

## 2021 Fort Ebey Kettles Trail Run important pre-race info

It's almost here--race day for the [Fort Ebey Kettles Trail Run](#), the first race in the 2020 [Half Marathon Trail Series](#)! Here are important things we'd like you to know to help you and everyone else have a smooth-running and fun event:

### EVENT-DAY REGISTRATION

There will be event-day registration, so bring a friend!

There may be a short wait to start, depending upon when event-day registrants show up. Specifically, 8:30am on Saturday is nearly full already, so event-day registrants should expect a wait if they show up to start at that time. Other times should involve little to no wait.

### ACCEPTING OUR COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES AND SCREENING

If possible before the run, **we ask that you read and agree to follow our COVID-19 safety guidelines and answer some screening questions by [filling out this form](#)**. In case it is not possible for you to do this before the run, we will have paper forms available that you can fill out upon arrival, since we need everyone's participation in making this a safe event.

### PHYSICALLY DISTANCED EVENT PROCEDURES

We ask that you review our [COVID-19 safety measures](#) for participants, so that you know what to expect when you arrive at the event.

### START TIMES

Individual start times are on a walk-up basis in the assigned 10-minute blocks starting at the time you selected when you registered. On Saturday, the start times are from 7:30-9:00 AM for the Marathon, and 8:30-11:30 AM for the Half Marathon. Sunday start times are from 8:30-11:30 AM for the 10k, and 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM for the 5k. You can check your start block on the [registration confirmation list](#). Your time starts when you start, so if don't worry if it takes longer than you expected to park and you are a bit late for your start window; we will get you started.

### DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

Please plan ahead to avoid local stops to limit exposure to you and the local community, especially any stops that involve going into indoors spaces, where the risk of contagion is higher. If you take the ferry, we recommend remaining in your car or in the outdoor areas of the deck during the sailing.

Parking will be in Fort Ebey State Park. Please park where you are directed to by the staff. [Here is a map](#) to the main Gun Battery parking lot near the start/finish area. Due to the number of runners expected, most runners will probably need to park remotely and walk along the road 0.9-1.5 miles from the group camp access road to the start. Follow signs to the Gun Battery. If you are feeling adventurous and have a map, you can also cut across the forest on the trails, which may be shorter from some parking locations. Please allow enough time to park and get from your car to the start area in time to check in for your race. Please follow staff instructions once you enter the park.

A DISCOVER PASS IS REQUIRED to park at Fort Ebey State Park. You may buy a \$10 one-day pass at pay stations in the park, using cash or check. Or, you may buy an annual pass for \$30, either online or from a retailer. [Visit the Discover Pass website](#) for more information or to buy a pass. The cost of a ticket for parking without a pass is \$100.

## FERRY

Those approaching from the South will want to take the Mukilteo/Clinton Ferry. On Saturday morning the ferry leaves from Mukilteo at 6:00am, 7:00am, and 8:00am. There is often a line at the ferry dock, so it is advised to arrive at least 30 minutes before the departure that you intend to catch. The ferry ride itself takes approximately 20 minutes. The drive from the Clinton (Whidbey Island) ferry landing to the start at Fort Ebey State Park takes approximately 50 minutes. Please either stay in the car or in the open air while on the ferry to maintain social distancing and avoid stagnant indoor air. [View the ferry schedule here.](#)

## COURSE

The 5-km and 10-km courses each make a single, clockwise loop in the Western part of the park, while the Half-Marathon course ventures further into the eastern reaches of the forest. The Marathon route traces the Half Marathon loop twice. All routes do a short loop through the bluff-top meadow at the start before ascending to the picnic area and entering the forest. All courses except the 5k also do another lollipop loop down to the bluff and back up a steep trail a short while before the finish. Please familiarize yourself with the [course map](#), so that you will expect the out-and-back sections and junctions with two-way signage. The course is complex and at the same time clearly marked, but it still helps to know what to expect.

All courses have road crossings, so please use caution when crossing.

## AID STATION

The 10k, Half Marathon, and Marathon courses have aid stations mid-course. Marathon runners will also have access to aid where the course passes through the start/finish area between the first and second laps. Aid stations offer water, electrolyte drink, and some carbohydrate-rich or salty foods, such as cookies, pieces of energy bar, gels, chews, chips, bagel, fruity candy, fig bars, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and/or bananas.

### Aid Station Locations:

- 5k (actual 5.00k, 3.11mi): no aid stations on the course
- 10k (actual 10.75k, 6.68mi): 1 aid station, at 3.3 miles
- Half Marathon (actual 21.33k, 13.25mi): 2 aid stations, at 4.9 and 9.9 miles
- Marathon (actual 42.2k, 26.22mi): 5 aid stations, at 4.9, 10.0, 13.3, 17.8, and 22.9 miles

## WEATHER

The forecast on Saturday is for clouds with temperatures in the low to mid 40s, with a chance of rain later in the day. Sunday's forecast is for light rain early in the morning, then a chance of showers as the day goes on, with temperatures in the mid-40s to around 50F. Pack some extra clothes, so that you can be comfortable post-race and on the way home. We will have a tarp in a covered area near the finish line to stash your outer layers while you run.

#### SCHEDULE – SATURDAY, February 20, 2021

7:00am – Check-in opens  
7:30am – Marathon first start  
8:30am – Half Marathon first start  
9:00am – Marathon last start  
9:50-10:10am – Pause in start  
11:30am – Half Marathon last start  
12:30pm – Cut-off for the marathon second loop  
4:00pm – Course closes

#### SUNDAY, February 21, 2021

8:00am – Check-in opens  
8:30am – 10k first start  
9:30am – 5k first start  
10:20-10:40am – pause in start  
11:30am – 10k last start  
12:00pm – 5k last start  
1:30pm – Course closes

We're looking forward to seeing you at Fort Ebey!

The Northwest Trail Runs team