

Go Green FAQ

1. Why are we moving the course?

The number one reason is the need for a stable course. The first two years after we purchased the event we were at Vasona, then we got moved to Hellyer Park due to construction at Vasona. While we liked Hellyer Park, its proximity to the river and the possibility of future flooding is just not acceptable to creating a quality event. Three of the past four years we've had to deal with construction, flooding, course collapses, limited or expensive parking, etc.

We have researched other venues in San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Hollister and have not been able to find a course, date, or venue combination that would work and allow us to keep a St. Patrick's themed run. Santa Cruz does not have a St. Patrick's Day run and we think it will be a good addition to the Bay Area running scene with a change of scenery.

The course in Santa Cruz is newly paved, with a new section that makes a complete circuit around the Riverwalk Area. No road closures or street crossings are required. The biggest advantage is that in the event of rain we won't have a flood or river incursion onto the course. The meadow at the San Lorenzo Benchland is the planned venue and in the event of damp or soggy grass we have a contingency venue on higher ground at the same location that won't require creating a new course or detours.

2. Why no Half Marathon?

It's all about permits. Cities and counties are overwhelmed with requests for events and venues and most of those require road closures, impacted intersections, police coverage, during weekends that have major traffic impacts, etc. Getting a permit or renewing an existing permit is getting to be more and more difficult. Consequently, after much thought we made a painful decision to drop the half marathon and add a family friendly 1k.

Restructuring the event into a 1K, 5k, and 10K also allows us some flexibility to potentially provide a series of races with other events – Santa Cruz Firecracker and Jingle Bell Rock, and possibly others – that are family friendly and offer some opportunities for dressing up and having fun since they are all holiday themed events.

3. Why Santa Cruz?

Santa Cruz is a very welcoming community for events. There's lots going on every weekend and lots to do. The Boardwalk is open on weekends during the winter/spring seasons, there's shopping, music and food within walking distance of the event, a new gathering place at Abbot Square, Rosie McCann's Irish Pub, and a lot of beautiful scenery surrounding the Riverwalk area.

4. What about parking?

Free parking is available at the Santa Cruz County Government Center on the weekends that will accommodate all of our participant needs. If we need overflow there is also paid parking across the bridge from the park and within easy walking distance. In other words, less expensive and more opportunities for other activities closer to the venue.