



## Heads up! Little Rock Marathon road closures will affect downtown traffic patterns beginning Thursday morning

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jamie Moody, Media Director  
[littlerockmarathonmedia@gmail.com](mailto:littlerockmarathonmedia@gmail.com) | 501-454-1260

(Little Rock, Ark. – February 27, 2024) – Officials with the Little Rock Marathon today cautioned drivers around the Downtown Little Rock area to familiarize themselves with Race Weekend road closures that will begin to affect traffic patterns in the area by Thursday.

Athletes from all 50 states and eight different countries will take to the streets on Sunday, March 3 for the Little Rock Marathon, presented by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Race Director Mike Garrity said that many of those streets will be closed for part of the day - or in some cases, all weekend - to create a safe environment for participants both on and off the course.

Garrity noted there will be hard closures around the edges of the course that the general public needs to be aware of and should factor into any travel they may need to make in and around those areas around Race Weekend.

Garrity specifically mentioned the closure of LaHarpe Boulevard between State Street and Clinton Avenue which has proven to be a pain point for drivers leaving downtown on Friday afternoon. "We understand that people want to get home quickly to start their weekends away from the crowds Race Weekend brings to town, so we just ask for a little patience," he said. "We know it causes headaches."

- **Thursday, Feb. 29 at 9:00 am: LaHarpe Blvd. from State Street to behind the Statehouse Convention Center will close to one lane of traffic to allow for Expo Vendors to load in;**
- **Friday, March 1 at 9:00 am: LaHarpe Blvd. will close both lanes in both directions from State Street to President Clinton Avenue, and will remain closed until approximately 10:00 pm on Sunday, March 3.**

Garrity said the Marathon this year will utilize a course used in years before the I-30 Crossing project began. This year, after athletes cross back into Little Rock from North Little Rock on the Broadway Bridge, they will then head east past the Clinton Library toward Clinton National Airport before coming back into SoMA and moving west toward historic Little Rock Central High.

The Marathon will again use a system of rolling street closures for both Saturday and Sunday, meaning as the athletes approach, the roads close. "We use the rolling closures to get the streets opened back up to the public faster," Garrity said. "Once all the athletes clear that area, it will open back up for public use."

The Little Rock Marathon is a project of Little Rock Parks & Recreation; proceeds from the race are used to upgrade playgrounds and parks in the city.

With the exception of the LaHarpe closure, the entire course should be open for traffic at approximately 3:00 pm on Sunday. LaHarpe from State Street to President Clinton Avenue will reopen Sunday night by 10:00 pm. Marathon officials have posted comprehensive information about street closures and fully detailed course maps are available here: [www.littlerockmarathon.com/course](http://www.littlerockmarathon.com/course). For more information about Race Weekend, please visit [www.littlerockmarathon.com](http://www.littlerockmarathon.com).

Times and locations for street closures are listed below:

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

9:00 am **HARD CLOSURE: Eastbound LaHarpe Blvd., from State St. to Statehouse Convention will close to one lane for Expo Vendors.**

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

9:00 am **HARD CLOSURE: LaHarpe Blvd. will close in both directions, from State Street to President Clinton Avenue. LaHarpe from State to President Clinton will remain closed until Sunday, March 3 at approximately 10:00 pm.**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

4:00 am Cumberland northbound at Second Street | Reopens approx. 8:30am

5:00 am Markham both east and westbound at Scott Street | Reopens approx. 8:30am  
Second Street east and westbound at Scott Street | Reopens approx. 8:30am  
Alley between Scott and Main northbound and southbound

5:30 am President Clinton Avenue westbound at Ottenheimer/Rock | Reopens approx. 8:30am  
Second Street westbound at Rock Street | Reopens approx. 8:30am

6:00 am Main, Louisiana and Center streets northbound at Markham Street | Reopen approx. 2:00pm  
Main northbound at Second Street | Reopens approx. 2:00pm  
Markham Street from Center to Cumberland | Reopens approx. 1:00pm  
Broadway Bridge southbound to Cantrell Road | Reopens approx. 2:00pm

7:00 am Chester Street exit from I-630 – both east and westbound | Reopens approx. 9:30am

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

4:00 am Barrels, cones on Cantrell from Junior Deputy to Chester | Reopens conclusion of race  
Cumberland northbound at Second Street | Reopens approx. 9:00am

5:00 am Cones on Third/Markham from Barton to Kavanaugh | Reopens as course clears  
Alley between Scott and Main northbound and southbound  
Broadway northbound at Capitol | Reopens as course clears  
Third Street eastbound at Arch | Reopens as course clears  
Riverfront Drive, northbound | Reopens as course clears  
Cantrell Hill eastbound curb lane from Lookout to Cedar Hill | Reopens approx. 3:00pm  
Markham from Center to Cumberland | Reopens approx. 11:00 am

Markham both east and westbound at Scott Street | Reopens approx. 9:00am  
Second Street east and westbound at Scott Street | Reopens approx. 9:00am  
Main, Louisiana and Center streets northbound at Markham Street | Reopens approx. 2:00pm  
Main northbound at Second Street | Reopens approx. 2:00pm  
Sixth Street, from Sixth to Roundabout | Reopen as course clears  
Broadway Bridge southbound to Cantrell Road | Reopens approx. 4:00pm

5:30 am Broadway Bridge southbound on North Little Rock side | Reopens approx. 8:45am  
Broadway Bridge northbound on Little Rock side | Reopens approx. 8:45am  
President Clinton Avenue westbound at Ottenheimer/Rock  
Second Street westbound at Rock

7:30 am Chester southbound at Sixth Street | Reopens approx. Noon  
Chester Street exit from I-630 – both east and westbound | Reopens approx. 11:30am

8:00 am Brookwood southbound at Cedar Hill | Reopens approx. 3:00pm  
Cedar Hill eastbound at Mart  
Markham/Third Street from Martin Luther King, Jr., to Kavanaugh | Reopens as course clears  
8:15 am Third Street westbound at Spring | Reopens as course clears  
Spring southbound at Third | Reopens as course clears

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#### **About Little Rock Marathon**

The mission of the Little Rock Marathon is to provide a premier event open to athletes of all abilities, while promoting a healthy lifestyle through running and walking and raising money for Little Rock Parks & Recreation. Since its inception in 2003, more than \$1 million dollars has been donated to Little Rock Parks & Recreation. Little Rock Marathon Race Weekend is held the first weekend in March each year and includes a marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K run/walk, a children's mile and a free two-day health and fitness expo. With an estimated \$2.3 million in local spending annually, more than 140,000 individuals have participated in a Little Rock Marathon race, sponsored event, or free training program. This has been achieved through school-based programs, community outreach, partnerships with running/walking groups across the country and passionate grass roots promotion.

#### **About Little Rock Parks & Recreation**

Little Rock Parks and Recreation oversees 62 developed parks and twelve undeveloped parks totaling over 6,100 acres. In addition, the Little Rock Parks & Recreation offers a wide-range of youth and adult recreational and sports leagues, after-school and summer playground programs for children ages 6-15, outdoor recreation, therapeutic recreation and programs for seniors. Little Rock's parks system is not only a source of pride for the city, but it has received national recognition for excellence! Little Rock Parks & Recreation became the 30th agency in the United States to receive accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. Funds raised will continue to support parks and recreational programs for all ages. For more information about Little Rock Parks & Recreation please visit [www.lrpr.org](http://www.lrpr.org).