



Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride Facts & FAQs for Cyclists & Volunteers

What is the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride?

The Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride is an annual fundraising event for the Buzzards Bay Coalition that draws cyclists of all ages and abilities. During the Watershed Ride, cyclists complete their choice of the 100, 75, and 35-mile overlapping routes across the beautiful Buzzards Bay watershed, all ending together at a finish line celebration in Woods Hole, Massachusetts - the heart of marine science research in our region. The 17th annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride will take place on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Expected Participants

+/- 400 riders overall (across 3 overlapping routes) depending on weather. Most popular routes in order: 100, 35, 75.

How much does it cost to participate in the Watershed Ride?

The Watershed Ride registration fee is \$65 for adults and children 12 and older. This cost includes snacks and beverages at the start line, a full lunch with food truck and hot soup, three water stops with beverages and snacks, a waterside dinner party at the finish, an event t-shirt, finisher's pint glass, and full on-the-road support with bike mechanics and transport vehicles. In addition to registration, all participants must fundraise a minimum of \$300. Shuttle rides (\$25) and cycling jerseys (\$69) are also available for purchase. Riders must wear an orange wristband for food and drinks at all locations. Riders under 21 wear a pink wristband.

What are the various routes, and when do they start and end?

- 100-mile route from Little Compton: 7:30am to 5:00pm (9 hours)
- 75-mile route from Westport: 9:00am to 5:00pm (8 hours)
- 35-mile route from Rochester: 12:00pm to 5:00pm (5 hours)
- All riders must be to the lunch stop by 2:30pm and over the Bourne Bridge by 4:30pm. If you're still on the road at 5:00pm, a SAG wagon will pick you up and bring you to the finish line.
- All riders must be checked in and present for the mandatory safety briefing that takes place 10 minutes before each start time.

Is Early Check-in Available?

Yes, Early Check-In is held at the BBC Marion office on Tuesday 9/26 from 1-4pm, Stone Path Malt in Wareham on Wednesday 9/27 from 4-7pm, and the NB office on Saturday 9/30 from 9am-12pm. All Early Check-In riders must still visit the “Pre-Checked-In” volunteer at their start line to let them know you are present on ride day.

Can Riders sign up on the morning of the Ride?

Not this year. Registration closes at midnight on Thursday, September 28.

How do I get a change of clothes to the finish line?

At all 3 start lines, there'll be trucks or vehicles marked “**Rider Belongings**” that will transport rider bags to the finish line. 35-mile bags are taken directly to the finish line. 100- and 75-mile bags have the option of going to the Lunch Stop (for those who know they'll want a change of clothes, or need to access their bags) OR going express to the finish line (for riders who may not be stopping, or fast riders who'll want access to their bags at the finish line before 1pm). Make sure your bag is clearly marked with your name and contact information. If you prefer, you can have a friend or family member transport your belongings to the finish line, where you can all enjoy dinner and a fun celebration! Bags can be picked up at the Rider Services area at the Finish Line.

Where can I find food, water and restrooms along the course?

Food, water and restrooms are available at all three start lines and the finish line as well as 2 additional water stops.

Riders must wear your orange SAG wristband for food/bar service. Riders under 21 must also wear a pink wristband. Riders do not receive additional guest wristbands, but guest wristbands may be purchased at the Finish Line Merchandise Tent for a suggested \$10 donation.

- Mile 24 WATER STOP (Horseneck Beach, Westport) is a roadside WATER STOP with water, Gatorade, fruit, energy gels, CLIF bars, some salty snacks, and personal first aid kits. Restrooms and running water available by riding into the nearby bath house facility near the beach.
- Mile 46 WATER STOP (Fort Taber, New Bedford) WATER STOP - same as above. Restrooms and running water.
- Mile 65 LUNCH STOP (East Over Farm, Rochester) – same offerings as above, plus food truck serving hot soup, sandwiches, chips and cookies. Restrooms available.
- Mile 80 WATER STOP (Bourne Bridge, Bourne) – same as above. Restroom only (no running water) However, there is a Starbucks in close proximity with running water as needed.
- Mile 100 FINISH LINE (Woods Hole, Falmouth) - same offerings as above, plus dinner with beer from Buzzards Bay Brewing and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

Where is the lunch stop?

East Over Farms at **131 Hiller Road, Rochester**. This is also the start line for riders participating in the 35-mile route. Lunch is served from 11-2:30pm for riders on all three routes. The OxCart food truck and volunteers will serve hot soup, sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, and beverages, coffee, water and sports drinks. There will also be a bike mechanic available to help with repairs.

Where is the finish line?

Marine Biological Laboratory **Swope Center (5 North St., Falmouth, MA)** in Woods Hole. MBL Street is closed to traffic between 1-5pm – police and volunteers will direct you to an open parking lot. At the finish line, there will be hot food, beer, wine, soft drinks, live music, and Coalition merchandise for sale.

Yours is a “point-to-point” ride vs. a closed loop, what do I do about transportation?

The easiest way is to have a friend or family member drop you off at your start line and then meet you at the finish line. Shuttle service is available for purchase (\$25) during registration, or post-registration by emailing events@savebuzzardsbay.org:

- AM Shuttles: 100-mile and 75-mile route shuttles depart Woods Hole at 5:15am (before the ride) and 7am respectively. You (and your bike) are driven to the start line, and you can ride back to your car. **There is no AM shuttle for the 35-mile route.**
- PM Shuttles: 100-mile, 75-mile and 35-mile route shuttles depart Woods Hole at 5pm (after the ride) to return you to your vehicles at the end of the day.

What if my bike breaks down or what if I want to leave the route?

Call the number on your orange wristband: (508) 999-6363 and we will dispatch a bike mechanic to come repair your bike and/or transport you (and your bike) as needed. If you are tired or have an emergency to attend to, you can leave the Watershed Ride at any time. If you leave the event, you must call the Watershed Ride phone number to let us know that you're leaving so we don't think you're missing.

Medical Support

For CYCLISTS: In the event of an emergency during the Watershed Ride, call 911 first. Be prepared to identify what town you're in and the name of the road that you're on. Make sure you carry identification and your health insurance card with you during your ride. Once you have notified 911, contact the Watershed Ride at (508) 999-6363 to notify Ride staff. For minor cuts and scrapes, first aid kits are available at all start lines, water stops, finish line, and with all bike mechanics, transports, and bike marshals.

For VOLUNTEERS: First aid is strictly limited to handing out band-aids, which the injured person only is to apply. If any further attention is required, dial 911. When situation is stable, let Watershed Ride staff know what is happening by calling (508) 999-6363.

Weather

The Watershed Ride is a rain or shine event. The weather can change dramatically over the course of several hours on the day of the Watershed Ride. Be prepared for rain, wind, and clouds by dressing in layers and packing light foul weather gear.

Information/Help Line

On Ride day, call our Call Center in New Bedford at (508) 999-6363 for help or information during the hours of 9am-6pm. If you get the voice mail, it means we are on another rider call or dealing with an emergency, leave a number and we will call you back.

Rider Services at the Finish Line

Rider Services is a private area at the Finish Line where cyclists can take a breather, pick up their checked bags, change their clothes, and grab a water. Amenities:

- Bike storage (temporary and for shuttle service)
- Rider Belongings/Bag Check
- Portable restrooms
- Changing tents
- Massages
- Water and a few snacks

Where do riders pick up their event t-shirts and fundraising prizes?

At the "Rider Tent" at the Finish Line. Don't miss the Awards Ceremony at 4:15pm: Event fundraising total will be revealed along with Top Fundraiser prizes. Shuttles depart promptly at 5pm.