# RUN THE BLUE LINE®

#### PARTICIPANT AND SPECTATOR GUIDE

\*Information not final. Final Instructions available two weeks prior to race day.





#### **FRIDAY**

Health and Fitness Expo: John S. Knight Center 77 E. Mill St, Akron 11:00 a.m. - Doors Open 8:00 p.m. - Doors Close

#### Kids Fun Run:

Start: 300 S. Main St, Akron, OH 44308 Finish: Akron Civic Theatre 182 S. Main St, Akron 5:30 p.m. - Race Start 6:15 p.m. - Course Closes 7:00 p.m. - Venue Closes

#### **SATURDAY**

FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half
Marathon & Team Relay:
Start: Akron Art Museum
1 S. High St, Akron
Finish: Akron Civic Theatre
182 S. Main St, Akron
6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony
6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division Start
7:00 a.m. - Marathon, Half Marathon &
Team Relay Start
1:40 p.m. - Course Closes

1:45 p.m. - Finisher Festival Closes

#### RACE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

#### TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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#### SPECTATOR INFORMATION

\*Watch the start of the race north of the starting line. Spectators are not allowed inside the start line corrals. \*Walk east one block on Market St towards Mile 3.7 (corner of Broadway St and Market St).

\*Walk south 3 blocks and turn left on University Ave. near mile 11.3

\*Walk 2 blocks west to Main St. to see runners as they finish.



Location: John S. Knight Center 77 E. Mill St, Akron, OH 44308

Date: Friday, September 29 Time: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

You will receive an email/text message race week with your bib number. Please know your bib number prior to arriving.

All runners MUST pick up their packets on Friday, September 29, 2023. Runner shirts are located at the end of the Expo Hall. Each runner should pick up his or her own packet and shirt. There is NO packet pick up the day of the race. If you are unable to attend, race packets and shirts may be picked up by a friend or family member who must verify the runner's registration information.





# Kids Fun Run Presented by Akron Children's Hospital

- FREE 1-mile fun run for children 12 years of age and under
- All participants receive a gift, medal & healthy snack.

#### **Bib Information**

Participants must pin the bib on the front of their shirt. Safety pins will be provided.

It is imperative that the registration data associated with your race number belongs to you, the participant. While it may seem harmless to run under an unauthorized number, it conveys serious consequences to the organizers and the participant field alike. Correct information allows medical staff to correctly identify participants in need of treatment and ensures accuracy of race results and awards.

Please take care not to bend or cut your race bib, in doing so you may damage your timing device.

## **Series Participants!**

Every series participant will be awarded a series medal at the finish line after you receive your race medal.

Relay runners, who are not the final leg, can pick up their series medal at the Information Booth at the Finish Line.



# START



#### **Wave Start**

The race will start in 6 waves. Each wave will walk up to the Start Line and have their own starting commands.

Each participant will have a designated wave based on pace submitted during registration. Wave number will be indicated on your race bib.

#### **Corrals**

Participants should begin loading into their respective corral 30 minutes before race start; race starts at 7:00 a.m. There will be wave and pace signs which indicate where to line up inside the corral.

Runners' times begin when they pass over the Start Line timing mats. Wave placement will not affect the final race time or place in the race (except for overall winners which is based on gun time).

The timing mats are removed shortly after the final runner in wave 6 crosses the starting line. If you are not at the start line at this time, you will not have an official race time.

	WAVE	PACE
	Elite	Assigned
Sorral	Seeded	Assigned
Blue Corral	Wave 1	5:00 - 7:59
	Wave 2	8:00 - 8:59
Red Corral	Wave 3	9:00 - 9:29
Red (	Wave 4	9:30 - 10:29
Corral	Wave 5	10:30 - 11:29
Orange	Wave 6	11:30 - plus
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Location: 1 S. High St, Akron

6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony

6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division Start 7:00 a.m. - Marathon, Half Marathon &

Team Relay Start

#### **Parking**

Free parking, at designated city decks and lots, is available throughout downtown on race day. It is recommended to be downtown before 6:00 a.m. See page 12.

If you are a relay member coming into town after 6:50 a.m., roads will start to close along the course route. Please plan accordingly and park in the recommended decks and lots. Also, keep in mind that certain lots and decks along Broadway and High St will have delayed exiting of 10:30 a.m.

#### **Spectators**

The starting corrals are for participants only! We ask that all spectators view the start north of the Starting Line. This will reduce congestion and allow ample space for participants and spectators alike.

#### Medical

For any medical needs Summa Health will be at the start line near the Information Booth on the plaza at the John S. Knight Center.

KultureCity: Sensory Inclusion

The Akron Marathon has teamed up with KultureCity to help those who may need additional support in the race environment. Sensory bags will be available at the Information Booths located at the Health and Fitness Expo, Start Line, and Finish Line.

Information Booths: Will be located at the Health and Fitness Expo, Start Line, and Finish Line to help with any race related questions or issues.

# COURSE

#### **Provisions**

<u>Restrooms:</u> Portable restrooms will be available throughout the course, including the Start and Finish Lines, fluid stations, Relay Exchange Zones, and Shuttle Loading Area. Of those restrooms, half will be designated for women and equipped with tampons.

<u>Fluids:</u> As you approach a fluid station, sports drink will be available first followed by water. It is recommended to carry your own fluid. There will be an area to refill bottles at the end of each fluid station. We do not recommend taking food or fluids from non-official locations.

<u>Energy:</u> Energy gels will be provided at 3 locations along the Marathon course, miles 7.7, 17.1, 22.8. Runners that require energy gel earlier or at different times should plan to be self-supported.

<u>Medical:</u> There will be medical aid stations available to runners throughout the course, Start Line, and Finish Line. Summa Health will coordinate all medical assistance during this event.

There will be NON-MEDICAL aid shuttles to transport runners, who choose not to continue the race, from the aid tents back to the Finish.

NSAID's (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs such as Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, etc.) are not recommended the few days before the race and will NOT be provided at aid tents. NSAIDs, especially in a dehydrated runner, can adversely affect the kidneys and can increase the risk of hyponatremia (low blood sodium). Tylenol will be available.

#### **Prohibited**

For the safety of our runners, the Akron Marathon does not permit: pets, skateboards, scooters, strollers, bicycles, roller blades, baby carriers, or any other types of vehicles (other than official Marathon vehicles and bicycles) on the course. The Akron Marathon reserves the right to disqualify and remove anyone from the course who has any of the above items or does not act in a safe manner.

Non-registered runners are not permitted to run or walk within the boundaries of the official marathon course. Non-registered runners pacing a registered runner goes against USATF rules and could result in disqualification. It is important that family and friends NEVER cross the Finish Line or enter the finish zone which begins approximately 2/10 mile before the finish. Course monitors and police will be stationed throughout the course; ensuring only registered runners are on the course.

#### Closure

Course Limit: The marathon course is officially open for six and a half hours after the last person crosses the Start Line; equivalent to approximately 14:53 per mile marathon pace. The half marathon route will remain open for three and a half hours, equivalent to a 16:02 per mile pace. Runners slower than this pace will be asked to move to the sidewalk or board the SAG – course closure vehicle. The Finish Line, medical aid stations and fluid stations will remain open for a six-and-a-half-hour pace and close on schedule.

Full marathon and relay teams need to be at the split at mile 11.5 by 10:05 a.m. to continue on to the full course.

#### Pace Team

Pacers will be available for many of the Boston qualifying times. Pacers will follow the Full Marathon route. Half Marathon runners can join the pace team up to the split at mile 11.5. Pace teams are led by experienced pacers who run a steady pace so the group can achieve their goal of finishing the marathon at a particular time. There is no cost to run with the pace group. Visit the Pace Team Booth at the Expo to sign up or find the pace groups at the Start Line before the race.

## Signage

Located at each aid station, as well as each Relay Exchange Zone, there will be a color-coded flag system to update participants on the course alert level. Please see chart for details.

ALERT LEVEL	EVENT CONDITIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
EXTREME	Extreme & Dangerous Event Cancelled	Participation stopped Follow event official instructions
HIGH	Potentially Dangerous	Slow down Observe course changes Follow official instruction Consider stopping
MODERATE	Less than ideal	Slow down Be prepared for worsening conditions
LOW	Good	Enjoy the event Be alert

As you approach all Relay Exchange Zones and the split for the Half Marathon you will see color coded signs that match your bib color. Please stay to the side of the road that corresponds to your bib color for a hassle- free transition through these critical points.

М	MARATHON				
Н	HALF MARATHON				
R	TEAM RELAY				

# FINISH LINE

Akron Civic Theatre - 182 S. Main St.

After you cross the Finish Line continue on Main St to receive your water, medal and series medal, for series participants. Marathon and Half Marathon runners will be given a Heatsheet to keep warm. If you are in need of medical attention there will be a medical tent on Main St.

As you enter the Finisher Festival, there will be an Information Booth, medal engraving, merchandise tent and restrooms. Redeem your beer and food tickets while enjoying the live band.

For medal engraving visit AkronMarathon.org/results to view your finish time. Ritchie's Sporting Goods is providing the service for a \$15 fee. You may pre-register, through 9/24, and pay for the service during registration or pay onsite.

#### Recycling

Please support our recycling efforts by placing the appropriate items in the corresponding labeled bins so there is no contamination. The bins will be clearly marked for easy placement.



#### **Family Reunion**

It is encouraged to designate a reunion location and meeting time (i.e. 30 minutes after your anticipated finish time) prior to starting your race.

#### Lost and Found

Lost items will be taken to the Information Booth located at the finish line. Items left at the race will be taken to the Akron Marathon office and kept for 2 weeks.

#### **Shower Facilities**

Showers and changing facilities will be available, free of charge, courtesy of the Downtown YMCA located at 477 E. Market Street (1.5 miles from Lock 3). Please bring your bib and photo ID for access.

# **Results and Awards**

For final results and live updates visit AkronMarathon.org/results.

# **Prize Money**

Marathon  Open Men Open Women Masters Men Masters Women							
1st Place	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$500			
2nd Place	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$375	\$375			
3rd Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$250	\$250			
Ohio Resident  This prize money is awarded to the first 3 men and women to finish the marathon who are residents of the state of Ohio at the time of the race regardless of age.							
	Open Men	Open Women					
1st Place	\$750	\$750					
2nd Place	\$500	\$500					
3rd Place	\$250	\$250					
Half Marathon  Open Men Open Women Masters Men Masters Women							
1st Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$400	\$400			
2nd Place	\$750	\$750	\$300	\$300			
3rd Place	\$500	\$500	\$200	\$200			

#### **Overall Awards**

An award ceremony will take place at 8:50 a.m. for the Half Marathon and 10:45 a.m. for the Full Marathon.

## Age Group Awards

Top three Male and Female Marathon and Half Marathon finishers in all age categories will receive awards: 19 and under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. You can win only one award. Overall and masters winners are taken out of age group awards.

## **Team Relay Awards**

Top three teams in the Men's, Women's, Mixed, Masters Men's, Masters Women's, and Masters Mixed categories of the 5-Person Team Relay will receive awards.

#### **Wheelchair Division Awards**

Top Male and Female Marathon will receive awards.

All age group, team relay, and wheelchair awards will be mailed 4-6 weeks after the race.



#### **Transportation**

The provided shuttle service is highly encouraged as driving and parking are extremely limited in some areas. Relay legs 1, 2 & 3 will walk to the start of their legs in downtown. Relay legs 4 & 5 should park downtown and take the shuttle to the start of their relay leg.

#### Shuttle Times:

Leg 4 - Downtown to Sand Run:

7:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Leg 5 - Downtown to Firestone CLC:

7:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

#### **Arriving**

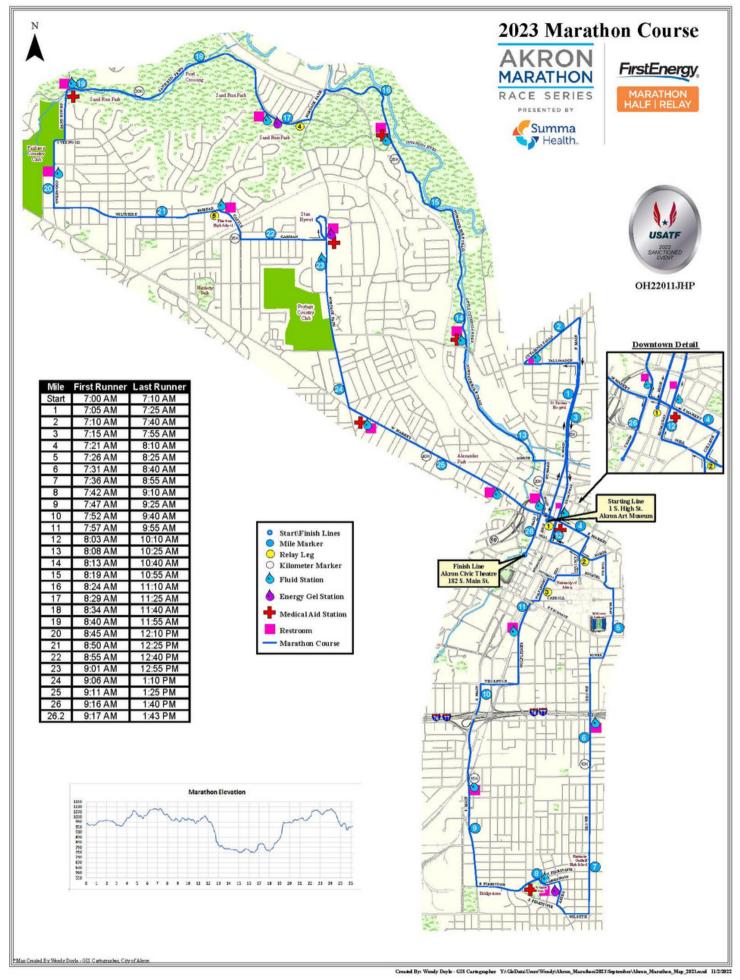
Once you arrive at your Relay Exchange Zone take time to familiarize yourself with the corrals, visit the restrooms, and prepare for your leg of the relay. When your team member is approximately 10 minutes from the Exchange Zone please proceed to the numerical staging area, based on your bib number. Spotters will be calling out the last three numbers on your bib as your teammate approaches the exchange zone. PLEASE KNOW YOUR BIB NUMBER. Once your bib number is called please move to the front row of your corral to meet your teammate and start your leg of the relay. There will be bottled water available for participants both starting and finishing at each exchange zone.

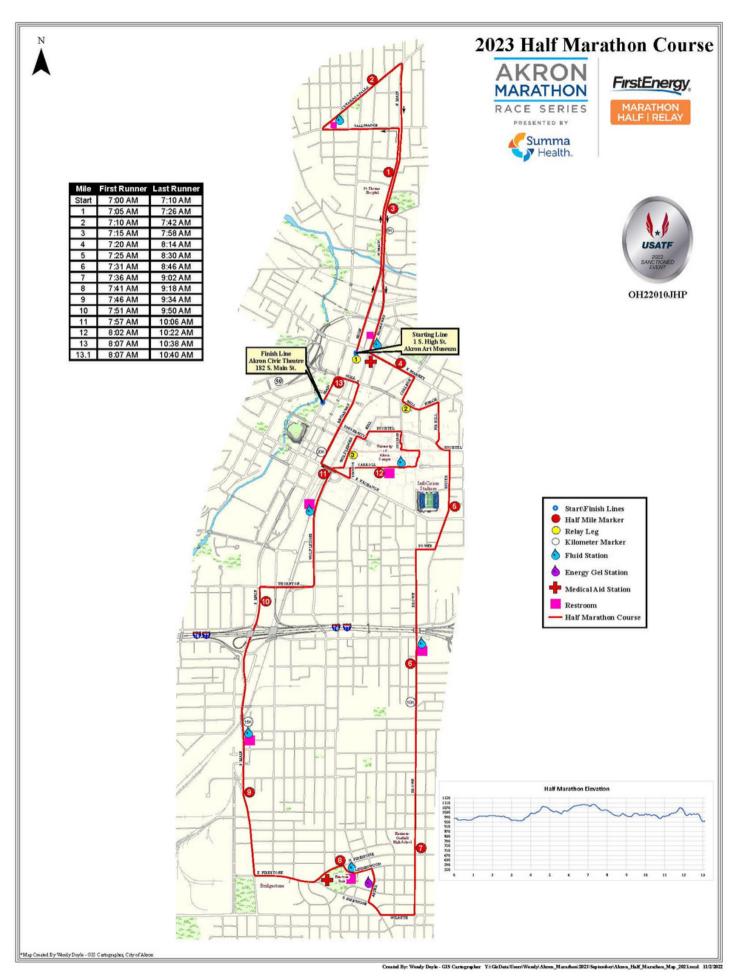
# **Exchange Zone Procedures**

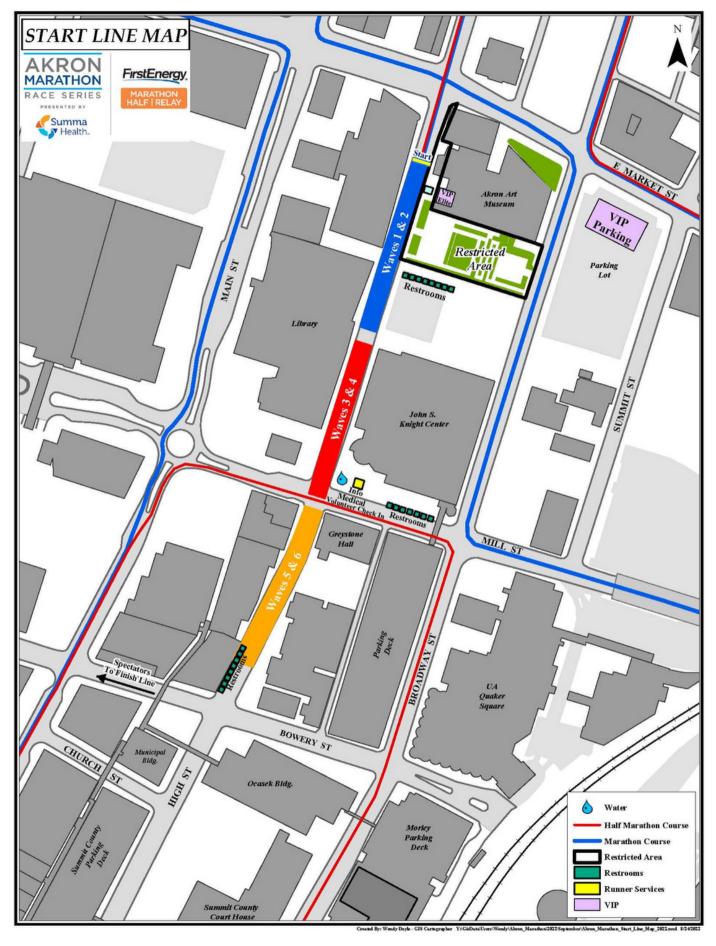
As you finish your leg of the relay, you will be directed to run over a timing mat. Continue for a short distance beyond the timing mat where race volunteers will assist you in finding your teammate. Upon finding your teammate clear the racecourse. Finishing participants will receive their medal at the Relay Exchange Zone and can head to the Finisher Festival. Relay leg 5 will finish on Main St and receive their medal before entering the Finisher Festival.

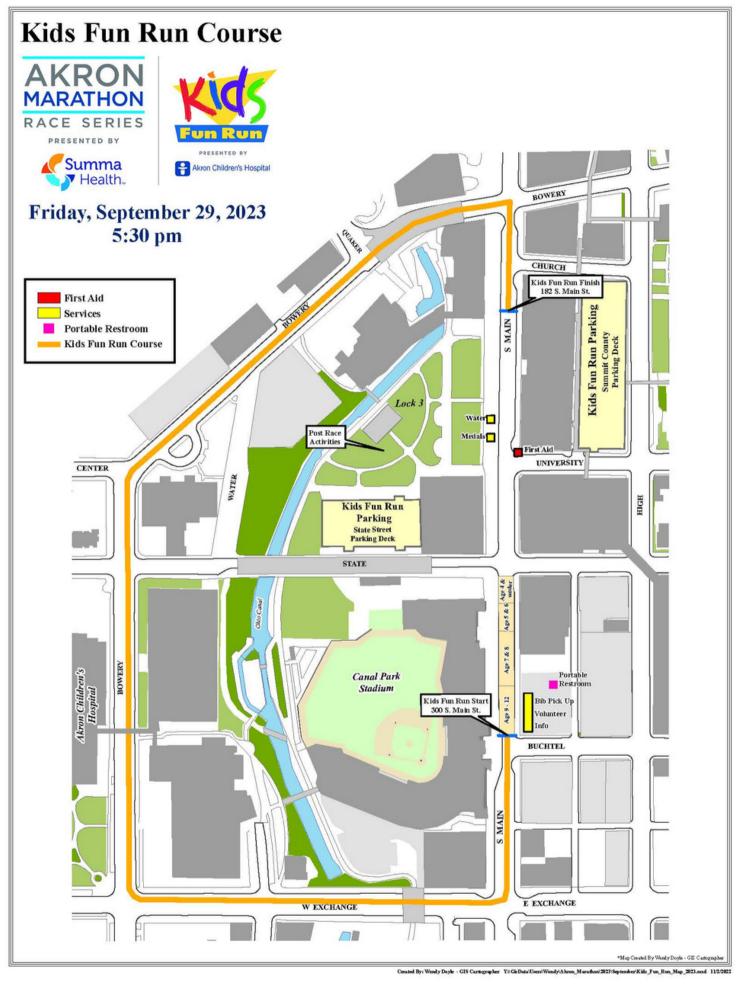
# ARRIVAL TIMES TO RELAY LEG (30 MINUTES BEFORE ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL)

LEG	DISTANCE	START LOCATION	TART LOCATION 7 MIN PACE 9 MIN PACE 11 MIN PACE 13 MIN PACE 15 MIN PACE				15 MIN DAGE
LLG	DIGIANOL	START ECCATION	/ MIN PACE	9 MIN PACE	11 MIN PACE	13 MIN PACE	15 MIN PACE
#1	4.2	1 S. High St	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am
#2	6.9	250 E. Mill St	7:00 am	7:05 am	7:20 am	7:30 am	7:35 am
#3	5.8	245 Wolf Ledges Pkwy	7:45 am	8:10 am	8:30 am	8:50 am	9:15 am
#4	4.5	1300 Sand Run Pkwy	8:30 am*	9:00 am*	9:35 am*	10:10 am*	10:45 am*
#5	4.8	1565 Fairfax Rd	9:00 am*	9:50 am*	10:30 am*	11:15 am*	11:45 am*









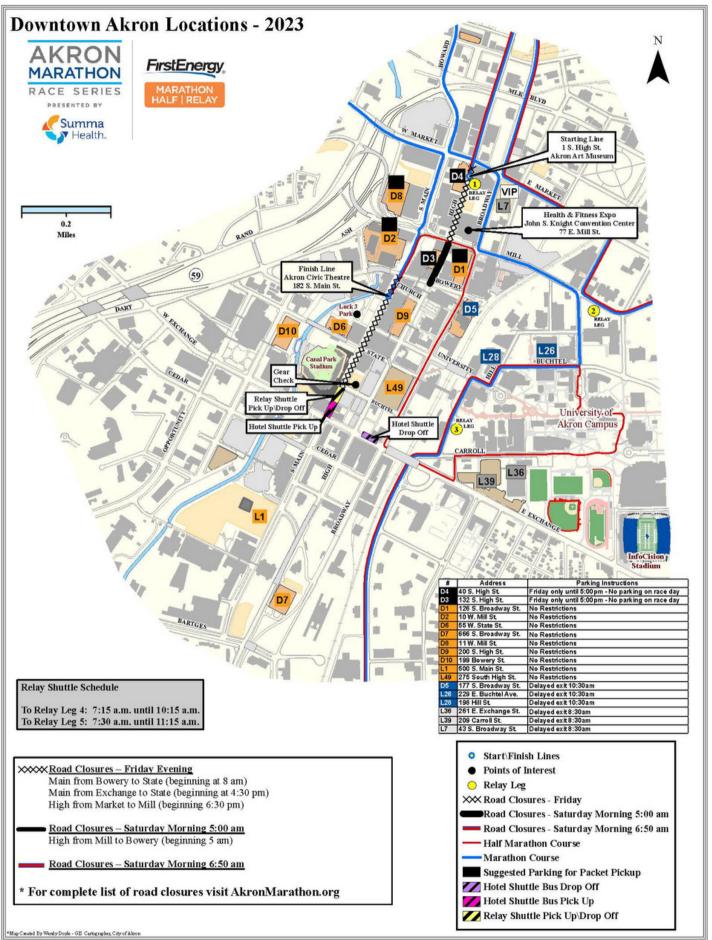
# **Akron Marathon Road Closures 2023**

#### ROAD CLOSURES - Friday, September 29, 2023

Road Closures	Restrictions	Approximate Time
S. High St.	Between E. Mill St. and E. Market St.	Beginning at 6:30 p.m.
S. Main St.	Between Bowery St. and Buchtel St.	Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

#### ROAD CLOSURES - Saturday, September 30, 2023

Road Closures	Restrictions	Approximate Time
S. High St.	Between Bowery St. and Martin Luther King Blvd.	5:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Y-Bridge southbound	Between Martin Luther King Blvd. and N. Main St.	7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
N. Main St. southbound	Between Olive St. and E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave.	7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
Tallmadge Ave.	Between Cuyahoga St. and N. Main St.	7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave.	Between N. Main St. and Carpenter St.	7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
N. Main St. northbound	Between E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave. and Olive St.	7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Y-Bridge northbound	Between N. Main St. and Martin Luther King Blvd.	7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
S. Broadway St.	Between Martin Luther King Blvd. and Exchange St.	7:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Market St. (eastbound lanes only)	Between Rand Ave. and Forge.	6:55 a.m 1:40 p.m.
S. College St.	Between E. Market St. and Buchtel Ave.	7:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
E. Mill St.	Between S. Main St. and Fir Hill	7:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Fir Hill	Between S. Forge St. and E. Buchtel Ave.	7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
E. Buchtel Ave.	Between Goodkirk St. and Hill St.	7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Spicer St.	Between E. Buchtel Ave. and E. Thornton St.	7:15 a.m 8:30 a.m.
Power St.	Between Spicer St. and Brown St.	7:15 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.
Brown St	Between E. Exchange St. and W. Wilbeth Rd.	7:15 a.m 9:00 a.m.
E. Wilbeth Rd. (Westbound lanes)	Between E. Wilbeth Rd. and S. Firestone Blvd.	7:30 a.m 9:15 a.m.
S. Firestone Blvd.	Between E. Wilbeth Rd. and Aster Ave.	7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Aster Ave.	Between S. Firestone Blvd. and N. Firestone Blvd.	7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Lindenwood Ave.	Between Aster Ave. and N. Firestone Blvd.	7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
N. Firestone Blvd.	Between Aster Ave. and E. Firestone Blvd.	7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
E. Firestone Blvd. (Westbound lanes)	Between Firestone Blvd. and S. Main St.	7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
— (		7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
S. Main St. northbound	Between E. Wilbeth Rd. and Thornton St.	
E. Thornton St.	Between S. Main St. and Grant St.	7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Wolf Ledges Pkwy southbound	Between Thornton St. and University Ave.	7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Wolf Ledges Pkwy northbound	Between Arc. Dr. and University Ave.	7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
University Ave.	Between S. High St. and Hill St.	7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hill St.	Between S. Forge St. and University Ave.	7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
E. Buchtel Ave.	Between Hill St. and S. College St.	7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Carroll St.	Between Campus and Wolf Ledges Pkwy	7:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Buckeye St.	Between Carroll St. and E. Exchange St.	7:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
E. Exchange St (Northern westbound lane)	Between Buckeye St. and S. Broadway	7:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
N. Main St. southbound	Between Market St. and Martin Luther King Blvd.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
N Howard St. southbound	Between N. Main St. and Cuyahoga St.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
W. North St.	Between N. Howard St. and N. Maple St.	8:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.
Merriman Rd.	Between Treaty Line and N. Portage Path	8:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
N. Portage Path	Between Treaty Line and Merriman Rd.	8:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sand Run Pkwy.	Between N. Portage Path and Revere Rd.	8:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.
Sand Run Rd.	Between W. Market St. and Smith Rd.	8:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.
Overwood Rd.	Between Sand Run Rd. and Wiltshire	8:30 a.m 12:15 p.m.
Wiltshire Rd.	Between Overwood Rd. and Fairfax Rd.	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fairfax Rd.	Between N. Hawkins Ave. and Castle Blvd.	8:30 a.m 12:45 p.m.
Rampart Ave.	Between Fairfax and Bond	8:30 a.m 12:45 p.m.
Castle Blvd.	Between Fairfax and Garman Rd.	8:40 a.m 12:45 p.m.
Garman Rd.	Between Melbourne Ave. and N. Portage Path	8:40 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
N. Portage Path southbound	Between Mayfair Rd. and W. Market St.	8:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
W. Market St. eastbound	Between Portage Path and S. Main St.	8:50 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.
S. Main St.	Between Market St. and Mill St.	9:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Main St. Broadway exit 76 west TOTAL CLOSURE	Detour to Dart Ave. exit.	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



#### **Directions and Parking**

Please note that we are expecting 8,500 participants as well as thousands of volunteers and spectators making their way to downtown Akron on race morning.

Please reference the Downtown Akron Map on page 12 for color coded parking. Please follow this carefully designed parking system as special care has gone into matching available parking spaces by participants.

The routes below offer minimal road closing interference and include directional signage to suggested parking based on race day arrival times.

Additional signage will be placed downtown to direct foot traffic to the Start Line, Finish Line, relay legs 2 & 3, and relay shuttle buses.

## **Important Addresses**

Please note, once you get into downtown, road closings may detour you.

- Start Line/ Akron Art Museum: 1 S. High St, Akron, 44308
- Relay Leg #2: 250 E. Mill St, Akron, 44308
- Relay Leg #3: 245 Wolf Ledges, Akron, 44325
- Shuttle Buses: 300 S. Main St, Akron, 44308
- Finish Line: 182 S. Main St. Akron, Ohio 44308

#### Arriving before 7:00 a.m.

Decks along High St, Broadway, Buchtel Ave, and Exchange St are suggested for participants planning to race/watch the start. Decks close at 7:00 a.m.

From the north or west Via I-77 (Cleveland/ Fairlawn): I-77/I-76 (they run concurrently) to Main/Broadway/Downtown. Stay to the left after you exit and make a left turn at the first light onto Main St. Main St. becomes Broadway.

From the south Via I-71:

I-71 to I-76 east, continue onto I-76 east to Main/Broadway/Downtown. Stay to the left after you exit and make a left turn at the first light onto Main St. Main St. becomes Broadway.

From the south Via I-77 & east Via I-76: I-77/I-76 to Rt 8 north.

Option 1: To High/Broadway decks: Exit at Perkins. Turn left on Perkins, turn left on Main St. Left on Bowery St. Right on High St.

Option 2: To Buchtel/Exchange St decks: Exit at OH-18/Carroll St/Buchtel Ave (Exit 1A). Continue onto Fountain St. Turn left on Carroll St. Route differs from here based on which deck you choose.

# Arriving after 7:00 a.m.

Decks and lots on the west side of Main St and South of Exchange St are suggested for relay legs 2-5 arriving after 7:00 a.m. Please note roads along the course will close at 7:00 a.m.

From the north or west Via I-77: (Cleveland/ Fairlawn):

Take Copley Rd exit. Turn left on Copley Rd. Right on Cedar. Route differs from here based on which deck you choose.

From the south taking I-71 to I-76 east: Exit onto Rt 59/Dart Ave (Exit 21C). Route differs from here based on which deck you choose.

From the south Via I-77: I-77 to 224 west (Exit 122B). Exit at OH-93 (Exit 2). Right onto OH-93. Continue right on East Ave. Turn right on Vernon Odom BLVD.

From the east taking I-77/I-76 west: I-77/I-76 (they run concurrently) to Rt 59/Dart Ave (Exit 21C). Turn right after you exit onto Boulevard St. Stay left to continue on Dart Ave. Route differs from here based on which deck you choose.