Travel Advisory: Philadelphia Marathon Weekend

Saturday Travel Advisory: Half Marathon & 8K (November 21, 2026)

Status: OPEN (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Expect: Major road closures, bus detours, and heavy traffic delays in East Fairmount Park until **2:00 PM**.

Please plan ahead and allow significant extra travel time if you are visiting Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse this Saturday. Miles 9–12 of the Philadelphia Half Marathon loop directly around the perimeter of East Fairmount Park, impacting access to Reservoir Drive. *(Note: Smith will be **CLOSED** on Sunday, Nov. 22, due to the full marathon.)*

Driving & Road Closures (2:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

- **Immediate Park Closures:** Reservoir Drive (between 33rd Street and Diamond Drive), Mt. Pleasant Drive, Fountain Green Drive, and Kelly Drive are closed to vehicular traffic.
- **Surrounding Neighborhood Closures:** Expect closures along 33rd Street (from Girard Ave. to Cecil B. Moore Ave.), Girard Avenue (33rd St. to 38th St.), and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.
- **When Roads Reopen:** Most park and neighborhood streets around Smith are scheduled to reopen no later than **2:00 PM** once the course is cleared.
- **Best Approach:** If driving after 2:00 PM, enter East Fairmount Park from the north/east (via Strawberry Mansion or 33rd Street north of Diamond Drive) to avoid ongoing all-day closures near the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Eakins Oval.
- **Parking Warning:** Strict "No Parking" tow-away zones go into effect along the racecourse starting at 1:00 AM. Check posted signs carefully before leaving your vehicle.

Public Transit (SEPTA)

- **Bus Detours:** Detours begin at **6:00 AM**. **SEPTA Route 32** is on detour and will not follow its normal path along 33rd Street/Oxford.
- **Alternative Route: SEPTA Route 3** (which provides direct weekend service into Fairmount Park) is not listed on the primary marathon detour schedule, though delays are likely near Girard Avenue.

- **Check Before You Go:** Visit the SEPTA System Status & Detours Page or use the SEPTA app for real-time rerouting before boarding.

Quick Tips for Visitors

- **Visit in the Afternoon:** If your schedule is flexible, arriving **after 2:00 PM** will offer the smoothest access by car and transit.
- **View the Course:** Check the official Philadelphia Marathon Road Closures & Maps to map your route around the perimeter.

Sunday Travel Advisory: Philadelphia Marathon (November 22, 2026)

SMITH PLAYGROUND WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd: Visiting the playground on Sunday morning, November 22 will be highly challenging due to massive, city-wide road closures. The marathon course completely encircles the river and blocks all traditional driving routes into the park. Since it will be impossible to access the Playground by car before 3:00 pm on Sunday, the Smith will be closed.