

2022 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 [Half Marathon Trail Series](#)! Here are some 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! The first (9:40am) start wave of the Half Marathon has only a few spots left, so we encourage event-day registrants doing the Half Marathon to pick the 10:10am start. You can see who is registered and for which distance and start wave on the [registration confirmation list](#).

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Outdoor activities remain one of the safest things you can do during the pandemic. Our staff are vaccinated and will wear masks when they cannot maintain a 6-foot distance from others. We're happy to see the numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19 declining toward pre-Omicron-variant levels. We ask you and everyone attending our events to join us in reducing the chance of transmitting COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses by taking common-sense precautions, including physical distancing and wearing a mask when this is not possible. Please read our [COVID-19 Safety Measures](#) and be prepared to do your part. All runners will be asked to wear a mask during the start lineup gathering and may take it off when distancing is possible again after the race starts.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

Parking will be in Fort Ebey State Park. **Please park only where you are directed to by the staff**, as this is crucial to the park allowing us continued access to these parking areas within the park. [Here is a map](#) to the main Gun Battery parking lot near the start/finish area. That will fill quickly, and the second parking area is in the vehicle parking areas at campsites in the not-yet-open campground, which is adjacent to the Gun Battery area. The third parking area, which will most likely be needed for later-arriving runners, is parking along the [road to the group camp](#), about [a 0.7-1.2 mile walk along the road](#) to the check-in, start, and finish area at the Gun Battery. For parking along this road, you will be directed to turn around and park facing toward the exit. All courses other than the 5k cross this road, so look out for runners and staff at the crossings. Follow signs from where you park 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, from a retail location, or at the park office if/when they are open. [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, and they will be patrolling to check for passes.

FERRY

Those approaching from the South have the options of taking the Mukilteo/Clinton Ferry rather than driving around through Deception Pass. On Saturday and Sunday mornings the ferry leaves from Mukilteo at 6:00am, 7:00am, and 8:00am. Due to staffing shortages, the route is operating on [a limited schedule](#) with one boat, so the sailings on the half hour starting at 8:30am will likely not take place. As of Friday morning, Washington State Ferries was not able to say whether they would have a full crew on Saturday or Sunday for a second boat. You are welcome to call them in the morning (888-808-7977, and say “transfer me” to speak with someone starting at 7am) if you want to know whether the route is operating on normal service or “alternate” (limited) service.

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.

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 STATIONS

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 mid 30s to mid 40s. Showers are expected in the evening and overnight. Sunday's forecast is for cloudy to mostly cloudy skies with showers ending before the start of the races and temperatures in the mid-to-upper-40s. Expect wind along the bluff both days. 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 26, 2022

8:00am – Check-in opens

9:00am – Marathon Start

9:40am – Half Marathon first wave start

10:10am – Half Marathon second wave start

12:30pm – Cut-off for the marathon second loop

4:00pm – Course closes

SUNDAY, February 27, 2022

8:30am – Check-in

9:30am – 10k first wave start

10:00am – 10k second wave start

10:15am – 5k start

12:30pm – Course closes

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

The Northwest Trail Runs team