

Welcome to the 2026 Bear Paw Marathon

Packet PICKUP

Friday, June 5
2:00pm - 8:00pm

Holiday Village Mall
1753 US-2, Havre, MT

bearpawmarathon.com | 406.265.4383



There will be limited last minute bib pick-up on race morning. You may have a friend pick up your packet for you. Please contact the Bear Paw Marathon team with a Facebook message or call the Havre Chamber between 9am-3pm MT Mon-Fri at 406-265-4383 to make arrangements ahead of time if you will arrive Havre after packet pickup.

RACE DAY

HOW DO I GET TO THE START?

Bus transportation to the starting lines is provided as part of your entry.

Please arrive early and load the buses in a timely manner to ensure arrival at the starting line on time. There is **NO parking** at either the full and half marathon start line. Participants are not allowed to drive to the starting lines or be dropped off. We request this to limit additional traffic for our traffic piloting crews.

****see notes on parking and spectating below****

[Independence Bank parking lot - 435 3rd St, Havre, MT 59501](#)

2026 BEAR PAW MARATHON

BUS AND RACE SCHEDULE

MARATHON

Bus loading: 4:30am - 5:00am
Bus departure: 5:00am
RACE START: 6:00am

1/2 MARATHON

Bus loading: 5:30am - 6:00am
Bus departure: 6:00am
RACE START: 7:00am

5K

Bus loading: 7:00am - 7:30am
Bus departure: 7:30am
RACE START: 8:00am



TIMING

Chip timing is provided by Competitive Timing. All runners must have a bib assigned and attached for timing chip to register time. Timing provides an overall time, which does not include splits throughout the course.

All race bibs are the same, there is no differentiation amongst the races.

COURSE TIME LIMIT

The highway traffic piloting ends at 12:00 PM. The course officially closes at 2 p.m., an 8 hour limit for marathon runners and 7 hour limit for half marathon runners. As long as a runner is making reasonable progress, we will most likely not pull them from the course, but they will need to follow traffic laws at that point if they are falling behind pace. There

will be no official time for participants finishing after 2 p.m. Aid stations, traffic control, volunteers, etc. will relinquish their posts based upon 2 p.m. completion time.

PACE GROUPS

We do not offer pace groups currently.

GEAR CHECK / DROP BAGS

Drop bags are available for full and half marathon participants. Please clearly write your bib number on your bag before drop-off. Please check your gear bags promptly upon your arrival at the starting line. You must show your bib number when dropping off and retrieving your bag. For security, gear check is available only to participants wearing an official race bib. Bags left unattended are subject to search and removal.

Do not store valuables or breakables in drop bags. While they are secured and monitored by race officials, we cannot guarantee items (such as electronics) will be undamaged.

RACE CHANGES / DEFERRALS

We understand that training and travel plans can change. If you need to transfer to a different race distance, please contact us in advance if possible, and we will assist with the change. Because event costs are fully incurred by race day, we cannot offer refunds after the refund cutoff date, April 30 (agreed upon terms during registration process). Refunds are not provided for the difference when transferring to a lower-cost event. If you are unable to participate, we offer deferrals to next year's race; please contact us to make arrangements.

AWARDS

Prizes are awarded to the top finishers for Male and Female for each distance. There is no official awards ceremony.

AID STATIONS / NUTRITION

ON COURSE FUEL

There are 14 aid stations on the marathon course and 8 on the half marathon course, spaced every 2–3 miles early on and about every 1.5–2 miles later in the race. There are 2 aid stations along the 5K route. Stations are volunteer-supported, and some may offer additional snacks. Participants with allergies should use caution and check items carefully before consuming them. While on-course nutrition will be available, we encourage

participants to carry any additional fuel they may need beyond what is provided at designated aid stations.

GU Original Energy Gels and 1st Phorm Ultra-Formance will be supplied along the course.

Station 3: 6.5 miles (marathon)

Station 8: 15.3 miles (marathon) / 2.2 (half)

Station 10: 18.8 miles (marathon) / 5.7 (half)

Station 12: 22.3 miles (marathon) / 9.2 (half)

RECOVERY / POST-RACE FUEL

Water and a small variety of fruit, granola bars, and other snacks will be provided for all runners at the finish line.

1st Phorm post workout stack (Phormula-1 and Ignition): Sports Hydration Sticks

All 1st Phorm Products can be found at Master Sports. Stop in and check them out while you're in town race weekend to stock up on fuel for the course and on your way home.



There will also be a recovery area equipped with foam rollers, massage balls, sticks, and medical staff. A massage therapist will be on site to provide post-race massages for participants, for purchase.

COURSE AND SAFETY

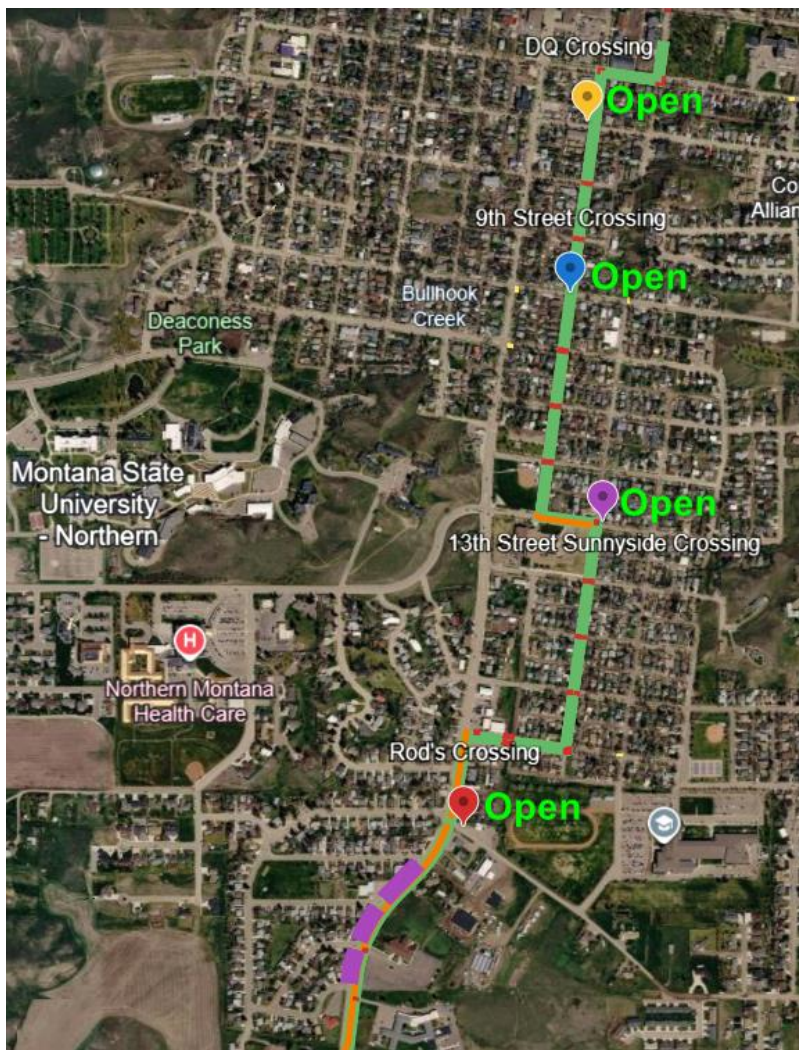
What are the road conditions of the course?

This event takes place on State Highway 234 / County Road Beaver Creek Road and city roads. New for 2026, the Bear Paw Marathon will be on all asphalt following Highway 234 / Beaver Creek Road.

The Bear Paw Marathon course is marked well. The course is partially open to traffic. The Northbound lane on Hwy 234 is designated for runners, but there are intersecting roads that may allow some traffic to cross. Participants are asked to always have an awareness of vehicles on the road.

The Southbound lane will be used for piloting traffic. There will be no traffic piloting for the full marathon until the half marathon start at 7:00AM.

The in-town portion of the race will be partially open. There will be barricades at all intersections, some of which will also have volunteers stationed. There will be four intersections open for traffic and emergency purposes. These intersections will be monitored and controlled by law enforcement or other safety personnel.



Please remain on the right side of the road unless otherwise directed. We recommend participants wear bright clothing to improve visibility.

Is the race USATF certified?

No, this race is not USATF certified.

Is this race a Boston qualifier?

No, this race is not a Boston Qualifier currently. It is a future goal.

How is the course monitored for safety and emergencies?

Each aid station is equipped with basic first aid supplies.

The course is monitored by multiple safety teams to provide comprehensive coverage throughout the event.

On-course support includes EMTs and First Aid-certified volunteers stationed at designated locations, patrolling by bicycle, and traveling throughout the course in vehicles and side-by-sides. First Aid and Safety personnel are equipped with radios to communicate with each other and emergency services. This is especially important as miles 1-16 (full) / miles 1-3 (half) do not have cell phone service.

Multiple AEDs are also available in emergency response vehicles.

In addition, the course is supported by law enforcement and first responder personnel from several agencies operating within their jurisdictions.

Be aware of changes to your body throughout the race. If you experience chest pain, hypothermia (low body temperature), heat exhaustion, dizziness, confusion, loss of coordination, severe muscle cramps, allergic reaction/reactive airway, or any other medical issues, seek attention at any aid station or any roaming medical/safety personnel on course. There is also a fully staffed medical tent at the finish.

If you must drop out of the race, please let a volunteer at an aid station or other course monitor know and they will arrange for you to be transported.

Bibs

Bibs must be worn on the front of your body and be visible at all times. The timing system may not properly record if your bib is not worn on the front of your body. This also helps our safety and traffic control volunteers keep track of participants throughout the race.

Are there toilets on the course?

Portable toilets will be provided at bus pickup, the start of each race and at the finish line, and at 7-8 locations along the full marathon course.

Can I drop clothing along the race course?

We do allow participants to drop clothing left at aid stations and we do our best to return items to participants if they can identify them from lost and found. Clothing and other personal items left at locations other than aid stations are not guaranteed to be returned. Participants are supplied with drop bags they are allowed to drop before the race and are available for pickup at the finish line.

What is the average race weather?

Sunrise is typically around 5:20 a.m. right before the start of the full marathon.

Mornings can be brisk, typically 40-45 degrees warming up to afternoon highs of 70-80 degrees. Expect cool mornings and comfortable afternoons.

June is typically Havre's wettest month, but early June precipitation is usually light and intermittent with average precipitation of 0.10-0.15 inches. We recommend monitoring weather conditions throughout the week of the race and adjusting your attire to changing weather conditions.

Havre is known for consistent prairie winds with typical wind averaging 9-12mph, commonly from West to Northwest.

Where is the finish line?

New for 2026, the Bear Paw Marathon will finish at Pepin Park, located at 700 4th Street, Havre, MT. A wonderful city park with lots of greenspace and room for families and friends to gather to cheer on participants. There is a playground at the park. There will also be vendors at the park the day of the race.

Strollers, dogs, bikes, roller blades

Baby joggers are allowed, but please be advised that all participants are required to take a bus to the start and we ask that participants using a jogger start toward the back. Please arrive early to load strollers as bus space is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Dogs (with the exception of service animals), bicycles, skateboards, and roller blades are not allowed on the courses.

We ask that all faster participants yield right of way and go around when overtaking slower participants.

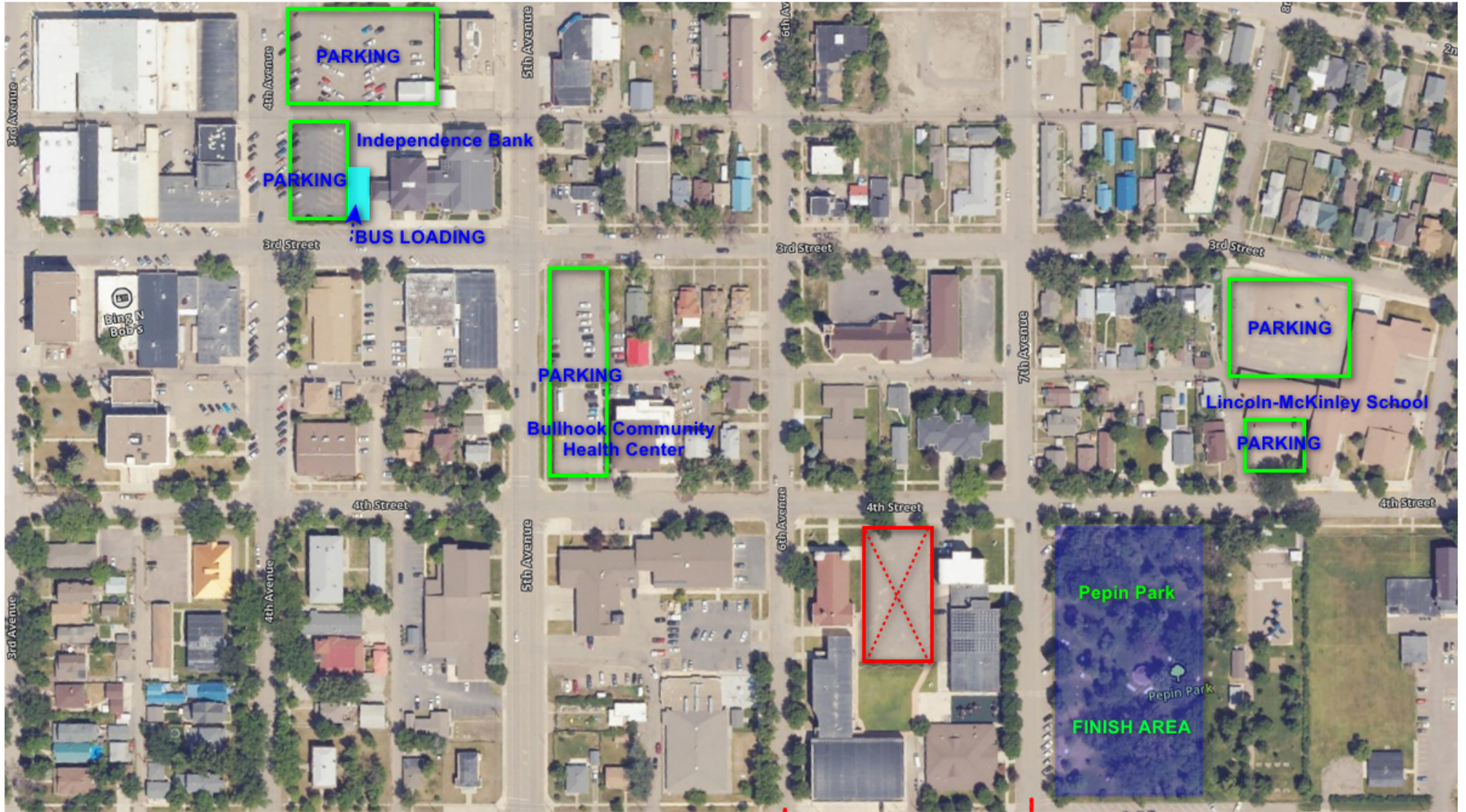
Are music devices/headphones allowed?

Participants may use music devices only if they can still hear instructions from race officials, course monitors, approaching vehicles, other participants, and emergency personnel. All participants must yield to emergency vehicles.

PARKING – see map

The finish line is in a different location than the bus pickup/departure area. There is limited parking at the finish line. We are grateful for the generosity of our local businesses Independence Bank, Bullhook Community Health Center, and Havre Public Schools for offering parking spaces for participants and spectators. Parking areas will be marked. Off limits parking will also be marked. There are no fees or metering for parking.

- [Independence Bank parking lot - 435 3rd St, Havre, MT 59501](#)
 - Buses load and depart from here
 - 5 city blocks from the finish line, Pepin Park
- [Bullhook Community Health Center - 521 4th Street, Havre, MT 59501](#)
 - 2 city blocks from bus loading area at Independence Bank
 - 2 city blocks from the finish line, Pepin Park
- [Lincoln McKinley School](#)
 - 5 city blocks from the bus loading area at Independence Bank
 - Across the street from the finish line, Pepin Park
- Please note – you may notice a parking lot at St. Jude Thaddeus School & Parish that is West of Pepin Park. This parking is not available as it is reserved for events occurring within those facilities on race day.



PARKING

PARKING

Independence Bank

BUS LOADING

PARKING

Bullhook Community Health Center

PARKING

Lincoln-McKinley School

PARKING

Pepin Park

Pepin Park

FINISH AREA





3rd Street

5th Avenue

Parking

6th Avenue

Parking

Bullhook Community Health Center

Parking

4th Street

6th Avenue

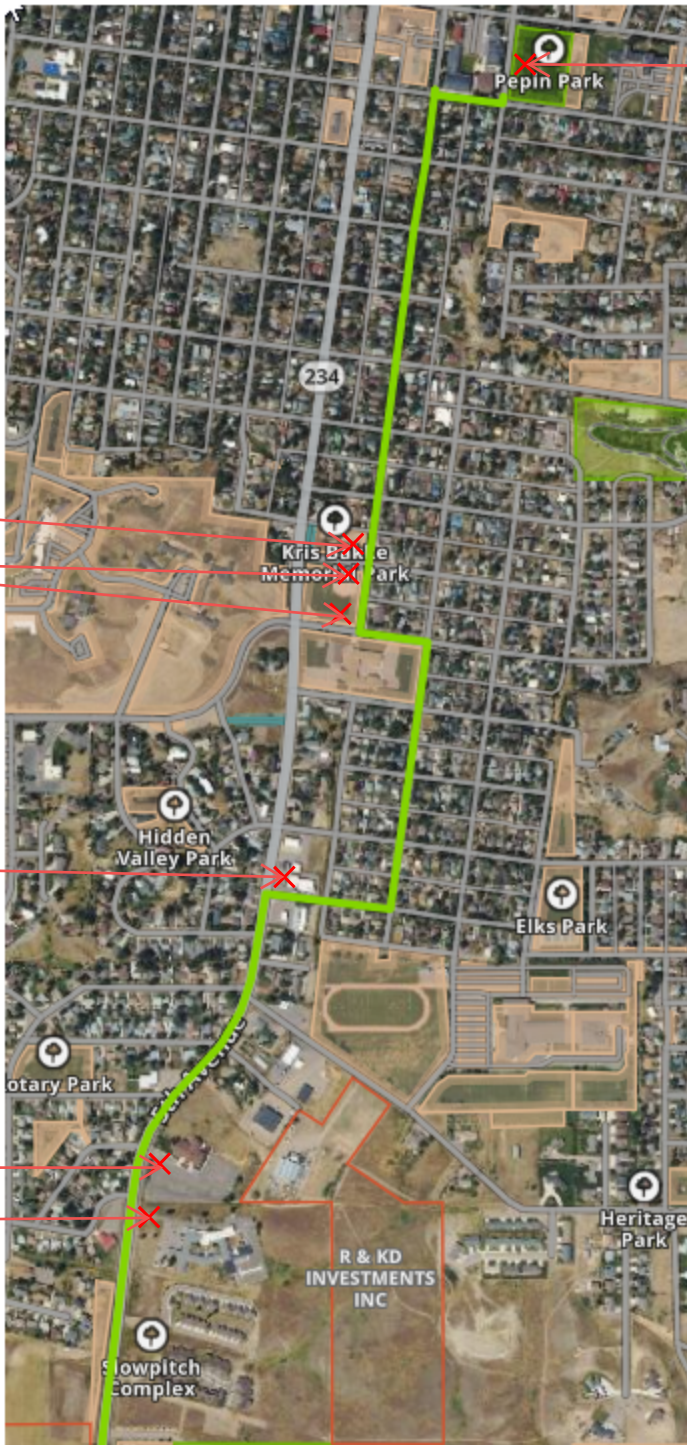
4th Street



OTHER

Spectating

- Bear Paw Lake Turn off / Road 100 S (would have to follow traffic piloting)
- Butte Road intersection with Hwy 234 (would have to access from S Washington/Baily Rd -> County Road 639W)
- HRDC
- 5th Ave Church
- Lodestar Realty (NO PARKING, spectators only)
- Memorial Park
- Finish Line

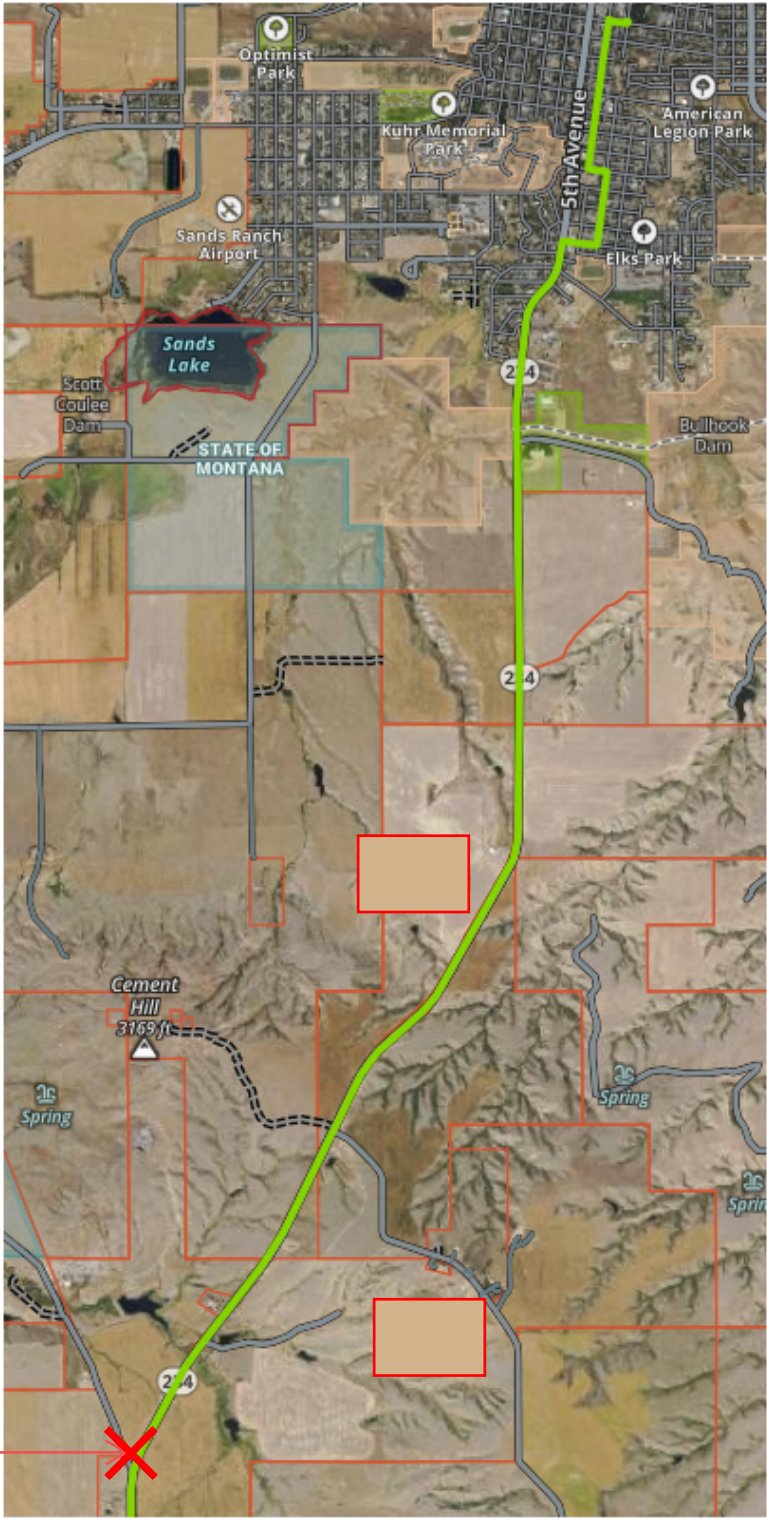


Finish Line
at Pepin Park
4th Street & 7th Avenue

Memorial Park
5th Avenue
Softball Fields

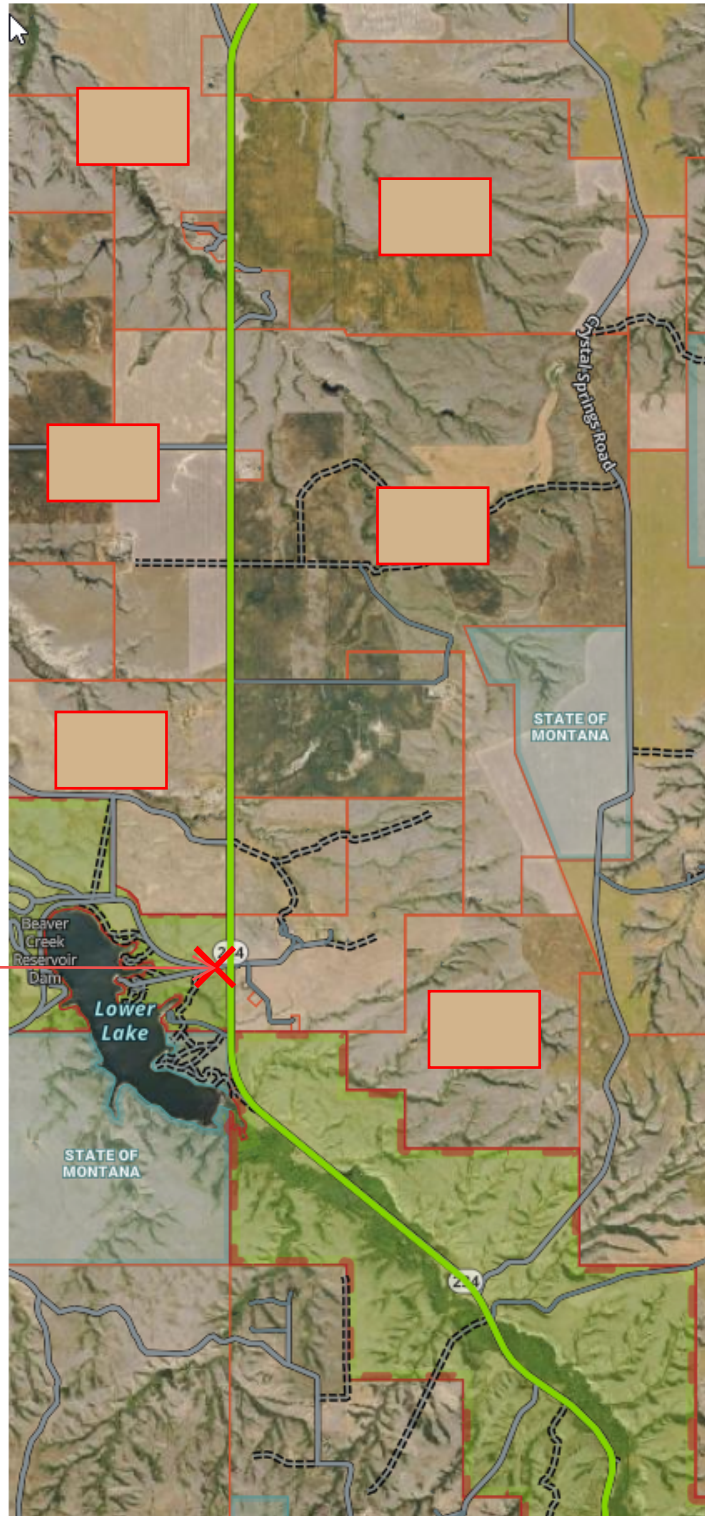
Lodestar Realty
NO PARKING

5th Avenue Christian Church
HRDC



Butte Rd - Hwy 234 Intersection
Access from Butte Road not
highway

Lower Lake /
Road 100S
would require to
follow traffic
pilotng



Is there a pre-race dinner?

We do not have an official Bear Paw Marathon dinner. The Bear Paw Marathon is hosted by the Havre Chamber of Commerce and we encourage you to experience the dining options Havre has to offer, including several establishments that sponsor this event. Visit the [Havre Area Chamber of Commerce - Montana](#) for ideas for planning your trip.

Finish Line Party

Every race finisher will receive a drink token redeemable at our designated post-race beverage vendor, Vic's, which will offer beer, seltzer, and non-alcoholic options.

A variety of food vendors and food trucks will also be available in the park.

A massage therapist will be on site to provide post-race massages for participants, for purchase.

Music will be provided by a local DJ.



Photography

Four official photographers will photograph the races with one photographer located at the start of each race and continue to follow as the race progresses. There will be at least one photographer covering the finish line.

Race photos will be sent to participants after the race, within approximately 2 weeks. Photographers may provide different options to purchase race photos.

Merchandise

Race shirts and medals are ordered based on estimates at the registration guarantee cutoff, May 12th. Each participant that registered by that date will receive a shirt.

Participants who registered after the cutoff are not guaranteed a shirt, but we do our best to provide what we can to those who register after the cutoff. Sometimes shirts don't fit. We cannot exchange shirts at registration. On race day, shirt exchange inquiries can be made

at the finish line, but size selections will be limited and we cannot guarantee exchanges for a different size.

Medals are given to participants as they finish. Medals are given as participants finish.

New this year, we are thrilled to offer additional merchandise for purchase. Commemorate your race with gear all year. Share gifts with family and friends. Multiple styles, colors, and logos to choose from that are different than what participants receive with registration.

<https://bearpawmarathon2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>















Bear Paw Marathon 2026 Merch Store

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://bearpawmarathon2026.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Wednesday June 10th, 2026 (11:59pm CDT)**

<p>Next Level Apparel Women's Cotton Relaxed Tee NL3910</p>  <p>7 Colors 3 Logos \$21.99</p>	<p>Next Level Apparel Adult Cotton Tee. NL3600</p>  <p>6 Colors 3 Logos \$21.99</p>	<p>BELLA+CANVAS Unisex Jersey Short Sleeve V-Neck Tee. BC3005</p>  <p>4 Colors 3 Logos \$26.99</p>	<p>Next Level Apparel Ideal Thermal Long Sleeve Tee NL8211</p>  <p>5 Colors 1 Logo \$31.99</p>	<p>BELLA+CANVAS Unisex Heather CVC Tank BC3480CVC</p>  <p>2 Colors 3 Logos \$26.99</p>	<p>Jerzees NuBlend Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt. 996M</p>  <p>7 Colors 3 Logos \$41.99</p>
<p>Richardson Trucker Cap 112</p>  <p>6 Colors \$26.99</p>	<p>Port Authority All-Day Performance UPF Perforated Cap C995</p>  <p>6 Colors \$25.99</p>	<p>28oz Water Bottle</p>  <p>\$18.00</p>	<p>20oz Nova Tumbler</p>  <p>3 Colors \$25.00</p>	<p>20oz Rainbow Nova Tumbler</p>  <p>\$25.00</p>	<p>District Women's Re-Fleece Hoodie DT8101</p>  <p>4 Colors 3 Logos \$41.99</p>

Questions?
Kimberly Bengtson
406.945.1859
kbengtson@americanbus.com
<https://www.dominatyourbrand.com>

2026 BEAR PAW MARATHON

Platinum Sponsor



TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT HAVRE, MONTANA

2026 BEAR PAW MARATHON

Silver Sponsors



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Bear Paw Volunteer Fire Department • Hill County Search & Rescue • City of Havre • Montana Department of Transportation • Beaver Creek Park