

S U M M A R Y R U N W I L D R E P O R T

MISSOULA



2026

Community that Moves Together

[RUNWILDMISSOULA.ORG](https://runwildmissoula.org)

MISSION: *Run Wild Missoula promotes and supports running and walking for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.*

CORE VALUES:

- Maintaining a commitment to integrity, professionalism, and excellence.
- Creation of a community of runners and walkers that:
 - ~ Commits to inclusion and acceptance.
 - ~ Promotes a fit, active, and healthy lifestyle for members and the broader community.
 - ~ Provides multiple opportunities to safely participate, volunteer, train, learn, and race.
 - ~ Offers opportunities for participation regardless of financial means.
- Giving back to the community in meaningful ways.
- Supporting local vendors, businesses (especially event sponsors), and the economy.

This mission and these core values guide the decisions we make on our mix of races, use of club resources; member benefits, amenities, and community donations; and how we support our sport.

RWM LEADERS & KEY VOLUNTEERS



RWM Board of Directors: Hillary Ogg, *President*; Dana Bandy, *Vice President*; Candace Reinholdt, *Treasurer*; Andy Nelson, *Secretary*; Russell LaFontaine, Miles Shuck, Shannon Sullivan, Ava Holliday, Natalie Bond, Michael Janke, Randy Tanner. **RWM Staff:** Trisha Drobeck, *Executive Director*, Marina Steerman, *Race Operations Coordinator*, Cara Larson, *Membership & Programs Coordinator*, Angie Partain, *Bookkeeper*.

RUN WILD MISSOULA

20 YEARS OF RUNNING WILD

Whether you've been running with us since day one or just recently found your stride, 2026 gave us plenty to celebrate.

For two decades, Run Wild Missoula has been about more than miles. It's about friendships formed on the trail, encouragement at the starting line, volunteers who show up in every kind of weather, and a community that continues to show up for one another—year after year.

And what a year our 20th turned out to be.

In 2026, our community grew to more than 2,600 members, marking another strong year of growth. We introduced new programs like Sole Mates and Art on the Run, welcomed brand-new runners through our beginner programs, gathered for weekly runs and trail sessions, and continued to create more ways for people to find their place in our running and walking community. Through Montana Trail Crew, we also put time and muscle into caring for the trails and open spaces that make running in Missoula so special.

It was a big year for racing, too. The Missoula Marathon experienced its first true sellout, with the marathon reaching its largest field ever and the entire weekend continuing to grow. We expanded City to Sky with a new 25K distance, giving more runners the chance to experience one of Missoula's most spectacular trail-running landscapes. Across our race calendar, thousands of runners and walkers crossed starting lines—and hundreds of volunteers stood behind them, often through heat, rain, wind, smoke and whatever else Montana decided to throw our way.

And then we tried something completely new: 24 hours of running. The inaugural Dog Days Ultra brought runners, walkers, relay teams and volunteers to Big Sky Park for a full day and night of loops, camaraderie, countless cheese quesadillas, and some of the wildest race-day weather we've experienced. It was messy, memorable and exactly the kind of adventure we hoped it would be.

Beyond races, we strengthened community partnerships, supported local nonprofits, brought people together through events and programs, advocated for the places where we run, and found plenty of reasons to gather even when there wasn't a finish line involved.

Twenty years ago, Run Wild Missoula started with a couple of simple ideas: running is better together, and everyone's invited.

Two decades later, those ideas still guide us. The races may be bigger, the membership has grown, and our reach extends farther than ever before—but at our core, we're still a community of people who believe there's room for everyone.

Here's to 20 years behind us—and whatever wild miles come next.

Enjoy Every Step!

Trisha Drobeck
RWM Executive Director



RWM 2026 CONTRIBUTIONS - (\$106,708)

- Rising Hearts: \$250 [Virtual Half]
- \$1,800 for RH Team [Sponsorship]
- All Nations Health: \$4,178.50 [Virtual Half]
- Silver Lining Montana: \$2,380 [Fierce Fab]
- Friends of Missoula Parks [Marshall Mountain]: \$20,000
> [part III of 3-year \$60,000 commitment]
- Five Valleys Land Trust [Mount Dean Stone]: \$25,000
> [part I of a 4-year \$100,000 commitment]
 - \$915 [Fall Trail Sessions]
 - \$750 [Mount Jumbo Elk Ramble]
 - \$1,228 [Spring Trail Sessions]
- UM Physical therapy Student Assoc \$1,799 [Skeleton Skedaddle]
- Missoula Food Bank: \$13,366 [Turkey Day]
- Empower MT
 - \$500 [MLK Jr Celebration]
 - \$2,307 [ABY Program, Ahmaud Arbery contributions]
- Queer Prom \$750 [Sponsorship]
- Go Run Missoula:
 - \$3,000 [Scholarship fund donation]
 - \$2,575 [GRM Ten]
- The Center: \$2,405 [Heart Throb]
- Seeley Lake Elementary & SL Ski Team: \$2,500 [Snow Joke]
- Seeley Lake Community Foundation: \$500 [Snow Joke]
- Trees for Missoula (Climate Smart Missoula): \$2,214 [Run for the Trees]
- Friends of the M Trail: \$2,005 [Pengelly]
- Climate Smart Missoula: \$6,391 [Missoula Marathon]
- Scouting America: \$100 [on behalf of William Croft]
- Tony Banovich HS XC Scholarship Fund: \$6,000 [XC shoes]
- Missoula Downtown Assoc: \$545 [River City Roots Run]
- Historical Museum at Fort Missoula: \$1,750 [Dog Days Ultra]
- The Center: \$500 [Rainbow Ball Sponsor]
- YWCA: \$1,000 [Shelter to Summit grant match]

NON-CASH DONATIONS IN 2026

- Gloves & Headbands to Go Run Missoula winter Session
- Yoga mats, blocks and straps to Go Run Missoula
- 606 pounds of non-perishable foods to Missoula Food Bank [Turkey Day]
- Hundreds of gear bags, shirts, shelf stable snacks to Essential Eats Distributors & Indigenous Ascent Coalition

Run Wild Missoula acknowledges that we are in the homelands of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we offer our respect for their history and culture, for their ancient and continuing presence in this landscape, and for the path they have shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

MONTANA TRAIL CREW



The Montana Trail Crew is a dynamic committee within Run Wild Missoula, composed of RWM board members, staff, and a few dedicated at-large members. Focused on fostering a strong trail community, this group organizes and leads a variety of initiatives, including trail maintenance days, RWM trail sessions, the Mountain Running Film Festival, public lands advocacy efforts, multiple trail races, educational programs like Becoming a Wild Runner, group trail runs, and more.

Trail Work Days

- October 2025 - Mount Sentinel Trail improvements and connections including the Evans Street & Campus Housing Trailheads
- April 2026 - M Trail road base improvements (*see below*)
- June 2026 - National Trails Day Rattlesnake Trail improvements

Film Nights

- Mountain Running Film Festival
- Remaining Native
- The Cut Off

Becoming a Wild Runner

May 2026 - Wildlife Encounters & skill building

Giving

- \$20,000 to Marshall Mountain
(*Third installment of \$60,000 pledge*)
- \$25,000 to Mount Dean Stone Community Forest
(*First installment of \$100,000 pledge*)
- \$2,000 to Friends of the M Trail



M Trail Improvements Before and After

A RECORD SETTING MISSOULA MARATHON



The 2026 Missoula Marathon Weekend was one for the books. For the first time in our history, the Marathon truly sold out, with a record 1,700 marathoners registered and runners joining us from all 50 states and around the world.



But the numbers only tell part of the story. Nearly 1,000 volunteer roles helped bring race weekend to life, from the Runners Expo at Caras Park to early-morning bus load and start lines to the final finishers on the iconic Beartracks Bridge in downtown Missoula. Once again, our community showed visitors exactly why this race has earned a reputation for being something special.

The weekend also made a remarkable impact beyond the finish line. Our 2026 economic impact study estimated more than \$5.2 million in direct visitor spending in the Missoula community, while our charity partnership with Montana Youth Homes brought runners together to raise more than \$100,000!

Twenty years in, the Missoula Marathon continues to grow—but the heart of the weekend remains unmistakably Missoula: welcoming, generous, a little wild, and powered by community..



MISSOULA MARATHON
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



MISSOULAMARATHON.ORG