

## Race Update #2

Below you will find some additional details and last minute reminders as we are less than a week away from the race.

### **Getting to the Park**

This is a reminder that the start/finish line for the race is at the Grand River Park. Do not go to Grand Ravines Park!

The Ottawa County Road Commission is planning to [resurface two sections of Fillmore Road](#) near the park and this may affect packet pickup on Friday evening and race day on Saturday. At this point, they are planning to be finished by Friday evening but that is weather-dependent. Please allow an extra 10 minutes to get to Grand River Park as you may have to take a detour.

Please be aware that the kids' race starts at 8:00 a.m. and the 5K/10K start at 8:30 a.m. If you arrive at 8:00 a.m. or shortly after you may have to wait a few minutes to park as the kids' race runs down the main park driveway before turning into the woods.

Parking will be on the paved spaces in the park and along the road down to the river. If you have to park along the road it will be a walk of a few minutes to get to the start/finish area. The park does not want us to park in the grass as there are sprinklers in the grass!

### **Packet Pickup Details**

Packet pickup is available on Friday, June 23, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and race morning, June 24, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. When you pick up your packet, either on Friday evening or on race day, you will be given a race bib, a shirt or hat (whichever one you chose at registration), and a timing chip. Course maps and safety pins will be available if you need them.

Please don't lose the timing chip! We need to return them to the timing company after the race. You will need this in order for your time to be accurately recorded.

We cannot guarantee shirts or hats if you registered after midnight on June 15. We did order extras, but be prepared if we happen to run out of them. We have had a great response to our event! Thank you!

### **Race Day Registration**

There will be race day registration from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. No shirts or hats are guaranteed but if we have any extra we may make them available.

### **Course Markings**

The course will be well-marked with ribbons, arrows, and flags. There will not be volunteers at every turn but we will have flags and ribbons to indicate the course direction. There will be

volunteers at potentially confusing turns where the two races diverge. The 10K course will be marked in orange and the 5K course will be marked in yellow. Do not step across any ribbon on the ground! Look for ribbons around trees or posts periodically to let you know you are on the trail and at turns there will be ribbons/flags immediately after the turn to let you know you made the correct turn. Take a look at the maps before race day. It is your responsibility to follow the course as marked! The 10K has more turns than the 5K so it is extra important that you have your heads up.

### **5K Course Change**

There will be one slight change on the 5K course from the published maps. After you go up the hill at the Grand Ravines Lodge and turn around you will follow the sidewalk to the front deck (river side of the Lodge) and then run across the Lodge parking lot and down across the grass. This will mean less running where cars could be and will also allow you to take in the best view in the park at the front deck of the Lodge. We will have plenty of flagging in this section and a couple of volunteers so just look for the yellow flags and ribbons.

### **Race Details**

The kids' race will start at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot near the finish line. The kids' race is stroller-friendly and dog-friendly. In the event there are still any kids on the course at 8:30 a.m. we may hold them back from finishing briefly to get the 5K/10K runners/walkers started. For the 5K and 10K we will employ a mini-wave start (starting at 8:30am) in order to decrease congestion. The trail is narrow and there is a turn in the first 100 yards. Start order will be the following:

1. 10K Runners
2. 5K Runners
3. 5K/10K Runners with dogs
4. 5K/10K Walkers and Walkers with dogs

Please listen to the announcer and come up to the line when your group is called. Faster runners should arrange themselves at the front and slower runners towards the back. If you will be running part-time and walking part-time we ask you to start with the walkers. The race is chip timed so your time is only measured when you cross the timing mat to start (the kids' fun run is not timed). We will have some pre-race instructions before the races start.

No strollers are allowed for the 5K/10K races. If you have a dog, please pick up after your dog.

### **Race Finish**

After you finish, there will be volunteers on hand to retrieve your timing chips (except for the kids' fun run because there aren't chips for that). A finisher's medal will be given to you after you finish. Please don't walk off without turning your chip in. After you do that, there will be food and drink available next to the finishing area. A few of our sponsors will be there to provide information and some give-aways. Ottawa County Parks staff will have a nature-themed craft activity for kids. The park has some picnic tables available and a lot of grassy area so that you

can hang out while waiting for others to finish. You are welcome to bring your own lawn chairs if you want. As soon as all age group winners are in we will start the awards ceremony.

### **Awards**

We have many awards for the top runners and we will be allowing overall and age group winners to pick the award that they want. Second and third place age group awards will be gift certificates. The overall winners will be based on gun time, not chip time. All other awards will be based on chip time. For age group awards, you must be present at the awards ceremony in order to pick up your award.