

You asked – Walk Wisconsin answered.

After last year's Walk Wisconsin, we asked for feedback, and we heard it loud and clear. Below is a list of questions, comments and suggestions we received from participants. Watch for a follow-up survey about the 2011 Walk Wisconsin after the event. We want to hear about your experience!

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 to not take a medal 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 of this when checking in.

The Route

I would have rather seen the mile markers counting down to the finish rather than how many miles you may have walked. Mile markers should say something like 3 miles to go, 2 miles to go, something to that extent.

Already done...look for that on June 4th.

What about walking the route in reverse?

We "reversed" the route in year 2 and it was not received well by a majority of the participants. The major challenge/concern/danger is 1800+ people crossing the street near the Main Street bridge over a 3 hour span. Local authorities won't allow that. With the current route, all the marathon walkers cross the bridge and the street in 3 minutes as they begin the day.

I have heard from multiple people that they would like to do more than the half but not as much as the full so you should offer a 3/4 marathon. That way people can work up to the full marathons.

That's an intriguing thought. No plans for the immediate future...but it is on the list of potential growth in subsequent years.

I know this is a non-competitive event, but I would love to see timing chips available for a limited number of registrants, as well as a priority starting time. I would gladly pay an additional fee for the use of the timing chip and the ability to start early and have an "official" time.

No plans to make it a timed event. Would recommend a timer on a watch or carrying a stop watch with timer.

Weather

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

Participants should check the weather before the event and plan accordingly. Rain ponchos will not be provided.

Health & Safety

Maybe offer bug spray/wipes in packets.

Bug spray will again be available at the bandshell for participants to apply before boarding buses or taking off for the marathon. Bug spray will also be available at each rest stop, simply ask.

Can there be more people on streets like Post Road, HH, Park Ridge, Hwy 66?

We will be certain to have volunteers at all major intersection/crossing locations and are working with local EMS to strategically place them.

I highly disapprove of discouraging strollers on the walk.

For families with young children in strollers, we offer the Kids Walk Wisconsin. This trail is not conducive to strollers for either the 1/2 or 1/4 marathon routes...boardwalks, wood chips, roots, bare dirt, etc.

Needs to be a "NON-SMOKING" event.

Smoking will not be permitted among Walk Wisconsin participants.

Congestion in the Schmeckle Reserve for participants

Shuttles will again be staggered for both the ½ and ¼ marathon from Pfiffner park to spread out the walkers more. There is also a new trail in Schmeckle which should help ease congestion. We will also continue to remind people of trail etiquette, especially in the later stages (2 wide only, be aware of other walkers passing, etc.)

Food

Please offer alternative to pizza for lunch at the half way point!

There are always alternative items at each rest stop. Many people enjoy pizza at the 13 mile mark. Will have choices for all walkers at each rest stop.

Some non-healthy items at rest stops (brownies?)

There is a wide variety of items at each rest stop. Wellness should involve moderation, not deprivation. The calories burned doing this event warrants the opportunity to “recharge” with something sweet. Again, choices, choices, choices.

You can't eat watermelon when it is in a big wedge unless you want to smear it all over your face or waste a greater percentage of it. It should be sliced, not huge wedges. Oranges are never cut right either.

We hear you...will remedy in 2011.

Rest Stops

List times of rest stops in e-mails/brochure

We will list when rest stops are open in the program handed out at check-in.

Gatorade spots sporadic at rest stops

There will be a sports drink at every other rest stop in 2011.

I felt the rest stops this year were not ready for the walkers this year.

In previous years, we have had single organizations take multiple rest stops and move throughout the day. In 2011 and beyond, there will be one designated organization per rest stop...so set up will be in plenty of time and items available for all walkers coming through. Rest stops are open based on participants walking 2.5 to 4.5 miles per hour.

It would have been nice if there had been an area to actually sit down somewhere after the Moose Lodge and before Bukolt Park. Maybe at a lawn of someone who lived along the route? Just a suggestion....

There will be an additional water/potty/rest stop on Old Wausau Road, about 1.5 miles from the finish and a spot to rest if needed.

Many people start the half or quarter before scheduled times to avoid the heat, rain, and crowds. This is the 2nd year in a row that many walkers reached the rest stops before there was anything set up. We saw full marathoners arriving at the Sentry stop and there wasn't even water available yet. Same thing happened to us by the Isaak Walton League/hwy 66. We were prepared, because it happened to us last year, but I know other walkers were upset.

The timing of the rest stops is based on start times for the events. If starting early, plan on bringing your own food and beverages.

I'd like to suggest that some chairs/benches be added at the rest stops. At one point I would have liked to sit on a chair for a short rest, not the ground.

There will be a limited number of chairs at each rest stop in 2011.

Some of the water tasted horrible! :) Wish we had more gatorade stops!

We've remedied the water situation and will have sports drinks at every stop

I ran most of the half marathon b/c I was training for a marathon. I was too early for most of the water stops, except one. I wish that the water stops could be ready a little bit ahead of time for the fast walkers or the runners.

A reminder that this is not a running event. Though we respect the need to train for a running marathon and are encouraged by participation in the event, rest stops are not set up for runners pace.

Finish-line

At the end of the walk it would be nice to sit down and have a snack, there are never enough chairs to sit. We train all year and would like to meet with others at the end of the race but you feel rushed because there is no place to sit.

More chairs being added to the rest stops along the route and at the finish event.

I thought it was an insightful idea to offer a "recycled" medal opportunity and not everyone wants to keep theirs.

We will offer a medallion again this year...if you don't require one, you can "recycle" it.

Next year don't have people walk across the stage.....do you know after you have walked the full marathon how hard it is to get up the steps for your body even though it's only five steps.....it is so hard on your knees have the celebration in front of the stage on the ground.

That is always an option...volunteers would be happy to run a medallion down. Many people comment they like being "up on stage" and the steps is a fitting conclusion to the challenge.

It didn't seem fair that after walking all that distance, people had to wait in such a long line at the finish event. The line was so long, our group of 4 did not even wait around to get the food.

We are adding "double sided" service this year and will have separate stations with beverages only. Also, with the start times spread out a bit, the plan is to have a steadier stream of finishers to prevent the back log.