

You asked – Walk Wisconsin answered.

Below is a list of questions, comments and or concerns we received from participants, followed by Walk Wisconsin's answers/rationale. Look for a follow-up survey following this year's event in June. We want to hear about your experience.

Registration/Check-in

Give people the option of not taking a bag, water bottle, and t-shirt. Think sustainable, just like you did with the option of not taking a medallion at the finish line.

You do not need to take any of the items at registration, except the wrist band. Please let the volunteers know this when checking in. With that said, we also will not be able to offer any tiered registration for those not wanting the "goodies." The \$25 registration fee will remain to help cover costs. Wonderful support from event sponsors helps keep that cost low. You would expect to pay \$75-\$125 for other marathon type events.

Transportation

Buses aren't loaded in an orderly fashion...the last to arrive sometimes are first to get on.

We'd like to remind everyone that this is a non-competitive event. We ask folks to take their time and that you wait your turn. We will attempt designated loading spots for the buses and ask participants waiting for transportation to make more orderly lines when waiting. There will be plenty of buses, making ample trips to get everyone to their respective starting spots.

The Route

What about walking the route in reverse?

We reversed the route in year #2 and planned on reversing it subsequent years. It wasn't received well by a number of participants and the major challenge/concern was raised by the police department. Having 1900 plus people crossing the Clark Street bridge over 3-4 hours and crossing the street to get back to the park won't be allowed by law enforcement. With the current counter clockwise route, all participants are over the bridge and crossing that busy street within 5 minutes.

The route was too crowded.

There is initial congestion at all the starts...450 marathoners creates a log jam in the first mile or so...3/4 marathoners may "run" into 1/2 marathoners at their start. When all the walkers get to Schmeckle Reserve, it's crowded for a piece. We will look at tweaking the staggered starts to alleviate some of the congestion. If you see the route is crowded where the trail narrows, please walk single file so there is a passing lane for folks walking a little faster. There is nothing more frustrating than hitting your stride, then having to "start and stop" for people walking 2 and 3 wide.

It would be nice to have some porta potties between rest stops near the end of the route.

There will be a pair of porta potties at the Northpoint/Division intersection (near Sentry) (4.5 miles to go mark) and a pair of porta potties on Old Wausau Road (1.75 miles to go mark).

Did I hear gunshots just past the halfway point?

The Stevens Point gun range is located in the wooded area near the municipal airport, so you may hear gunshots if walking the 1/2, 3/4 or full marathon. Do not be alarmed. Local law enforcement officers training.

People are not following safety rules

Please follow all street signs along the route. Please cross streets at the lights. Please use sidewalks when that is part of the route. When on streets, stay to the left. When on streets, no more than two abreast. Please do not walk in the middle of the road, or on the right side.

The last 3 miles could use a little “jazzing” up. How about some entertainment to help people get to the finish?

The final 3 miles is entirely paved and can get monotonous. Look for additional entertainment along the final miles of all routes to keep people energized as they make their way to the finish. We will also have additional beverage and rest room stops and increased presence of EMS personnel.

Weather

It would have been nice to know in advance that rain ponchos were not included in our pack.

It is a rain or shine event. Participants should check the weather in the days leading up to the event and plan accordingly. Rain ponchos will not be provided.

Health & Safety

Could you offer bug spray/wipes in packets?

Bug spray is available at the bandshell stage to apply before boarding buses or taking off for the marathon. Bug spray will also be available at each nutrition stop.

I highly disapprove of not allowing strollers on the walk.

For families with young children in strollers, the Kids Walk Wisconsin is a great event. The trail is not conducive for stroller in any of the distances...boardwalks, woodchips, roots, mud, soft spots, etc.

There were some people struggling near the end of the event who could have used assistance from safety personnel.

We will have more EMS staff and bicycle riding monitors on the last 2-3 miles of each route. We'll make frequent visits with participants to assure those in distress can be helped.

We could use an emergency/assistance phone number to call while out on the route

A phone number at walk headquarters will be provided to all participants to call if they or someone along the route needs assistance. Look for that in the program distributed at check-in.

Food

Please offer an alternative to pizza at the 4th rest stop.

There are always alternative items at each nutrition stop. Many people enjoy the pizza after walking that distance. We will have plenty of choices at each rest stop.

Brownies? Cookies?

One of the tenets of living a healthy life is “everything in moderation.” With the calories burned on the walk, consuming a brownie or cookie will bring about the end of the world. As previously stated, there are alternative items at each rest stop.

Rest Stops

List times of rest stops in e-mails and brochure.

We will list the times when rest stops are open in the program handed out at check in. Also, rest stop times are based on the official start times of all the events. If participants decide to start early for any event, there is no guarantee food/refreshments will be available. There is also no transportation provided if starting early.

Many people start the ½ or ¼ marathon before scheduled times to avoid the heat/rain/crowds. In some cases, when walkers reached the rest stops, nothing was set up.

The timing of the rest stops is based on official start times for the events. If starting early, for whatever reason, plan on bringing your own food and beverages. Also, this is not a running event. Though we respect the need

to train for a running marathon, rest stops are not set-up for a runner's pace. There will be porta potties set-up on Friday evening at each rest stop though.

I'd like to see a hand washing station at each rest stop.

There won't be a full-blown hand washing station with water and soap, but each rest stop will have a disinfectant gel for participants to wash hands. Volunteers will have gloves and also disinfect hands.

There weren't enough cups at the rest stops. Use your water bottle....

Too maintain a greener footprint for the event, we encourage participants to bring their own water bottle and fill it up at each rest stop, with water or sports drink. There is a very limited supply of cups, but we are trying to reduce waste. Water bottles are a must on the walk route.

Finish Line

Don't have people walk up the steps to cross the stage to get their medallion. It's only five steps, but after a marathon, it's still hard on the knees.

Receiving your medallion and ribbon on the ground is always an option. No need to take the steps. When you finish, let the volunteers know to run a medallion and ribbon down. Many people comment they do like being "up on stage" to get their ribbon/medallion and the steps are a fitting conclusion to the challenge.

The restrooms in the Pfiffner Park bathrooms ran out of supplies.

We will make sure city park staff restocks the bathrooms located in Pfiffner Park with toilet paper and paper towels.