

2019:

The Year of the Don. We celebrated our race founder, Don Kardong, in his final year as Race Director. Don, who has completed every Bloomsday Run since 1977, served in the position of Race Director since 2004. The celebration included the roll out of a signature beer and an official ice cream from Sweet Peaks bearing his famous phrase, "Without ice cream there would be darkness and chaos." The finisher total for the year was approximately 35,000. The noteworthy finish of 2019 was women's wheelchair champion, Susannah Scaroni (Tekoa, WA), who blazed to a new Bloomsday course record in 29:58. Gabriel Geay of Tanzania repeated as men's champion with Rosemary Wanjiru of Kenya winning the women's title and Aaron Pike claiming top honor in the men's competitive wheelchair field. Jr. Bloomsday was also re-introduced to Spokane with more than 1600 kids participating. The course featured an "outdoor-indoor" loop with kids running on the paths of the Spokane County Fairgrounds, "barnstorming" through several livestock barns and then finishing at home plate on the Spokane Indians baseball diamond. Each child completing Jr. Bloomsday received a champions lanyard which included coupons for free items including a free Silverwood Theme Park pass.

2020:

The year that COVID-19 struck. For the first time in Bloomsday history, race officials had to postpone the race from its traditional start date on the first Sunday in May. In cooperation with state and local government officials, Bloomsday announced on March 17 that Bloomsday 2020 would take place on Sunday, September 20. Just a few days following that announcement, Washington State Governor Inslee issued a stay-at-home order requiring all non-essential workers to stay in their residences. In July, COVID cases continued to rise and Bloomsday announced that instead of an in-person race, Bloomsday would be held virtually. Virtual Bloomsday was born! Virtual Bloomsday allowed runners and walkers to complete Bloomsday - - on any course of their choosing. From September 20 through September 23, the Bloomsday results portal would be open allowing participants to submit their times to earn their coveted finisher shirt. As September 20 approached, smoke from area wildfires caused worsening air quality necessitating an extension of the participation window for Virtual Bloomsday through Sunday, September 27. Bloomsday recorded 23,000 finishers in this year's race with all finisher shirts delivered by mail - - also a first in Bloomsday history. The finisher shirt was designed by Lewis and Clark HS senior, Bailey Vander Wilde.

2021:

With the pandemic still tearing through the nation and the world, Bloomsday officials announced in January that Bloomsday 2021 would be held virtually for the second year in a row. The participation window included the traditional race date on the first Sunday in May. Bloomsday called this year's race *Bloomsday Worldwide - - a Virtual Race*. Bloomsday 2020 had been an international sensation with participants from around the world including more than 20 foreign nations. The name best reflected the worldwide participation of Bloomsday. More than 21,000 participated in this year's race marking the 45th running of Bloomsday. The green and yellow Bloomsday finisher shirt was unveiled on the first Sunday in May with a 40-foot banner unfurled near the start line. The shirt was designed once again by a high school senior - - this time by Andrew Nordhagen of Spokane's Gonzaga Prep. Finisher shirts were mailed to all finishers who reported their times on the Bloomsday results portal. Jr. Bloomsday was also run virtually and modeled to some degree after the popular Fit For Bloomsday program typically run

each spring in area elementary schools. Jr. Bloomsday participants were awarded prizes for days run during the month of April. Kids would then record each day of their running on a decorative training calendar. All prizes and t-shirts were mailed to the Jr. Bloomsday participants.

2022:

Bloomsday 2022 was “Back on Course.” Not only did this serve as our marketing campaign for this year’s race, but also marked our triumphant return to the streets of Spokane, the packed start corridor on Riverside Avenue, the Doomsday Hill vulture, the smashing of water cups underfoot, the legendary finish on the Monroe Street Bridge, and the sea of finisher shirts on Main Street. In total, 24,096 signed up for the 46th running of Bloomsday with a final finisher tally of 21,088. Bloomsday also offered a virtual race - - like 2020 and 2021 - - where runners could complete a 12k course of their choosing and earn their shirt. The finisher shirt, designed by Emerald Dumas of Spokane, was a heather coral featuring Spokane landmarks embedded in the 2022 numerals. The virtual finisher shirt, mailed to 5,276 virtual finishers, was the same color and design but was printed with the word “VIRTUAL” instead of “FINISHER.” Along the course, bands entertained the participants and Bill Robinson adorned the vulture costume at his usual perch on the top of Doomsday Hill for his 34th year! Jr. Bloomsday was run on the campus of Spokane Falls Community College welcoming 2,664 racers (grades 3 – 8) for a 1.5 mile course to earn their Silverwood ticket and other great prizes. Even Bigfoot showed up to cheer on the kids. Marmot March was held in Kendall Yards for the first time with approximately 350 kids. Brian Maebius designed the 2022 race poster showing a surging crowd blazing by one of the famous bison skulls on the Monroe Street bridge. “I chose to highlight the iconic bison skulls featured on the bridge shelters to represent the resilient character of the Spokane community and the determination of every race participant,” said Maebius, a former resident of Spokane who first ran Bloomsday in 2007.