

Traffic Impact for 2026 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon on Oct. 18

Road closures start Friday, 10/16 at the start/finish in the North Bank Park area

OVERVIEW: Starting on Friday, Oct. 16, various roads in the North Bank Park area will be closed to road traffic. On Sunday, Oct. 18, 26.2 miles of the [marathon course](#) will be subject to rolling closures, based upon the expected time the first and last athlete passes each mile of the course.

WHEN/WHERE:

Friday, Oct. 16

- 9 a.m.: Long St. closes, Hocking St. to Neil Ave., remains closed until 6 p.m. Sunday (except 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday for in-bound traffic to the Jonas Brothers concert at Nationwide Arena, and 4:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday for in-bound traffic to the Columbus Blue Jackets game at Nationwide Arena.)
- 11:59 p.m.: Spring St. between West St. and Neil Ave. closes until 6 p.m. Sunday
- 11:59 p.m.: Hanover and Cozzins Streets closed except to local traffic until 6 p.m. Sunday
- 11:59 p.m.: West St. from Nationwide to Marconi and John McConnell from New Public Way to Spring St. close until Sunday at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17

- 11:59 p.m.: Spring St. from Neil Avenue to Hocking St. closes until 6 p.m. Sunday
- 11:59 p.m.: Neil Ave. south from Nationwide Blvd. goes down to one lane for condo traffic only until 6 p.m. Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 18

- 7:30 a.m.: Starting at the start line on Long Street and for the 26.2 miles of the marathon course and the 13.1 miles of the 1/2 marathon course, roads will be subject to partial or full closure based upon the expected [arrival times of the first and last athlete](#).
- 6 p.m.: Spring Street, Long Street and Neil Ave. will open back up to traffic

NOTE: On Sunday, COTA services will be disrupted in the downtown area and rerouted. Please visit www.cota.com for more details.

About The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon:

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised more than \$15 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. The Columbus Marathon will be held for the 46th time in 2026; this year will mark the 20th edition of the ½ Marathon and the fourth for both the Jesse Owens 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

-MORE-

FUN FACTS about the 46th Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 20th ½ Marathon

THE PEOPLE

- 24 Marathon Mile Champions who have shared their stories to inspire
- Over 1,700 volunteers that make this marathon possible
- More than 15,000 athletes who come from 49 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and 15 countries, including 165 elite athletes who are competing for the prize purse
- More than 40 bands, DJs and entertainers add extra cheer
- 25-member marathon team and 10-member marathon board of directors have put in approximately 10,000 hours of planning
- 30 Striding Slider (presented by White Castle) pace team leaders
- Approximately 100,000 spectators cheer on athletes on Race Day
- 986 Children's Champions raise money for Nationwide Children's Hospital through the event
- 141 participants will be celebrating their birthday race weekend
- Youngest participant is 12; oldest participant is 87

THE SUPPLIES

- 100,000 White Castle cups of water to quench thirst
- 100,000+ cups of Lemon-Lime Gatorade when water just doesn't cut it
- 750 gallons of cold chocolate milk waiting at the finish line
- 9,000 bananas; 6,000 Ohio apples; 16,000 bottles of water that will be collected and recycled in bins on site; 12,000 cold mozzarella cheese sticks, more than 60,000 individual bags of post-race snacks like Frito-Lays chips, Almonds and Peanuts; thousands of sweet treats from Cheryl's Cookies and Meijer
- 500+ portable bathrooms for relief
- 8,000 GU energy gels to refuel (Vanilla Bean, Chocolate Outrage, Strawberry Banana, Raspberry Lemonade flavors)

THE COURSE

- 1 Remembrance Mile to honor and celebrate the patients of Nationwide Children's who have already finished their race
- 1 Encore Mile, for the 290+ patients who lined the 2012 – 2025 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon course
- 201,600-watt sound system to rev up runners at the Start Line
- 7 permits throughout 5 different police jurisdictions to close down 26.2 miles of roads
- Thousands of pounds of discarded clothes donated to Goodwill Columbus

THE CAUSE

- Nationwide Children's Hospital has more than 2 million patient visits annually and stays true to its mission of providing care regardless of the family's ability to pay.
- Last year, it provided more than \$404 million in charity care and community benefit services and welcomed patients from all 50 U.S. states and 47 foreign countries.

-MORE-

- As a result of the partnership between the Columbus Marathon and Nationwide Children's Hospital, more than \$15 million has been raised to support the work of Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- Nationwide Children's has been named by U.S. News as tied for the number one pediatric hospital in Ohio and the Midwest.
- Nationwide Children's Hospital is America's fifth largest children's hospital and America's largest neonatal network and provider of inpatient pediatric surgeries.
- The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital is ranked among the top 10 NIH-funded freestanding pediatric research facilities in the U.S.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 16

Health & Fitness Expo – Hall D of the Greater Columbus Convention Center

- Noon to 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 17

Health & Fitness Expo – Hall D of the Greater Columbus Convention Center

- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jesse Owens 5K and 1 Mile Presented by Park National Bank – North Bank Park (311 W Long St)

- 9 a.m.: Jesse Owens 5K start
- 9 a.m.: Jesse Owens 1 Mile start
- 11 a.m.: White Castle Kids' Run start

Sunday, October 18

Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon – North Bank Park (311 W Long St)

- 6 a.m.: Corrals Open
- 7:25 a.m. Wheelchair Division Start
- 7:30 a.m. Marathon & ½ Marathon Start

About The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon:

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised more than \$15 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. The Columbus Marathon will be held for the 46th time in 2026; this year will mark the 20th edition of the ½ Marathon and the fifth for both the Jesse Owens 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

For more information, contact:

Sarah Irvin Clark – 614.296.4057

Stephanie Steel – 330.691.0017