pace), 2:00 (9:09 pace), 2:10 (9:55 pace), 2:20 (10:40 pace), 2:30 (11:25 pace).

The pacers will wear bright pacers shirts and carry balloons with the pace time written on them. Please remember our pacers are volunteers with their own potential injuries, and they aren't professional pacers.

TIMING/RESULTS

The Marathon, Half, and 5K will be chip timed by Competitive Timing with results posted as quickly as possible on race day. There will be 7 split mats for the marathon and 3 split mats for the half.

AWARDS

Age group awards will be mailed out in the weeks following the race after results are official.

RACE PHOTOS

All marathon and half marathon participants will receive free on-course photos via EnMotive. There are no official race photos for the Kids Marathon or 5K.

MISSOULA MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, TONY BANOVICH 5K FINISHERS

All finishers of the Missoula Marathon, Half Marathon and Tony Banovich Missoula 5K receive a technical short-sleeve shirt, a medal, gear bag, post race food, live runner tracking, free race photos and more! (No gear bag, post-race food or photos in 5K).

BIG 3 CHALLENGE

If you participated in the Beer Run, 5K, and Marathon or Half Marathon you will receive a special Missoula Marathon Big 3 Challenge reward. After you cross the finish line on Sunday, look for Big Three Challenge signs for your reward!!

RUNNER TRACKING

Live participant tracking & results for the the Tony Banovich 5K, Missoula Marathon and Half Marathon are available via Competitive Timing App. Available on the App Store and Google Play.

In the app: Search for and click on the event you'll be following or participating in. Spectators can track any number of participants and view live progress on a map.

BE SOCIAL!

Tag us on social media during race weekend at #MissoulaMarathon, #LastBestRace and @missoulamarathon



BUS LOAD/PARKING/RUNNER DROP OFF MAP

- » NO parking at the start of the half and marathon, ALL participants must take the buses to the start of the marathon and half.
- » Buses will run from 4:15am-5:15am; please allow yourself plenty of time for parking. We *STRONGLY* suggest you load one of the earlier buses.
- » Bus load will be at the University of Montana (Less than a mile walk from finish area).

Thank you University of Montana for hosting our bus pick up.

Due to construction, parking at the University is extremely limited this year. We strongly encourage you to bike or utilize runner drop offs.

PARKING

- 1. You can park downtown on the streets or in one of the parking garages. On-street parking and the parking garages offer FREE parking on Sunday morning. After parking, you can walk to the bus load on campus. (it will be well marked). You can find the parking garages on the map.
- 2. You can park at the University in marked lots and walk to bus load. Following the race, you will be able to walk along the Milwaukee Trail or Ron's River Trail back to your parked car.

DROP OFFS

- 1. You can utilize the runner drop off at the University from the south entrance of Campus Drive.
- 2. Another great drop off location is East Front & Van Buren to access the pedestrian bridge to







 From now on follow the Marathon Course Directions

FINISH: On Higgins Ave at Front Street

Left on Beverly

Right on Hilda Left on Eddy Right on Gerald Left on Fourth Right onto Higgins Over the Beartracks Bridge

SE MAP MARATHON & HALF MARATHON

Sunday, June 25, 2023 | Start Time 6:00am



ELITE RUNNERS

An updated list of elite athletes can be found in the RACE INFO -Awards/Elites section of MissoulaMarathon.org

2023 HALF MARATHON

WOMEN

Makena Morley (PR 1:09:48) Bigfork, MT. 2016, 2017, 2018 Champion and Course Record Holder, Half Marathon Montana Soil Record

Allie Schaich (PR 1:13:05, 2:34:36 Marathon) Portland, OR. 2024 Olympic Trials Qualifier, Third 2023 Eugene Half Marathon

Elizabeth Wasserman (PR 1:16:39) Columbia Falls, MT. 2022 Missoula Half Marathon Champion, 2020 Olympic Marathon Trials Qualifier

Kayla Moore (PR 1:19:37) Portland, OR.

Katrina Ivancic (PR 1:19:43) Bozeman, MT. 1st 2023 Run to the Pub Half Marathon

Anna Rogahn (PR 1:22, 2:49:32 Marathon) Butte. MT.

Abby Rodseth (PR 1:24:57, 2:46:41 Marathon) Power, MT. 4th 2023 Missoula Half Marathon

Kelsie Zitzer (PR 1:21:37, 2:50:07 Marathon) Dillon, MT.

Madison Liechty (PR 1:22:50) Bozeman, MT. Second 2022 Missoula Half Marathon, 2022 Montana Cup Champion

Sue Huse (PR 1:24:23) [Masters] Missoula, MT. 2023 Boise River Half Marathon Champion

Nicole Murray (PR 1:26:48) [Masters] Whitehall, MT. National Champion Mt Running, 9th place World Championships Mt Running, 2x Olympic Trials Qualifier

Makenna Edwards Missoula, MT.

MEN

Brian Masterson (PR 1:05:27) Hometown: Seattle, WA. Sixth and Eighth Fastest All-Time Missoula Half Marathon, Second 2023 Eugene Half Marathon

Steve Raswey Ng'etich (PR 1:05.25) Hometown: Seattle, WA. Winner 2023 Eugene Half Marathon

Gregory Mitchell (PR 1:08:21) [Masters] Hometown: Nampa, ID. 2014 & 2015 USATF Masters Individual Grand Prix Champion

Jorey Egeland (PR 1:09:20) Hometown: Billings, MT

Robert Peterson (Marathon PR 2:28:38) Hometown: Billings, MT

Isaac Benz (Debut) Menasha, WI.

Ase Ackerman (Debut) Hometown: Billings, MT

Daniel Colmenero (Debut) Hometown: Billings, MT

2023 MISSOULA MARATHON

WOMEN

Bonnie Keating (PR 2:40:15) San Diego, CA. 2022 Missoula Marathon Champion and Course Record Holder, 2020 Olympic Trials Qualifier

Heather Lieberg (PR 2:34:07) [Masters] Helena, MT. Missoula Marathon Master's Record Holder, 2016 & 2020 Olympic Trials Qualifier

Kate Landau-Olmstead (PR 2:31:56) [Masters] Tacoma, WA. 1996 and 2020 Olympic Trials Qualifier and First Masters, First Masters 2019 Boston and NYC Marathons

Mary Wirtz (PR 2:43:30) Billings, MT. 2020 Olympic Trials Qualifier

Erin Forde (PR 2:45:29) Missoula, MT. 2021 Jack & Jill Downhill Marathon Champion

Sarah Hutchings (PR 2:48:25) Boulder, CO.

Sarah Seus (PR 2:51:30) San Francisco, CA.

Dawn McElvain (PR 2:52:58) [Masters] Austin, TX.

Tatyana Steis (PR 2:59:45) [Masters] Arlington, VA.

Claire Benjamin (Debut, Half PR 1:15:59) Louisville. CO.

MEN

Mark Messmer (PR 2:17:27) Castle Rock, CO. 2019 & 2021 Champion, Second, Third All-Time Missoula Marathon, 2020 & 2024 Olympic Trials Qualifier

Kenneth Kosgei (PR 2:18:31) Salem, OR. 2019 Missoula Marathon Champion & Course Record Holder

Geofrey Terer (PR 2:25:18) [Masters] Colorado Springs, CO. 2016 & 2017 Missoula Marathon Champion, Missoula Marathon Master's Record Holder

Jason Delaney (PR 2:19:17) [Masters] Polson, MT. 2013 Champion, Fifth and Eighth Fastest All-Time Missoula Marathon, Second All-Time Masters

Chris Gish (PR 2:29:53) Charlo, MT.

Tyler Lance (PR 2:38:15, Half 1:09) Algona, IA.



MISSOULA MARATHON & HALF MARATHON

Ö COURSE RECORDS

MARATHON

Men's Open

Matthew Adams - 2:20:27* - 2014 Mark Messmer - 2:21:36 - 2022 Mark Messmer - 2:24:00 - 2019 Luis Orta - 2:24:58 - 2014 Jason Delaney - 2:26:10 - 2013 *Montana Soil Record

Women's Open

Bonnie Keating 2:46:36 - 2022 Trisha Drobeck - 2:46:54 - 2015 Trisha Drobeck - 2:48:35 - 2016 Trisha Drobeck - 2:49:32 - 2012 Kayla Brown - 2:50:47 - 2019

Men's Masters

Geofrey Terer - 2:31:11 - 2017 Jason Delaney - 2:32:55 - 2022 Michael Wardian - 2:34:22 - 2016 Jesse Zentz - 2:34:32 - 2016 Jesse Zentz - 2:37:22 - 2018

Women's Masters

Heather Lieberg - 2:51:33 - 2022 Mo Bookwalter - 3:08:05 - 2019 Mo Bookwalter - 3:10:34 - 2016 Jenni Brown - 3:12:58 - 2019 Julie Gilchrist - 3:14:14 - 2015

HALF MARATHON

Men's Open

Kenneth Kosgei - 1:05:30 - 2019 Mick Iacofano - 1:06:00 - 2019 Nicholas Hilton - 1:06:04 - 2016 Zach Perrin - 1:06:17 - 2022 Carlos Trujillo - 1:06:22- 2014

Women's Open

Makena Morley - 1:14:29 - 2019 Makena Morley - 1:15:52 - 2018 Heather Lieberg - 1:15:55 - 2015 Heather Lieberg - 1:15:56 - 2014 Allison Morgan - 1:16:05 - 2015

Men's Masters

Sam Krieg - 1:10:56 - 2018 Mike Bresson - 1:11:20 - 2012 Michael Wardian - 1:11:34 - 2017 Sam Krieg - 1:11:35 - 2017 Jesse Zentz - 1:14:53 - 2017

Women's Masters

Rachel Jaten - 1:19:39 - 2016 Christine Julien - 1:24:57 - 2011 Danielle Shahan - 1:26:40 - 2014 Jenny Newton - 1:26:49 - 2015 Nicole Murray - 1:26:50 -2022



SPECTATOR HIGHLIGHTS

PLACES TO WATCH ON THE COURSE

MARATHON - Mile 9.6

Mullan Rd & Kona Ranch Rd From downtown, take Broadway West to Mullan Road. First course turn and Aid Station #3.

MARATHON - Mile 16.7 // HALF - Mile 4

Clements Rd & North Ave W

Take Reserve South to South Ave and right on Clements.

Look for the big cow (no joke!)

MARATHON - Mile 23.4 // HALF - Mile 10.3

Rose Park Playground - Franklin St & Blaine St Take South Ave to Brooks St northbound. Park near Brooks and Mount and walk to park.

MARATHON - Mile 26.2 // HALF - Mile 13.1

Finish Line on Beartracks Bridge! Both east and west Pedestrian walkways are open. Reunite with your participant in Caras Park.



FOLLOW ALONG



Scan here for the Competitive Timing App



SCAN HERE TO GET THE KPAX NEWS APP AND FOLLOW OUR REPORTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND



FROM THE FINISH LINE



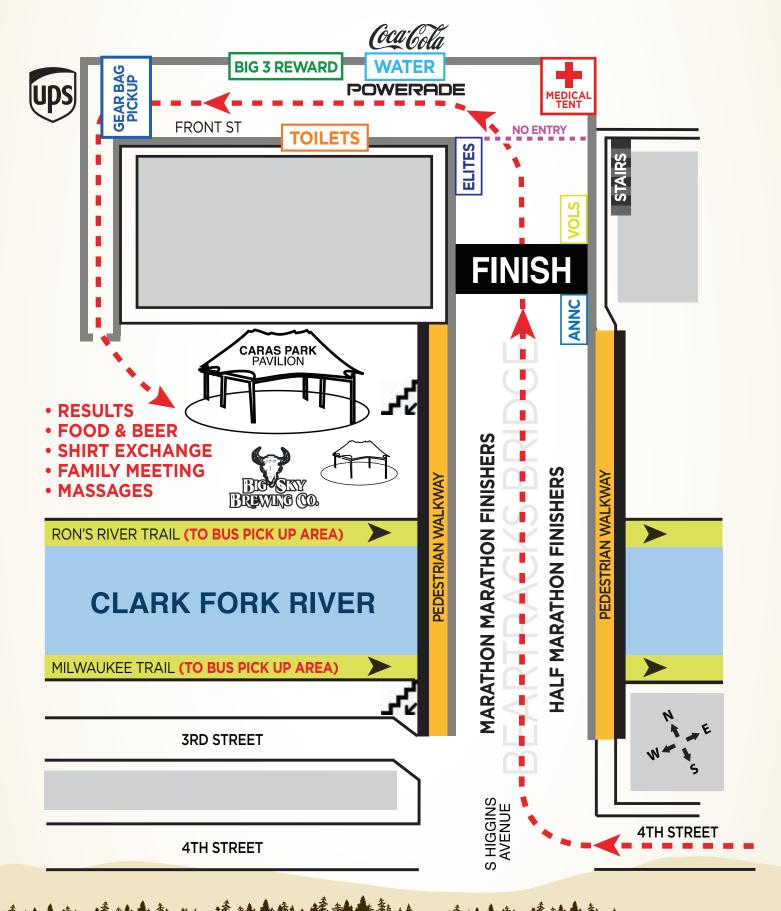




MISSOULA MARATHON & HALF MARATHON

FINISH AREA MAP

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 | COURSE IS OPEN 6:00AM-1:30PM



Sxwúytis Smxe Nxlews | Grizzly Bear Tracks's Bridge

Beartracks Bridge - Historical Background

Courtesy of Sélis-Qlispé Culture Committee Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes



Above: Higgins Bridge, c. 1874-76.(Mansfield Library, Univ. of Montana)





Above: Sx∞uytis Smxe — Grizzly Bear Tracks, 1854. (Gustavus Sohon portrait, National Anthropological Archives)

Beartracks is a name steeped in the history and culture of the Séliš (pronounced SEH-leesh, Salish or "Flathead") people. It is also of direct relevance to the site of the bridge itself, an area that sits at the heart of the overlapping territories of the Séliš and Qlispé (pronounced Kah-lee-SPEH, upper Kalispel or "Pend d'Oreille").

More than 130 years ago in 1891, the U.S. Government began the forced removal of the Selis under the leadership of Chief Charlo from the Bitterroot Valley to the Flathead Reservation. During this forced march some of the Bitterroot Selis, directed by sub-Chief Louis Vanderburg, crossed the river where the Beartracks Bridge stands today. The importance of Missoula and the surrounding valleys to the Selis and Qlispe has not faded in that time.

"Beartracks" is a shortened translation of the Salish name Sxwúytis Smxe, which means Grizzly Bear's Tracks. From the mid-nineteenth century on, English speakers have often referred to the Vanderburgs, members of the prominent and respected Séliš family, by the simplified name "Beartrack" or "Beartracks."

The formerly Higgins Ave bridge was officially renamed on April 22, 2021, when the Montana Transportation Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposal submitted by the Missoula County Commissioners with the support of the Missoula City Council. The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes recommended the name "Beartracks Bridge."

Whether we use the name Beartracks Bridge, Sxwúytis Smxe Nxlews, or Grizzly Bear Tracks's Bridge, it honors the Beartracks / Vanderburg family, the many other descendants of Sxwúytis Smxe, and the Séliš people as a whole — and remind us of the ancient and continuing Séliš-Qlispé connection to this place.

TONY BANOVICH 5K COURSE MAP

Saturday, June 24 | Start time: 8:00am



ABOUT THE TONY BANOVICH 5K

On October 14, 2020, our Montana running family lost a treasured friend and invaluable supporter. Tony Banovich, Race Director for the Missoula Marathon and Executive Director of Run Wild Missoula, was kind, generous, and encouraging of all, welcoming countless new runners over the years. He was deeply dedicated to both Missoula and Montana running communities.

It is in his honor and aligned with his spirit, we bring this 5K to the streets of Missoula.

Tony Banovich High School Cross Country Scholarship

Through the Tony Banovich Memorial Fund, Run Wild Missoula is offering high school XC scholarships for gear and races. In 2022, RWM offered 43 scholarships to local youth runners and will do the same in the fall of 2023. Thank you to all our 5K participants contributing to this program.



MISSOULA KIDS MARATHON

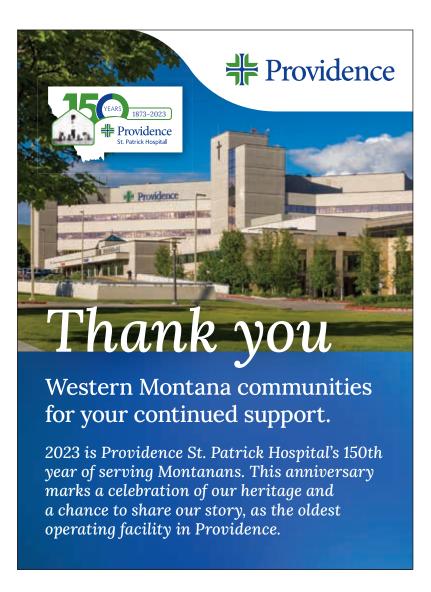
Saturday, June 24 | Start Time: 10:00am RUN. HAVE FUN. BE SUPER.

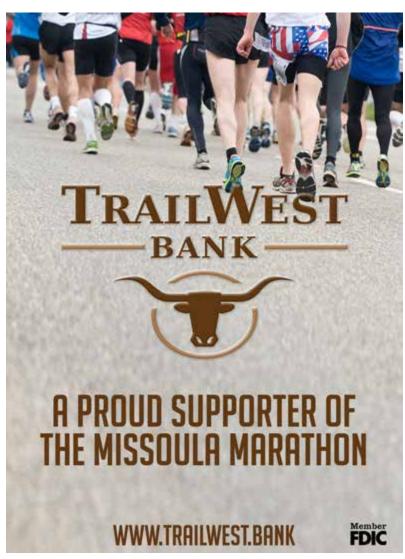
A spectator and crowd favorite, the Missoula Kids Marathon is a non-competitive and non-timed 1.2 mile run. It's all about having fun and staying active all the way to the finish line! Every child is a winner and will be rewarded with an official race number, cape, goodie bag, and colorful medal-just for finishing!

Not Registered? No problem! We'll have registration Friday evening at the Runner's Expo and Saturday morning near the start line.

THANK YOU 3 RIVERS PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY FOR SPONSORSING THE MISSOULA KIDS MARATHON!













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