

Deckers Creek Trail Half-Marathon—June 4, 2022

MRTC is pleased to announce we are opening registration for this year's event! As in past years, the race will take place on National Trail Day, the first Saturday in June (June 4, 2022.) And while we are excited to be back on the race calendar, we have made a few changes this year due to COVID-19 uncertainties/impacts. First major change is the course itself. The 2022 Up 'n' Down Deckers Creek Trail Half-Marathon will start and finish in Morgantown, very close to Hazel Ruby McQuain Park, on the Deckers Creek Trail. The course will go approximately 6.5 miles up the trail (approximately ½ mile up from the Melon Chapel), turn around and return down the trail to the finish. Second, we will provide food/refreshments at the finish, but will be somewhat limited as compared to previous events and will be distributed in as safe a manner as practical. Third, we will start at 8:00am and 8:15am, in a 2-wave start as in previous years. Following are a few Questions and Answers...

Why did the course change to an out and back, up and down course?

- Because of COVID-related employee shortages we could not get firm commitments from the bus companies who have traditionally provided the transportation from Morgantown to the start in Masontown. We also wanted to keep the race on the same trail, and logistically this was our best option. Additionally, we felt that this challenging course symbolizes the many difficult challenges we have all faced during the pandemic. Assuming a return to "normal" we will return to the original downhill race in 2023.

Why did the refreshment offerings change this year?

- Two main reasons...first, many of our local merchants provide a significant amount of the food you have come to enjoy, and as you know, small businesses have been hit hard during COVID. Out of respect we decided to not solicit the same contributions as in past years. Second, because the pandemic continues to be a concern we are opting to purchase individually wrapped/packaged items for you to enjoy.

Why the earlier start time?

- We are taking advantage of not having to spend time in buses and moved up the start time to reduce the time spent running in the mid-day sun/heat.

Are Walkers allowed in the event?

- We do not encourage individuals to participate if they plan on walking the entire 13.1 miles. Our ability to maintain proper course support and safety is limited for finish times beyond 3:30 (16:02/mile).

Will there be restroom facilities available at the start/finish?

- The recently improved Hazel Ruby McQuain Riverfront Park has restrooms and they will be supplemented with sufficient portable toilets if registration numbers indicate we need them.

Will there be live music at the finish/awards area?

- Yes...as in previous years it will be in the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park amphitheater.