

2023 Fort Ebey Kettles Trail Run important pre-race info for Saturday

It's almost here--race day for the [Fort Ebey Kettles Trail Run](#). 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 over 150 runners registered, and the second wave about one-third of that number, so Half Marathon runners wanting a smaller starting pack can opt for the 10:10am start. You can see who is registered and for which distance and start wave on the [registration confirmation list](#).

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 \$11.50 one-day pass at pay stations in the park, using cash or check. Or, you may buy an annual pass for \$35, 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 option of taking the Mukilteo/Clinton Ferry to avoid the longer drive around through Deception Pass. On Saturday and Sunday mornings the ferry leaves from Mukilteo at 6:00am, 7:00am, 8:00am, and 8:30am. **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. [View the ferry schedule.](#)

COURSE

The Half Marathon starts by making a clockwise loop of the northwestern part of the park, and then goes east into the eastern reaches of the forest before returning south and west for a loop along the bluff shortly before the finish. The Marathon course is two loops of the Half Marathon course. Here is the [course map](#). All courses have road crossings, so please use caution when crossing.

AID STATIONS

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

Aid Station Locations:

- 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, 9.9, 13.3, 17.8, and 22.9 miles

WEATHER

The forecast is for temperatures in the lower to upper 30s with the possibility of rain in the late afternoon nearing course closure time. Check the forecast Friday evening to better know what to expect on race day, and pack some extra clothes so that you can be comfortable at the finish and the ferry ride home. We will have a tarp in a covered area near the finish line to stash your outer layers while you run!

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING

We were planning to have [Active Track](#) come out on Saturday to capture live streaming video of the Marathon and Half Marathon races. However, Active Track is a Portland-based company and they just received 18 inches of snow in the hills above town! If they can make it through the snow safely, streaming will begin around 8:45am, before the Marathon start, and end around 3pm. Fingers crossed!

Assuming Active Track can still attend, your friends or family at home can watch the race unfold live by going to [Active Track's LiveStream page](#), cheer you on virtually, and see you running at several points along the course! They'll need to submit an email address and create a username and password for comment moderation purposes only. Rest assured that they will not get on any email lists, and all personal info will be deleted when the livestream ends.

Active Track also uses image recognition technology to offer you personalized videos with clips of you running. They are upgrading their process now and expect to have videos ready for you to check out and optionally purchase a few weeks after the event, around mid-March. We will email you once the videos are ready!

SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 25, 2023

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

Pre-start briefings will take place near the bluff about 10 minutes before each start time.

See you tomorrow morning!

The Northwest Trail Runs team