Austin's Backyard Marathon & Memorial Day Remembrance Run

Saturday, May 23 - Monday, May 25, 2026

IMPORTANT LOCATION UPDATE

Due to rising lake levels and severe weather impacts from recent storms, the race has been relocated to Turkey Bend Park. Our new location at Turkey Bend Park provides the same beautiful Hill Country setting you expect, with the added benefit of **enhanced crew area space** for better support throughout your race.

All registration details remain the same. Updated course maps will be posted shortly.

Welcome to Austin's Backyard Marathon

Welcome to Austin's Backyard Marathon & Memorial Day Remembrance Run! We're excited to have you join us for this unique endurance challenge in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

NEW LOCATION: Turkey Bend Park, 4000 Shaw Dr., Marble Falls, TX 78654

Our event offers the perfect blend of challenging terrain and breathtaking landscapes. The course at Turkey Bend Park provides stunning water views along the Colorado River and showcases the natural beauty of Central Texas that will keep you motivated hour after hour.

The Backyard Ultra Format & Remembrance Run Option

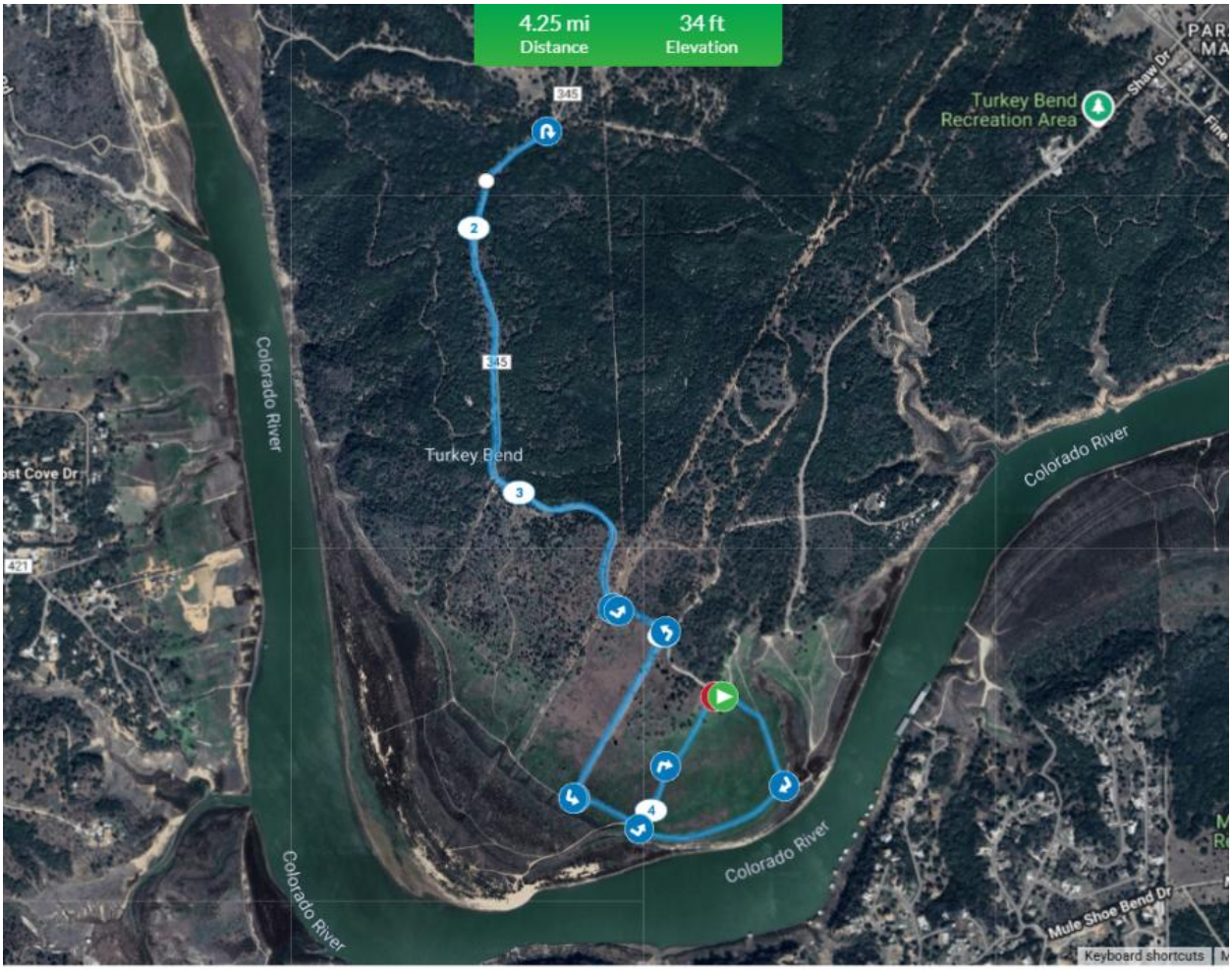
Austin's Backyard Marathon follows the classic "last person standing" format that has captivated endurance athletes worldwide. The course is a 4.20-mile out-and-back route that participants must complete within one hour. A new loop begins precisely at the top of each hour, and the format continues until only one runner remains. Runners are eliminated if they fail to complete a loop within the hour or choose not to start the next loop. The last person to complete a loop is declared the overall winner.

"So, the last shall be first, and the first last"

For those not competing in the Last Person Standing challenge, we offer the **Memorial Day Remembrance Run** option. This allows you to participate according to your own goals and abilities. You'll start with everyone else at the beginning of the event, but unlike the Last Person Standing competitors, you don't need to wait until the top of each hour to start your next loop. You can keep running continuously until you reach your desired distance. Simply notify race staff when you've reached your personal goal to receive your corresponding medal. Official results will show the order in which Remembrance Run participants finished and their total times, categorized based on the number of loops completed (Half Marathon, Marathon, Ultra).

Course Details & Terrain

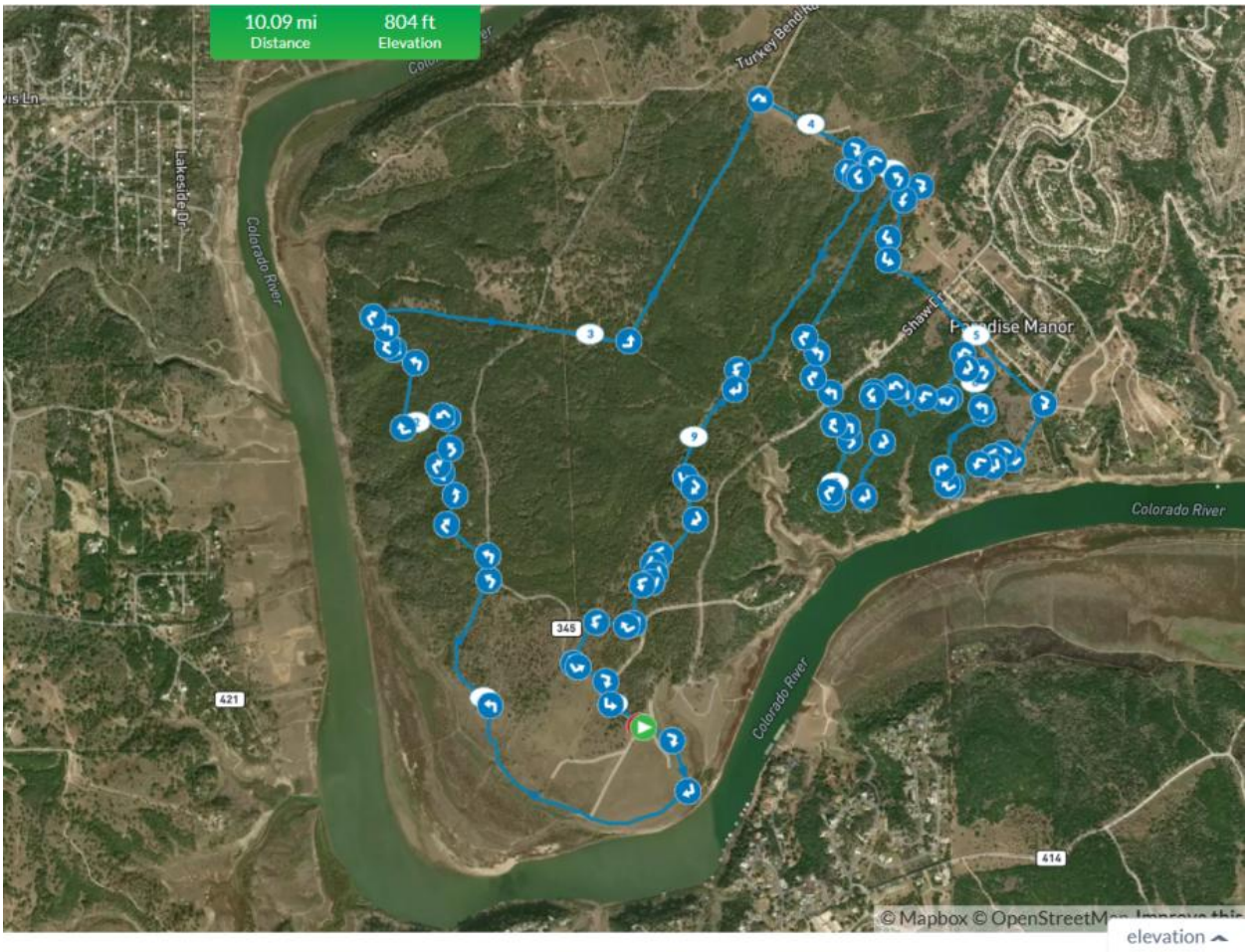
The backyard ultra course is a scenic 4.20-mile out-and-back route through Turkey Bend Recreation Area along the Colorado River. The route features a turnaround point at approximately 2.20 miles, giving runners the opportunity to see fellow competitors as they pass each other on the trail.



Distance: 2.37 mi Elevation: 706 ft

"So, the last shall be first, and the first last"

The half-marathon and marathon course winds through densely wooded areas with stunning water views that showcase the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country. The route follows the natural contours of the landscape, with varied turns and technical sections that keep the experience engaging hour after hour.



The terrain features mixed trail surfaces with some technical sections, offering the perfect backdrop for testing your endurance and mental fortitude against both the clock and your fellow competitors. Whether you're running in daylight or under the stars, you'll experience the same challenging and scenic route throughout the event, with the added mental boost of seeing other runners at the turnaround point.

Race Schedule, Setup & Support

On race day, **Saturday, May 23**, the site will be accessible from 7:00 AM for tent and crew area setup. All tent and crew area setup must be completed by 7:30 AM. After a mandatory pre-race briefing at 7:45 AM, the first loop will begin promptly at 7:00 AM. The backyard ultra race continues on the same 4.20-mile out-and-back route until only one person remains.

Enhanced Crew Area Setup

Turkey Bend Park offers significantly more space for crew setup areas, giving you and your support teams better access and room to organize your gear throughout the race. You'll be directed to the designated crew area upon arrival. Please note there is a maximum of 1 tent and 1 table per participant/crew, and we ask that you be considerate of space limitations and other participants. Your race entry includes access to this unique endurance challenge, a custom event T-shirt, a finisher's medal (upon completing at least one loop), and fully stocked aid station support.

Aid Station Support

We've got you covered with aid stations throughout the event. Drinkable water will be available for bottle refills, with plenty of water and ice at the main aid station area. Our food offerings include:

- Fresh fruit (bananas, oranges, watermelon)
- Salty snacks (pretzels, chips)
- Sweet options (cookies, gummy bears)
- PB&J sandwiches
- Evening support: easily digestible carbohydrates such as cup noodles and soup with hot water available, and possibly tacos

We'll maintain a good mix of sweet and salty options throughout the entire event.

Limited power access will be available in the main gathering area for charging devices, though we recommend bringing a portable battery pack if possible as outlets may be limited during peak times. We recommend not leaving extremely valuable items unattended and taking normal precautions with your gear.

Distance Achievements & Awards

One of the appealing aspects of the backyard ultra format is that it allows you to set your own distance goals. Many participants aim for standard race distances:

- **Half Marathon (13.1 miles):** Complete 4 loops
- **Marathon (26.2 miles):** Complete 7 loops
- **50K (31 miles):** Complete 8 loops
- **50 Miles:** Complete 12 loops
- **100K (62 miles):** Complete 15 loops
- **100 Miles:** Complete 24 loops

Medal System

Every finisher who completes at least one loop receives recognition for their achievement. Our tiered medal system includes:

- **Finisher Medal/Woodallion:** For completing at least 1 loop
- **Half Marathon Medal:** For completing 4 loops

- **Marathon Medal:** For completing 7 loops
- **Ultra Medal:** For completing 8+ loops
- **Last Person Standing:** Overall winner award and Bronze Ticket qualification

All finishers receive premium custom-designed medals featuring the beauty of the Texas Hill Country.

The Gladiator Award

The Gladiator Award is reserved for athletes who complete 100 miles in under 24 hours on the official course.

It is designed to honor absolute endurance mastery, not just distance, but sustained performance under relentless conditions.

In the Backyard Ultra, runners complete a fixed loop every hour, on the hour, until only one runner remains. While the format is elimination-based, the Gladiator Award introduces an elite performance benchmark within that structure.

🏛️ Gladiator Qualification (Backyard Ultra)

A runner earns the Gladiator Award if they:

- Complete 100 miles (160.9 km)
- Within 24 consecutive hours
- On the official Backyard Ultra course
- Following all Backyard Ultra rules (no early starts, no rule violations)

The award is distance- and time-based, not placement-based.
You do not need to be the last runner standing, only to meet the 100-mile / 24-hour standard.

What Makes This Special

- Backyard Ultras test **discipline, pacing, and mental resilience**
- The Gladiator Award recognizes runners who conquer both **distance and time pressure**
- There are **no rollovers, no partial credit**, the standard is absolute

You either earn the Gladiator Award, or you don't.

Few attempt it. Fewer finish it. One becomes a Gladiator.

Final Preparation Tips

As race day approaches, we recommend focusing on these key preparation aspects to ensure your best performance:

First, take time to review the course map to familiarize yourself with the route before race day. This knowledge will help you develop appropriate pacing strategies for each loop. The backyard format requires careful attention to nutrition, so plan what you'll eat and drink during each hourly break to maintain consistent energy levels throughout your run.

Develop a specific rest strategy for how you'll use your recovery time between loops if you're participating in the Last Person Standing challenge. This might include changing socks, stretching, eating, or simply putting your feet up to maximize recovery. For consistent performance, plan your target pace for each loop to ensure adequate rest time before the next hourly start.

Since the event includes night running, ensure your headlamp is fully charged and tested before race day. Having a backup light source is also recommended. Check the weather forecast the week of the race and pack accordingly for both day and night temperatures, as Texas weather can vary significantly even within a 24-hour period.

Perhaps most importantly, prepare mentally by adopting the strategy of breaking the challenge down into one loop at a time rather than focusing on the total distance. This approach helps prevent overwhelming yourself with the magnitude of the challenge and allows you to stay present with each segment of the event.

For interactive race strategy planning, visit https://fitfoundation.org/austins-backyard-races for our Backyard Marathon Strategy Guide and find the perfect race plan for your Memorial Day's weekend adventure!

"So, the last shall be first, and the first last"

We appreciate your patience and flexibility with this location change. Rest assured, you'll still experience an incredible last-person-standing challenge in the stunning Texas Hill Country, with even better crew support at our new venue!

See you in May!

Austin's Backyard Marathon Team

Race Website: https://fitfoundation.org