Year-by-Year Twin Cities Marathon History

1982: The Tradition Begins

With an entry fee of \$6, the inaugural Twin Cities Marathon was met with fantastic reception, and a new era for Minnesota distance running was born. Race Director Jack Moran credited the Minnesota Distance Running Association (MDRA), Scandinavia Today, WCCO Radio and The Pillsbury Company, as well as, local running enthusiasts, Skip Burke, Steve Hoag, Bruce Brothers and Larry Haeg for successfully combining the City of the Lakes Marathon (est. 1963) in Minneapolis and the St. Paul Marathon (est. 1981).

1983: Zachariasen Wins Again

The Twin Cities Marathon nearly doubled its registered participants from its inaugural year and city officials estimated that the number of spectators reached 200,000. On a warm day with high humidity, Denmark's Allan Zachariasen repeated as men's champion. Many participants were awed when Jerry Traylor finished the race on crutches. "Everyone has a dream," said the West Virginian. "Many people don't believe they can realize those dreams. You owe it to yourself to pursue them." Traylor, stricken with cerebral palsy from birth, redefined the magic of the marathon.

1984: The Fastest American

Fred Torneden set a course record of 2:11:35, which was the fastest time run by an American in 1984. For the first time, the race was held in September. The decision to hold future marathons in October was motivated by the need for one extra week of racing and the greater chances of the fall colors illuminating the scenic course. 32% of the total finishers were first-time marathoners, giving hope to the future of the marathon.

1985: The Men's Record, a Local Champ

Crediting his coach, who made him cut back his weekly mileage from 140 to 100 miles, Philip Coppess set a course record of 2:10:05, the fastest American marathon performance in nearly two years. Jan Ettle of Freeport surprised the women's field to become the first Minnesotan to win an open title at the event, and Clive Davis shattered the 70+ age group record with a time of 3:04:16. The race hosted 966 first-time marathoners and produced 961 personal records.

1986: USA Championships

Designated as the USA Men's and Women's Marathon Championships, the Twin Cities Marathon became the first true marathon national championship since the 1984 Olympic Trials and started a long-lasting relationship between the event and the sport's governing body. The "Pillsbury Prize Purse" of \$300,000 was the largest offered in a marathon based solely on performance. Among the 1,500 participants in the inaugural Saturday Fun Run Party 5K at Lake Nokomis were running legends Dick Beardsley, George Sheehan, Hal Higdon and Sister Marion Irvine. Runner's World Magazine coined the Twin Cities Marathon as "The Most Beautiful Urban Marathon in America."

1987: Cold and Fast

For the third consecutive year, the fastest marathoner in America was the winner of the Twin Cities Marathon. Marty Froelick's winning time of 2:10:59 marked the third-straight Twin Cities Marathon men's winner to run sub-2:11. The year's incredible performances confirmed the Twin Cities Marathon ranking as one of the fastest marathons in the U.S. For the second consecutive year, the Twin Cities Marathon boasted the coldest marathon temperature (24 degrees F at the start). The first annual Kids' One Mile Fun Run proved a huge success.

1988: Bardwell Wins Third Wheeler Title

The field for the Twin Cities Marathon was capped at 6,000 runners and filled 3 weeks before the race. The event introduced information booths at the Fitness Fair and the Start and Finish areas as an added service to race participants. The 14 wheelers claimed the largest field of wheelchair athletes in Twin Cities Marathon history to date, with Bart Bardwell winning his third straight Twin Cities Marathon wheelchair title in 2:14:05.

1989: National Masters Championships

Selected as the site of the 1989 The Athletic Congress (TAC) National Masters Championship, Mario Cuevas won the men's masters division in 2:18:35, while Ngaire Drake captured the female masters division in 2:41:25. Of the total marathon field, 36% were made up of masters participants, establishing it as a "place to race" for masters runners. The Twin Cities Marathon would continue to value masters running throughout the decades.

1990: A Home at the Dome

Steve Winnick, Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. President, envisioned a continued growth in marathons and knew the event needed a larger venue for the start. He built a relationship with the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission which connected the marathon with its new start line home, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome. The move allowed the marathon to return to a mass start as in 1982. TAC honored the Twin Cities Marathon as the U.S. selection race for the 1991 World Marathon Championships in Tokyo.

1991: 200 Charter Club Runners, No Employees!

Thanks to a volunteer-driven structure, the Twin Cities Marathon was the only event of its size in the country without at least one full-time employee. Earning the first multi-year award in event history, the Twin Cities Marathon was chosen by TAC as the National Masters Marathon Championships for men and women for the next five years. Minnesota celebrated as hometown hero Janis Klecker won her first Twin Cities Marathon title, and Bob Kempainen, another Minnesota icon, placed second to Malcolm Norwood in the closest finish in Twin Cities Marathon history.

1992: Marry Me at the Wall

Two marathon runners stopped at the ALARC Wall at mile 20 to exchange vows in a wedding ceremony, finishing the marathon as husband and wife. The weekend's 5K race was designated as the Road Runners Club of America National Championship and the MedCenters Market Place and Health One Fitness Fair boasted a record 68 expo booths.

1993: Muralt Wins Wheeler Title After Fall

After hitting a pothole and falling out of his chair, Jeffery Muralt still cruised to a wheelchair course record victory. In addition to the USATF National Masters Championship, the Twin Cities Marathon was designated as the Men's Open National Championship, which attracted a competitive elite field. Olympians Alberto Salazar and Billy Mills joined the field of over 1,000 runners in the RRCA 5K National Championship.

1994: Toddler Trot Added to Kids Events

Recognized as one of the top five marathons in the country, the Twin Cities Marathon embraced its highest ranking ever. In his first attempt at running a marathon, Pablo Sierra posted the fifth fastest time in Twin Cities Marathon history. Olympian and American marathon record holder, Bob Kempainen, won the 5K. A Toddler Trot was added to complement the kids' events. Doug Kurtis came to the marathon looking for his 75th sub-2:20 marathon. As he crossed the finish line, a time of 2:19:59.4 showed on the clock, however, official times were rounded up to the next whole second and he settled for a 2:20:00.

1995: Oothoudt Wins 5th-Straight Wheeler Title

In this year's field, participants represented 47 states and 16 countries. Sixteen-hundred were running their first marathon, and a record 32% were women. Fifteen-hundred ran the marathon and 5K and 1,200 kids participated in the Half Mile Fun Run and Toddler Trot.

Tami Oothoudt triumphed in an unprecedented fifth consecutive women's wheelchair championship.

1996: Records for Appell, Mendoza, Sodoma & Keston

Twin Cities Marathon celebrated its 15th annual race with record breaking. Olga Appell established a new women's course record with her 2:27:59. Saul Mendoza set a wheelchair course record by over five minutes with 1:35:21, while DeAnna Sodoma became the first women's wheeler to break the 2-hour barrier at 1:54:50. Perhaps most remarkably, John Keston, age 71, set a world age-group record becoming the fastest 70+ marathoner ever at 3:00:58. After 15 editions of the marathon, 106 participants remained in the Charter Club.

1997: Mendoza Defends and Breaks Own Record

Known as the year of the heat, afternoon highs soared to 77 degrees, which kept the medical team busier than ever. Despite the heat, Saul Mendoza defended his wheelchair title and broke his own course record. Olympian and Minnesota elite runner, Steve Plasencia took home the men's masters title with 2:19:06. This also marked the first year of the mail-in silent auction for 100 additional entries into the closed out marathon. Between the silent auction and the Celebrity Mile, Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. raised more than \$22,000 for charity.

1998: Timing Chips and Diaper Dashers Added

Ranked as the #2 destination marathon in North America by The Ultimate Guide to Marathons, the field filled a month faster than ever. Manual timing was replaced by the computer chip system for results, becoming the first marathon in the Midwest to use this state-of-the-art timing system. St. Paul native Bev Docherty, won the USATF National Masters Women's Championship and took home nearly \$10,000 due to the Twin Cities Marathon, Inc.'s decision to allow masters runners to collect prize money in more than one division. The Diaper Dash was added to the Saturday Running Events, creating a complete family atmosphere.

1999: Musuva Three-Peats, Pawelek Takes USA Title

Andrew Musuva won his third consecutive Twin Cities Marathon and became the first three-time overall champion. Kim Pawelek surprised the women's field with a win in just her second marathon attempt, winning the USA Marathon title to boot. Charlie Mahler and Kelly Keeler won the inaugural ten mile race. Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. officials hosted its first Registration Kick-Off Event, offering the local running community the opportunity to register early for the marathon.

2000: A Sprint to the Finish

As the men's lead pack passed the 25 mile mark, incredibly it was still an eight person race for the men's marathon title. The final sprint began just after the 26-mile mark, near the St. Paul Cathedral, as six men finished within 13 seconds of winner Sergei Fedotov. Tami Oothoudt claimed an unprecedented seventh victory in the women's wheeler division. Also this year, the Twin Cities Marathon High School Scholarship was established, a Twin Cities Marathon Training Team Network was formed to help build the local running community, and Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. hosted a Summer Training Station that provided water and sports drink to runners on their training runs. The organization's office moved to the Calhoun Beach Club, located on the marathon course near Mile 4, housing a just-hired staff of three.

2001: Triumphs Amid a National Tragedy

Despite being held shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the 20th Annual Twin Cities Marathon had many highlights: the marathon filled in just 19 days while the TC 10 Mile filled within 24 hours; Joel Lancaster became the 100,000th participant to cross the finish line; the Twin Cities Marathon Charter Club boasted 89 runners who had finished all 20 marathons; and \$53,000 was raised for Twin Cities Marathon Charities including the Twin Towers Fund. Joshua Kipkemboi became the first masters runner in Twin Cities Marathon history to claim the overall individual championship. Zinaida Semenova shattered the open women's course record, while Irina Bogacheva followed suit in breaking the master women's course record (2:31:02). Saul Mendoza cruised to his fourth wheelchair title.

2002: Dan Browne's Debut Victory

Twin Cities Marathon was honored to be only the second race in history to play host to the USA Marathon Championships for all three divisions, women's, men's, and masters. This excitement carried over into the community as the race filled in only 14 days. Eighty-one Twin Cities Marathon Charter Club members finished this year, having run over 44,000 miles on the marathon course combined. Dan Browne had quite the day earning a victory in his marathon debut. In the men's wheelchair division, Tony Iniguez managed to win after suffering a flat tire. Off the course, Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. community contributions raised over \$25,000 in charitable donations plus \$110,000 of in-kind items including food and clothing.

2003: Russell's Runaway

The phenomenal weather race weekend topped off the weekend of events for over 13,000 participants, 5,000 volunteers, and well over 250,000 spectators. Blake Russell amazed the 250,000 plus crowd of spectators when she pushed the pace against a strong international field, and won in her debut marathon with an Olympic "A" qualifying time at 2:30:41. A new wave start helped ease congestion at the start line, giving runners a chance to show all of their running potential.

2004: Permitina Ties the Women's Record

A cool 48-degree morning was just what Irina Permitina needed to tie the Twin Cities Marathon women's course record at 2:26:51. This year, the middle-of-the-pack prizes debuted, and 10 lucky finishers were awarded a 2005 Twin Cities Marathon entry form and \$300 cash. Then-Governor Tim Pawlenty finished his second Twin Cities Marathon, confirming himself as the only sitting governor to complete the race. Chad Johnson amazed ten mile spectators by winning the race in 48:44, over a minute faster than all other contenders. Sara Wells took the women's ten mile after only training for four weeks due to an injury. The same hard work found on the courses was reflected in this year's community partner's fund raising efforts, where \$30,000 was raised.

2005: Hussein Sweeps to Titles

Whipping winds and thick humidity tested the will and strength of 10,561 marathon entrants this year. Despite the harsh weather, Nicole Aish was able to run, and win, her first marathon ever at 2:40:30. Mbarak Hussein took the open and masters titles with his winning time of 2:18:28. The marathon was honored to be designated by USA Track & Field as the only site in 2005 for athletes to qualify for the 2008 U.S. Olympics Marathon Trials. Three men and 12 women qualified including Joan Benoit Samuelson, the 1984 Gold Medal winner in the first women's Olympic marathon. Then-Governor Pawlenty completed his third Twin Cities Marathon in a personal record time of 3:43:34.

2006: Medtronic Becomes a Marathoner

The 25th running of The Most Beautiful Urban Marathon in America® was truly a recognition of all that has made the marathon what it is since 1982, as well as an introduction of a great new era with the addition of a title sponsor, Medtronic. A cool, but sunny day formed the setting for three USA Championships: men's and women's open and masters divisions. Returning men's open and masters champion Mbarak Hussein successfully defended both titles with a marathon finishing time of 2:13:52, giving him the total prize purse of \$39,000. Two-time Olympian Marla Runyan took the women's title running 2:32:17. Her win netted \$30,000. Medtronic's Global Heroes and Triumphant Soles Award Programs were introduced. The programs honored 19 people who run with physical challenges.

2007: Media Challenge Debuts

2007 brought tremendous new additions. In May, a cross-country event at Como Park was added to the Medtronic TC Kids Marathon program. Race weekend — the hottest one in Twin Cites Marathon history — also had new inclusions. The USA Men's 10 Mile Championship was held as part of the Medtronic TC 10 Mile. The field was filled with the nation's top ten-milers, including winner Abdi Abdirahman, who picked up his third successive championship title. The Medtronic TC 10 Mile Media Challenge was also introduced. In its inaugural year, the event welcomed eight teams from the local media, with Star Tribune picking up the nod for fastest overall time. The Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon again hosted the USA Masters Marathon Championships for the 18th consecutive year.

2008: Duluth's Goucher Wins the USA 10 Mile Championship

In 2008, 7,979 runners finished the rain-soaked 27th annual Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon, moving the event into the 9th largest spot in the nation in terms of marathon finishers. With an emotional finish, Fernando Cabada took first place in the USA Men's Marathon Championship, followed by Team USA Minnesota's Matt Gabrielson in second. Duluth native Kara Goucher out-ran Team USA Minnesota's Katie McGregor for the USA Women's 10 Mile Championship in the Medtronic TC 10 Mile.

2009: Twin Cities In Motion

After 28 years of sharing its name with the marathon, Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. became Twin Cities In Motion (TCM). 2009 proved to be a record-breaking year. On May 7, the 4:00 mile was broken for the first time in Minnesota by David Torrence (3:59.3) at the Medtronic TC 1 Mile. On October 4, Abdi Abdirahman set a new course record in the Medtronic TC 10 Mile in 46:35. Jason Hartmann won the marathon with 2:12:16 despite stopping to pick up a dropped water bottle at mile 23! Ilsa Paulson claimed the USA Women's Marathon Championship title with 2:31:48. A 10K race was added to the weekend of events.

2010: Deba Accomplishes Grandma's/Twin Cities Double

Perfect weather conditions set the stage for exciting races on Sunday. In the USA Women's 10 Mile Championship, hometown favorite Katie McGregor secured her sixth win at the Medtronic TC 10 Mile. In the marathon, Sergio Reyes captured the USA Men's Marathon Championship title in 2:14:02 after having finished a disappointing 59th in 2009. In the women's race, Buzunesh Deba was on pace to beat the course record but finished in 2:27:23. Still, she became the first woman to win Minnesota's two signature marathons in a single year. Deba won Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in June before winning in the Twin

Cities in October — a feat marathon announcers dubbed the 'Snow Crown.' In the USA Masters Marathon Championships, former open champion Mbarak Hussein claimed the title and a new age group (45-49) record in 2:16:57. Wheeler Saul Mendoza claimed a record seventh win in the marathon with a time of 1:41:58.

2011: The Women Race the Men

Medtronic TC 10 Mile hosted the USA Men's and Women's 10 Mile Championships which feature an equalizer bonus for the first champion — male or female — across the finish line. Men's champ Mo Trafeh was able to overcome the seven-minute head start given to women's winner Janet Bawcom and the rest of the women's field, earning \$10,000 for doing so. In the marathon, Kenya's Sammy Malakwen, who has made a second home in Two Harbors, Minnesota while racing in the United States, won the men's title in 2:13:11. Yeshimebet Bifa of Ethiopia won the women's title in 2:28:24.

2012: Hot Racing on a Cold Day

Race morning dawned cold, but the top racers in the ten mile and marathon field provided some hot race, once they warmed up, that is. Ben True edged women's champion Janet Bawcom for the \$10,000 equalizer prize. Christopher Kipyego won the men's marathon by only nine seconds in 2:14:53, while women's champ Jeannette Faber won in a personal best 2:32:37. The year marked the 10th running of the Diana Pierce Family Mile and celebrated Medtronic's renewal as title sponsor for an additional three years, committing to what will be a decade-long partnership in 2015.

2013: Scaroni Breaks Women's Wheeler Record

Susannah Scaroni of Urbana, IL. established a new women's wheelchair course record, clocking 1:54:37, bettering DeAnna Sodoma's 1996 course record by 13 seconds. Nick Arciniaga of Flagstaff, AZ. and former Minnesota resident Anne Bersagel won USA Marathon titles. Two-time Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon champ Mbarak Hussein win an unprecedented 4th USA Master Marathon crown, while Sheri Piers, the 2011 USA Masters champ reclaimed her title. Two hundred and fifty runners participated in the inaugural TC Loony Challenge, a race series composed of the TC 10K, TC 5K, and Medtronic TC 10 Mile — 19.3 miles of racing in two days!

2014: Topping the 30,000 Mark

First-time marathoner Tyler Pennel of Blowing Rock, N.C. won the men's title at the 33rd running of the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon, clocking 2:13:32. Esther Erb (Richmond, VA.) topped her third-place finish in 2013, winning the women's title in 2:34:00. Joshua George (Champaign, IL.) and Susannah Scaroni (Urbana, Ill.) defended their wheeler

crowns. More than 1100 runners participated in one of five Twin Cities In Motion race series that culminated in marathon weekend events. Overall, Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon Weekend topped 30,000 entrants for the first time in history.

2015: Huddle Breaks Medtronic TC 10 Mile Record

U.S. Olympian Molly Huddle established a new women's course record in the Medtronic TC 10 Mile running 51:44 en route to a USATF 10 Mile Championship title and a \$10,000 Equalizer Bonus for defeating men's champ Sam Chelanga in the handicapped competition between men and women. The record run got a perfect-weather race-day off to an accustomed start after a planned protest of local police incidents by Black Lives Matter threatened to disrupt the marathon. In the end, all participants ran as planned while demonstrators protested peacefully near the course. Kenya's Dominic Ondoro, the Grandma's Marathon course record holder, won the men's marathon in 2:11:16, while Ethiopia's Serkelam Abrha won the women's marathon title in 2:31:39.

2016: Men's Marathon Record Finally Broken in 35th Anniversary Race

The cliché says that records are made to be broken, but Phil Coppess' 1985 men's marathon record of 2:10:05 was made to last 31 years. On the 35th anniversary of the marathon, defending champion Dominic Ondoro of Kenya sped from Minneapolis to St. Paul in 2:08:51, clocking the fastest marathon ever run in Minnesota and toppling Coppess' venerable mark. Twenty-four runners and one wheeler, the TCM Charter Clubbers, continued their streaks of running and finishing every Twin Cities Marathon. For the first time in its history, TCM and its charity partners raised more than \$1-million for charity, the bulk of it through the efforts of runners raising money for the marathon's Charity Partners. Other highlights included the presence of two Olympic medalists in the Medtronic TC 10 Mile: 2016 women's triathlon gold medalist Gwen Jorgensen, who finished third in the USATF 10 Mile Championship, and 1992 men's figure skating silver medalist Paul Wylie, who attended the event as the honorary captain of the 2016 Global Heroes team.

2017: Repeat Champions and More than 1,400 Winners

Two-time defending men's champion Dominic Ondoro and 2016 women's champ Jane Kibii repeated as Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon champions on a rain dampened morning. Ondoro, who holds the event record, became only the second runner to win the marathon three times in succession. The Kenya pair weren't the only winners, however. Event sponsor Brooks launched a new shoe at the event — the Levitate with DNA AMP — and offered a free pair to any marathoner whose split time from mile marker 21 to 22 was faster than their average pace from the start of the race to mile 21. In the end, 1,418 runners were able to surge through the "Infinite Energy Mile" to earn free shoes. Every finisher in the Medtronic

TC 10 Mile was a record-setter —members of the largest 10 mile field in event history at 10,426 finishers.

2018: Four Times is the Charm for Barno

The fourth time was the charm for marathon champion Elisha Barno. The three-time Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon runner-up at last won the men's race in 2:11:58. Shadrack Kipchirchir's second straight victory at the Medtronic TC 10 Mile saw him break the event record (set in 2007 by Abdi Abdirahman) with a 46:32 clocking. The 10 mile race witnessed its largest field ever, with more than 13,000 entrants and nearly 11,000 finishers. Fifteen-year-old Tierney Wolfgram was the talk of the weekend. The high school sophomore from Woodbury led the women's marathon race in the early-going and finished sixth among women in 2:40:03.

2019: Domonic Ondoro Wins #4, Sara Hall Takes #3

Kenya's Domonic Ondoro who etched himself into the marathon's history by setting the course record in 2016, became the only runner to win the race four times with his 2:12:23 win over countryman Denis Chirchir. St. Paul native Danny Docherty finished third. Missouri's Julia Kohnen won the women's marathon in 2:31:29 over Burnsville's Dakotah Lindwurm. In the 10 mile which served as the US Championships, Sara Hall won her third title in 53:11 while Futsum Zienasellassie claimed the men's title in 46:55. A lightning storm prompted the cancellation of the Saturday Events, the first-ever cancellation of marathon weekend races.

2020: The Year the COVID-19 Pandemic Defeated the Marathon

The COVID-19 pandemic cancelled much in 2020, and the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon was no exception. Twin Cities In Motion called off the in-person event during the summer, but offered virtual participation in the event and mailed shirts, medals, masks and finish line tape to the thousands of runners who had signed up for the event that had launched registration just before the pandemic hit.

2021: Event Returns, Docherty Has a Loony Weekend!

After the 2020 cancellation, Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon Weekend returned with limited race fields and amenities, due to the lingering pandemic. Masking was required at the event's indoor areas as well as high density outdoor spots. Runners took the restrictions in stride and the long-awaiting gathering took on a celebratory air. St. Paul native Danny Docherty was the weekend headliner, winning all three races that make up the TC Loony Challenge: the TC 5K, presented by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., and TC 10K,

presented by Dermatology Consultants, on Saturday and the Medtronic TC 10 Mile on Sunday. An unprecedented feat during an unprecedented time.

2022: 10 Mile Records and the First Japanese Champion

At Marathon Weekend's 40th anniversary celebration, event records fell in both the women's and men's 10 mile races, with Fiona O'Keeffe of Concord, Mass. winning the women's race — and \$10,000 equalizer bonus — in 51:42 and Hilary Bor setting the new men's standard in 46:06. In the marathon, Yuya Yoshida became Japan's first Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon champion with his 2:11:28 performance. Jessica Watychowicz of Colorado Springs won the women's title in 2:33:09. The event also awarded prize money to nonbinary winners for the first time in its history: honoring 10 mile winner Alex Brown of White Bear Lake and marathon champion Jonah Grant of Madison, Wisc. The event also featured the inaugural Diane & Alan Page Community Cheer Challenge, the Live Art Marathon — artists creating works during the event — and full-day live-streaming video coverage of 10 mile and marathon and everything that surrounds it in partnership with KARE 11.

2023: Heat Cancels Marathon and 10 Mile

For the first time in the event's four decade-plus history, weather conditions forced the cancellation of the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon and Medtronic TC 10 Mile. Forecasted high temperatures of 91 degrees on marathon Sunday prompted event officials to cancel the races in the early morning hours. (Temperatures eventually topped out at an Octoberrecord 92 degrees.) Thanks to the event's insurance coverage, affected runners were ultimately refunded their entry fees and more than 9700 signed up to run in their events in the 2024 editions of the races.