

# AUSTIN'S BACKYARD MARATHON

## & Memorial Day Remembrance Run

Race Guide — 2026

Saturday, May 23 – 25, 2026

Turkey Bend LCRA Recreation Area | Marble Falls, TX

*“So, the last shall be first, and the first last”*



*Wildflower meadows at Turkey Bend — May 2026*

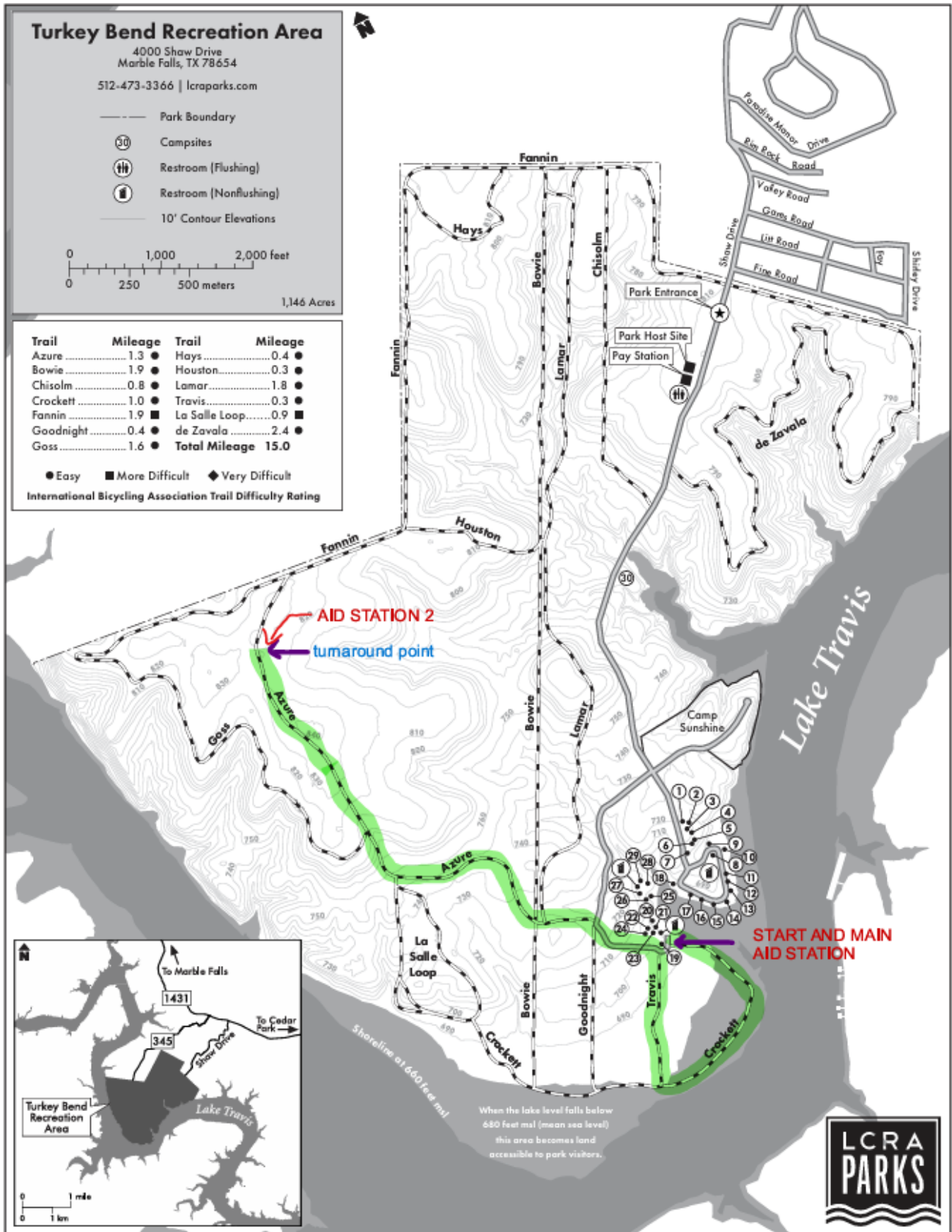
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## Welcome

Welcome to Austin's Backyard Marathon & Memorial Day Remembrance Run. This is more than a race, it's a weekend built around endurance, community, and remembrance in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

Whether you're chasing the Bronze Ticket, your first marathon, or running to honor someone, you'll find your distance and your reason at Turkey Bend.

Location: Turkey Bend LCRA Recreation Area, 4000 Shaw Dr, Marble Falls, TX 78654



## The Backyard Ultra Format

Austin's Backyard Marathon follows the classic last-person-standing format. One loop. One hour to complete it. A new loop starts at the top of every hour. Miss the cutoff, you're out. Last runner remaining wins.

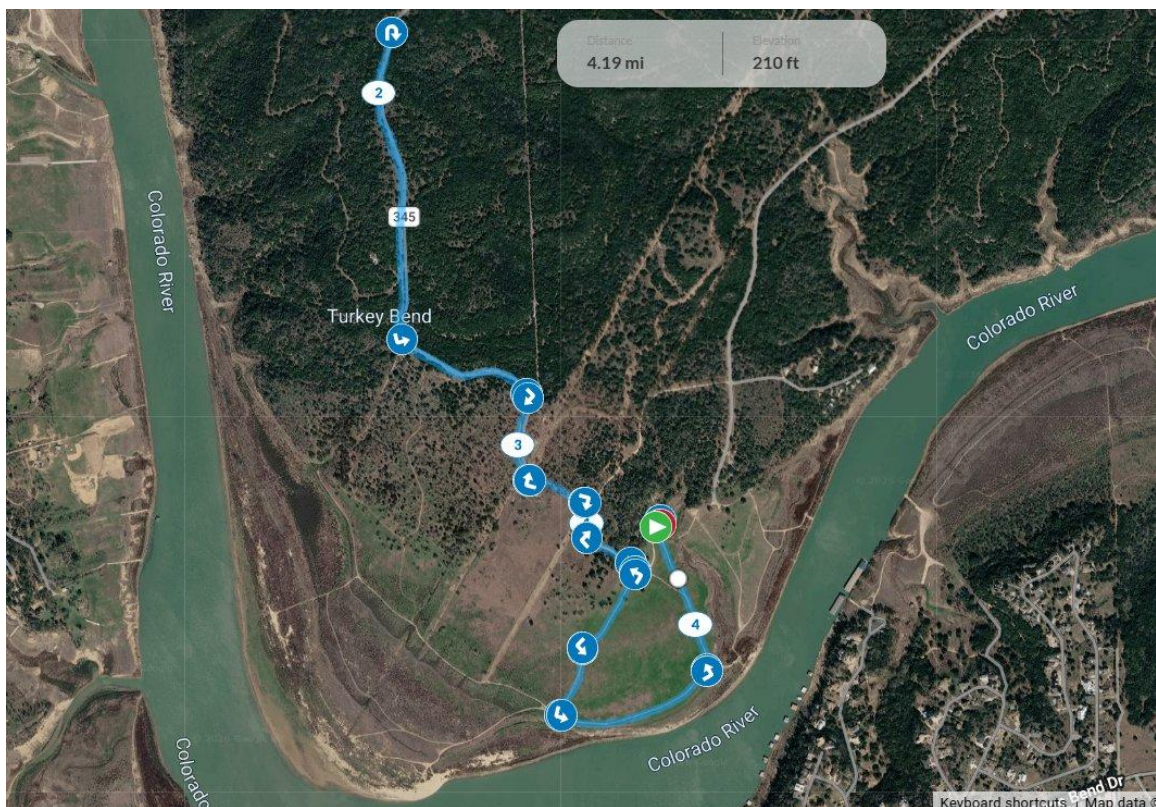
This is an officially sanctioned Bronze Ticket qualifying event.

### One Unified Course

No Day Loop. No Night Loop. A single unified course that all runners follow, through full sun, through dusk, through the long midnight hours, into Sunday's dawn if you make it that far. The course was finalized to comply with LCRA conservation requirements protecting Warbler nesting sites.

## The Main Loop — 4.2 Miles (Download GPX File [Here](#))

The heart of race weekend. A single unified course that traces the Turkey Bend peninsula and the wooded interior beyond, with the Colorado River as your constant companion.



*Main Loop — 4.2 miles, 210 ft elevation gain*

### Course Breakdown

#### Miles 0–1: Peninsula start

Start at the central corral and thread through the open peninsula meadow. Wildflowers underfoot, river on either side. A series of quick turns weave through the meadow toward the interior of the park. Fast, flat, and fully exposed — soak in the views before the trail closes in.

#### Miles 1–2: Azure Highland Road climb

Around mile 1.14, the course joins Azure Highland Road — a worn, mostly paved road (part dirt, part faded asphalt) that climbs gently into the wooded northern stretch of the park. This is your rhythm section. Long, straight, and steady, with Hill Country shade overhead. Turnaround comes at mile 2.11.

### **Miles 2–3: Return through the woods**

Back south along Azure Highland Road, the descent gives back the elevation gained. Cedar and oak canopy filters the afternoon light. Use this stretch to find your pace and conserve for the loops ahead.

### **Miles 3–4.2: Peninsula return**

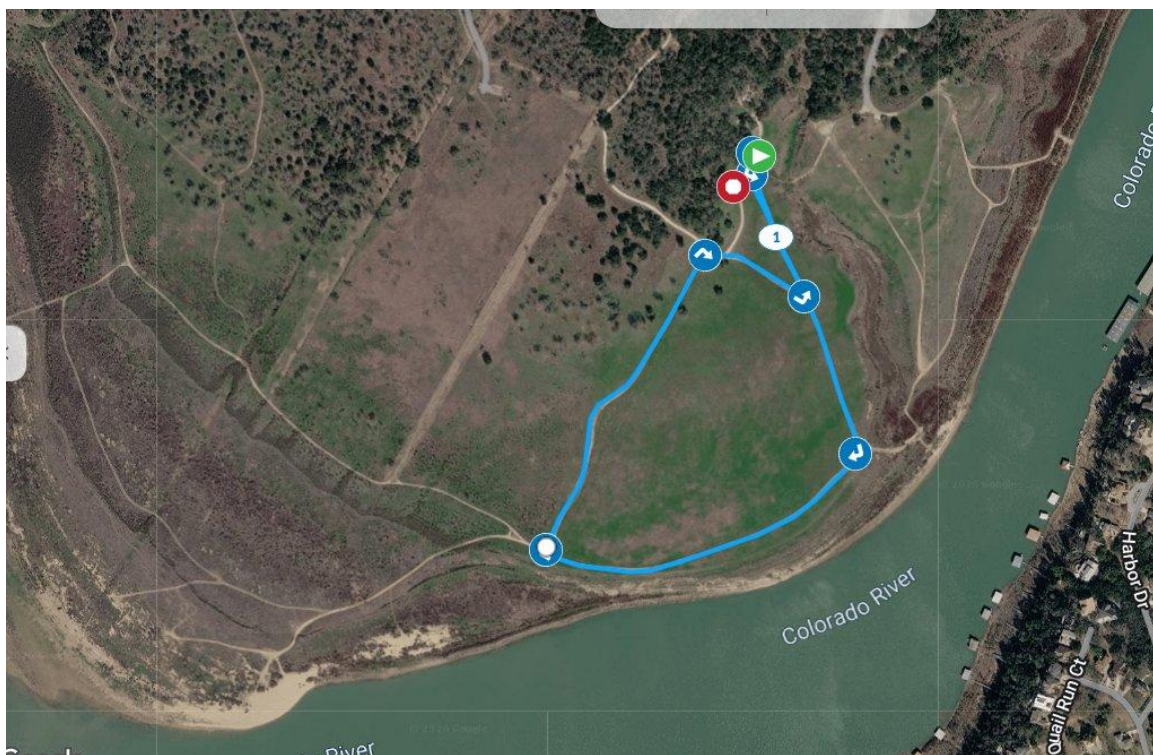
Around mile 3, the course peels off Azure Highland and rolls back through the open meadow toward the corral. Quick turns, wildflower corridors, and the Colorado River framing the final stretch. A short rise to the corral closes it out and the clock starts again.

### **Surface & Terrain**

Mixed: open meadow trail, dirt road, and worn paved road through the wooded interior. Reflective markers guide runners through nighttime hours.

## **The 1-Mile Finishing Loop (Download GPX File [Here](#))**

The marathon and half marathon distances close with a 1-mile finishing loop, a tight, scenic loop hugging the southern tip of the Turkey Bend peninsula, with the Colorado River framing the run on three sides.



*1-Mile Finishing Loop*

This is less extra mileage and more a victory lap. Wildflowers underfoot, the Colorado River on three sides, Hill Country on the horizon. Mostly flat with minor undulation. One short rise back to the corral closes it out.

For marathoners, this is loop seven. For half marathoners, it's loop four.

## Distance Options

### Saturday, May 23

- **Backyard Ultra:** 4.2-mile loop every hour, on the hour, until the last person stands. Officially sanctioned Bronze Ticket qualifier.
- **Marathon (26.2 miles):** 7 loops total i.e. six 4.2-mile main loops + one 1-mile finishing loop.
- **Half Marathon (13.1 miles):** 4 loops total i.e. three 4.2-mile main loops + one 1-mile finishing loop.

A brief moment of silence and reflection will occur at the start line to honor the purpose of the weekend.

### Distance Equivalents (Backyard Ultra)

- **Half Marathon (13.1 mi):** 3 + 1 (1 mile) loops
- **Marathon (26.2 mi):** 6 + 1 (1 mile) loops
- **50K (33.6 mi):** 7+ 2 (1 mile) loops
- **50 Miles (50.4 mi):** 12 loops
- **100K (62.8 mi):** 15 loops
- **100 Miles (100.8 mi):** 24 loops

## Race Day Schedule

### Saturday, May 23

- **6:30-7:00 AM:** Site opens. Tent and crew area setup begins near campsites 19–24. Packet pickup near campsite 19.
- **7:30 AM:** All tent and crew setup must be completed.
- **7:45 AM:** Mandatory pre-race briefing.
- **8:00 AM:** First loop begins. Backyard Ultra continues hour-by-hour until the last person stands. Marathon and Half Marathon runners begin 5 minutes after the Backyard Ultra start.

## Camping & Friday Arrival

If you're arriving Friday evening, make sure to reserve a campsite directly through LCRA Turkey Bend at their website.

## Power, Tents & Crew Setup

- **Gas generators:** Permitted at campsites only. Not allowed in the corral.
- **Battery power stations** (Jackery, EcoFlow, etc.): Allowed anywhere, corral or campsite. Great for fans, charging, lights.
- **Tent setup:** Maximum 1 tent and 1 table per participant/crew. Be considerate of space and neighbors.
- **Crew & spectators:** Welcome at the venue. Park entry pass required, purchasable through the RunSignUp race store or as a registration add-on. Wrist bands will be included in your race packets for crew members that have paid. Crew members must wear their wristbands. **Those without wristbands**

will be asked to leave the park and possibly escorted by a Park Ranger if they cannot present the payment receipt for their park passes.

## Aid Station Support

Aid stations operate throughout the event. Drinkable water, electrolytes and ice are available for bottle refills at the main aid station area and the turn around point.

### Food Offerings

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

A consistent mix of sweet and salty options is maintained throughout the entire event.

## Leave No Trace — Pack In, Pack Out

Turkey Bend is a protected LCRA recreation area, home to Warbler nesting sites and the wildflower meadows you'll be running through. We are guests on this land. Treat it accordingly.

### **This is a pack-in, pack-out event.**

Everything you bring in, gel wrappers, tape, cups, bottles, food packaging, tent debris, leaves with you. Nothing on the course. Nothing at your tent site. Nothing at the corral.

### **Any runner caught littering will be disqualified.**

This applies on the course, at your crew area, and anywhere in the park. No warnings. Protecting this venue is how we keep racing here.

## On-Site Recovery: Fluid Revival

Fluid Revival will be on-site offering mobile IV hydration services. All participants receive \$40 off any IV drip.

After hours on the course in Texas heat, an IV gets fluids and electrolytes back into your system faster than anything you can drink. Treatments include:

- Rapid rehydration and electrolyte replenishment
- B-complex, Vitamin C, and antioxidants for recovery
- Energy support to fight the post-race crash
- Muscle recovery to reduce soreness

Administered by Registered Nurses under medical director oversight. Founded by an Austin firefighter/paramedic. Trailside care, no clinic visit needed.

## The Gladiator Award

Reserved for athletes who complete 100 miles in under 24 hours on the official Backyard Ultra course. The award honors absolute endurance mastery, not just distance, but sustained performance under relentless conditions.

### Gladiator Qualification:

- 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.

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

## Final Preparation Tips

### Know the course.

GPX files for the main loop and 1-mile finishing loop will be emailed two days before race day. Load them on your watch ahead of time.

### Plan your nutrition.

The backyard format requires careful attention to nutrition. Plan what you'll eat and drink during each hourly break to maintain consistent energy levels.

### Develop a rest strategy.

Between loops, change socks, stretch, eat, or put your feet up. Plan your target pace to ensure adequate rest before the next hourly start.

### Prepare for night running.

Ensure your headlamp is fully charged and tested before race day. Bring a backup light source.

### Check the weather.

Texas weather varies significantly within 24 hours. Pack for both day heat and night temperatures.

### Think one more hour.

Break the challenge down into one hour at a time rather than focusing on total distance. This is the whole game.

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## One Loop. One Hour. One More Hour.

*Who will be the last person standing to answer the bell?*

See you at Turkey Bend.

**Austin's Backyard Marathon Team**

*FitFoundation.org*