

New Bedford to Host Annual Half Marathon Set this Sunday

On Sunday, thousands of runners will once again participate in the Annual New Bedford Half Marathon.

The race is hosted by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a New Bedford-based fraternal organization, and the City of New Bedford. The course is a challenging one that includes two major hills, while featuring waterfront views and hundreds of volunteers and cheering fans lining roadways downtown along the loop route, which starts and ends on Pleasant Street near City Hall.

Organizers have taken great care to ensure that the New Bedford Half Marathon continues to maintain its reputation as one of the safest races in New England. Scores of New Bedford police officers will patrol the course, and ambulances staffed by New Bedford Emergency Medical Services will be stationed throughout the city.

The New Bedford Police Department has asked runners and spectators not to bring bags to the course, as backpacks, suitcases and rolling bags will not be permitted near the start/finish area. Police also ask that spectators and runners report any suspicious activity to one of the many police officers available throughout the course leading up to, during, and after the race.

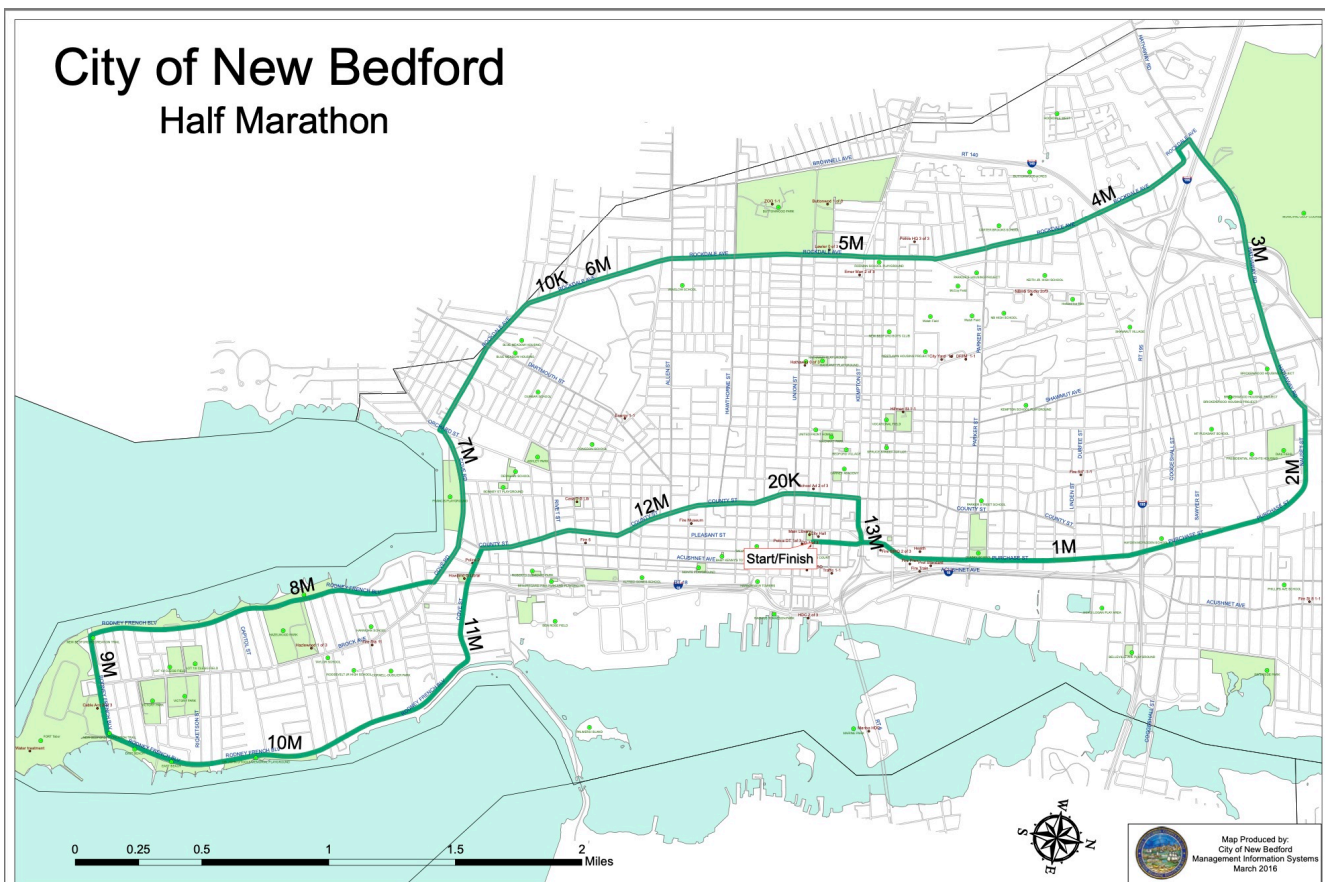
Parking will not be permitted along the race route, and “no parking” signs will be posted along the route to warn motorists. In addition, the race route is closed to vehicular traffic. Residents are advised to plan ahead, as traffic will be restricted from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Police encourage residents who live in the south end of the city, especially those who live on the peninsula, to plan to leave for any

necessary travel before 10:30 a.m. and return after 1:30 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to avoid Route 18 southbound from Union Street while the race is underway.

Police have identified two alternative routes for people who need to gain access inside the course perimeter. Persons who may be visiting a patient at St. Luke's Hospital or who need access to the inner perimeter for other reasons should consider the following routes:

1. Rt. 195 East bound to Penniman Street exit to County to Parker to Cottage St.
2. Rt. 195 Westbound to Downtown Exit to Rt. 18 Southbound to Rt. 6 exit (Downtown) to Mill Street to Cottage Street.



The City of New Bedford will offer complimentary parking at the Elm Street and Zeiterion garages.

The entire New Bedford community is involved in welcoming the runners and their friends and families. New Bedford is a great

place to shop, dine and explore before and after the race. Please visit www.destinationnewbedford.org for more information.

For more information on the race and race day activities please visit: www.newbedfordhalfmarathon.com.