



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2018

Contact:

Tony Banovich

Executive Director, Run Wild Missoula
Race Director, Missoula Marathon
406-672-6700

tonyb@runwildmissoula.org

Meg Whicher

Recreation Specialist
Missoula Parks & Recreation
406-552-6271

mwhicher@ci.missoula.mt.us

**Run Wild Missoula And Missoula Parks & Recreation
Create Duo Team Program**

Run Wild Missoula, in partnership with Missoula Parks & Recreation, is pleased to announce the creation of a Duo Team Program for the benefit of athletes with disabilities in the Missoula community. This program partners runners and athletes with disabilities to provide greater access to running and walking events. The program utilizes specialized joggers to partner teams to hit the trails.

Under the partnership, Run Wild Missoula (RWM) is donating two specialized running strollers to the Missoula Parks & Recreation All-Abilities Recreation Program. Parks & Recreation will make these strollers available for loan and rental to the public as part of their inventory of adaptive equipment.

Run Wild Missoula will work with Parks & Recreation staff to find opportunities for participation by duo teams at RWM events, with the goal of having the first duo teams take part in the 2018 Missoula Marathon weekend of events.

Tony Banovich, Run Wild Missoula Executive Director stated, “We’ve been having discussions with Parks & Recreation for some time about adaptive athlete opportunities at RWM events. Over the last several years, we’ve seen participation by athletes with disabilities using handcycles and wheelchairs, as well as visually impaired athletes and athletes with traumatic brain injuries. One group that hasn’t yet participated are people with disabilities that prevent them from being

ambulatory under their own power. Having long been inspired by the duo team of Dick & Rick Hoyt, the creation of a duo program in Missoula seemed like an appropriate next step.”

“Everyone deserves the chance to feel the wind in their face. This program is just another way our community is working together to make recreation inclusive.” says Meg Whicher, Recreation Specialist at Parks & Recreation.

The program will be looking for volunteer runners as well as rider athletes. If you are interested, please contact Whicher at 552-6271 or Banovich at 672-6700.

#