



EMBARGOED THROUGH  
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## 2018 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon Announces Course Changes

*The ½ marathon course will remain unchanged in 2018*

**(COLUMBUS, OH)** – The 2018 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon today announced new course changes beginning at Mile 14.

Race Director Darris Blackford said the city's growth, and the construction that comes with it, prompted his team to make course changes in the second half of the course.

"Once you make a change, it usually prompts additional changes throughout the course," Blackford added. "The entire race team wanted to make sure our full marathoners had a similar fast and flat experience in the second half of the race."

Blackford said the following changes will be made to the 2018 course:

- **Mile 14** will move off of High St. and onto Buttles, Dennison, First, and Hunter Avenues.
- **Mile 16-17** will no longer travel along Annie & John Glenn Drive past the southern end of Ohio Stadium or take Cannon Drive. The new route will go through College Avenue to Woodruff Avenue. Athletes will continue through Woody Hayes Drive and pass in front of the north end of Ohio Stadium.
- **Mile 18** will no longer travel on the bike path between The Ohio State University and Upper Arlington. Runners and walkers will follow a route from Woody Hayes Drive, to Kenny Road, to Lane Avenue and to North Star Road before resuming the regular course through Upper Arlington.
- **Mile 22** will now only skirt Grandview Yard and eliminate any bricks of Yard Street.

Once the route leaves Grandview Heights, it will be the same as in previous years to the mostly downhill finish near North Bank Park.

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“Many sections of the new course were part of previous course designs and should be familiar to athletes who took part in the race back in the late 1990s up to the mid-2000s,” Blackford said. “The new course design should create a fresh experience and give our athletes the best chance possible to run a fast second half of the full marathon.”

The new course map is available at [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com)

Set for Sunday October 21, 2018, this will mark the 39<sup>th</sup> year for the marathon and the 13<sup>th</sup> year for the ½ Marathon. The ½ Marathon course limit will remain at 4 hours, an 18:20-minute-per mile pace, and the Marathon course limit remains six hours, a 13:44/mile pace. More than 100,000 people watch the race, with more than 3,000 volunteers lining the 26.2-mile course. Athletes and fans can visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com) for event information and details on how to become a Children’s Champion to raise money for Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

**About The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon**

The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018. The Marathon is now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. In its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the ½ Marathon is the largest in Columbus. Approximately \$7 million has been raised for Nationwide Children’s Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. For more information, visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com).

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