



About us

Introduced in 1981 by the Missouri Valley YMCA, Bismarck's marathon has evolved into one of the state's premiere running events. With breathtaking scenery along the out-and-back course that parallels the Missouri River, runners are treated to a fast, flat course that promises experienced runners new PR opportunities and novices a great race experience. What's more, the course is USATF certified, meaning marathoners hoping to qualify for the Boston Marathon may do so here.

The event was successfully operated for 25 years by the YMCA and turned over to a volunteer committee of local community business leaders—who happen to also be running enthusiasts—to continue the event. The committee kicked off a new era for Bismarck's marathon that included a new name, a new racing division (a marathon relay) and a new marketing plan. All told, this great race has successfully reinvented itself, bringing in record participation and newfound community support.

With your help, it is our goal to increase awareness and participation of this great event and to establish the marathon as an annual community event in North Dakota's capital city.

Planning committee members

- Lynn Beiswanger, Executive Director
- Carol Beiswanger, Treasurer
- Mel Bullinger, board member
- Ross Espeseth, board member
- Vance Krebs, board member
- Faye Miller, board member
- David Nash, board member
- Marnie Walth, board member
- Bryan Wetch, board member
- Lonna Willer-Smith, board member
- Lori Yantzer, board member
- Mark Zimmerman, board member

A look back ...

In its first year under new management (2007), Bismarck's marathon drew a record 498 participants. In 2008, that number climbed to 850 and in 2009, it jumped to 1,400.

Top six cities represented in '09:

- Bismarck
- Mandan
- Dickinson
- Fargo
- Minot
- Winnipeg

Out-of-state participation: Runners from 33 states and three Canadian provinces participated in the 2009 event. A large percentage of these runners are members of the National 50 States Club, an organization of marathoners striving to run a marathon in every state. As North Dakota's fastest marathon, the number of out-of-state participants will continue to grow, increasing the economic impact on our community.

Age group breakdown

- Ages 15-19 (4%)
- Ages 20-29 (22%)
- Ages 30-39 (25%)
- Ages 40-49 (34%)
- Ages 50-59 (11%)
- Ages 60-69 (3%)
- Ages 70-79 (1%)

Gender breakdown

- Female 53% (Average Age: 36)
- Male 47% (Average Age: 40)