

# GM Walking Festival 2023

## Organising a GM Walking Festival Walk Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Please see below FAQs for walk organisers and leaders. If you have further questions, please contact [info@gmmoving.co.uk](mailto:info@gmmoving.co.uk) or see the GM Walking Festival page for more information.

### Why take part in the GM Walking Festival 2023?

The GM Walking Festival is a month-long celebration of walking that promotes opportunities to take part many different walks across Greater Manchester throughout May. The festival will promote places to walk, groups to walk with, and reasons to walk. We hope that participants will be inspired to continue walking and discover the joy of walking beyond May.

For organisations thinking of hosting a walk, it's a great way to bring people together, help walkers meet new people, discover new routes, get some fresh air, and build some activity into their day. Organising regular walks could help your organisation to achieve great things in a new way. The GM Walking Festival 2023 is a great opportunity to start.

### Who can host a walk?

Anyone can! Whether you are an individual, group, school, or organisation, we would love for you to host a walk to encourage others to join in. Submit a walk using the online form and let's hear your ideas!

### I've never planned a walk before. Where do I start?

We have a guidance document called 'Guide to submitting a festival walk 2023' that has more information on planning a walk and submitting a walk to be part of the GM Walking Festival. Start by thinking about who the walk is for and asking some people from that group what would interest or appeal to them. You can then plan the details together about where, when and how far.

All walks must be free of charge for the walkers as a condition of being part of the GM Walking Festival 2023.

If you have any queries, please contact us on [info@gmmoving.co.uk](mailto:info@gmmoving.co.uk)

### **Are there any funds available to help my organisation host a walk?**

No, there are no grants available from GM Walking. There might be local activation funds if the walking is part of Bee Network schemes. There might also be local small grants available via the local organisations that support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in each borough. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Can I submit multiple walks?**

Absolutely! Please submit a separate form for each walk you plan to organise and GM Walking will review all submissions. Find the submission form on our main festival page

### **Do we need to have an accredited walk leader to host a walk?**

No, you do not need to have an accredited walk leader to host a walk. However, it is important you know the route, any risks, and have some experience managing a group. If you would like some guidance on supporting others to walk in a group, please see our guidance document for how to lead a walk safely. This guidance document summarises the main points to consider when planning a short walk in your local area and taking others on a walk.

If you have any questions on this please contact [info@gmmoving.co.uk](mailto:info@gmmoving.co.uk)

### **Can I keep the walk private and promote just for the people I work with?**

Yes! On the sign-up form there is a question 'Do you want your walk to appear on the public facing GM Walk Festival web page?' If you would like to keep the walk private to your group or organisation tick 'No'.

This means your walk will not appear on the main festival page and cannot be searched by members of the public. See below question for further information on promotion of your private walk.

### **What is the benefit of being part of the GM Walking Festival if a walk is private?**

If you make the walk private, all promotion to your group/community will be down to you. However, you will still benefit from being part of the festival through:

- Being part of a month of walking focused activity across GM
- Advice and information from GM Walking to set up your walk
- Access to branded marketing assets for you to promote your walk internally
- A coordinated, Greater Manchester-wide comms plan and approach which can be adapted for your purpose or audience (from early April)
- A downloadable, editable calendar so you can plan a challenge among your group or as an individual
- Web-based resources to support the continued walking of your participants
- An option to be part of a case study you can use within your own organisation to share impact and engagement

### **Is there a minimum/maximum number of participants for each walk?**

The number of walkers you have can only be monitored if you use a booking system. All walks submitted by **24th March 2023** using the sign-up form on the GM Walking Festival website will be published by the end of March and will be searchable by anyone (Unless you make your walk private. See above).

We advise walk organisers to be prepared for any number of walkers. That may mean more than one person from the organising group helping out. At the last GM Walking Festival in 2022 there was an average of 15 walkers per walk.

### **Can I restrict the number of people attending the walk?**

Yes. If you set up a booking system, you can restrict the numbers that can book on. There is guidance on adding your booking details in 'Guide to submitting a festival walk'. If you choose to add a booking system, it will be your responsibility to communicate with walkers booking on or making enquiries.

### **Can the walks be any length, duration, or difficulty?**

We recommend a minimum of 30 minutes, and most walks in the festival will take less than 3 hours. However, it is up to you to decide the length or difficulty of the walk based on your experience and knowledge of leading group walks and the routes in your

local area. There are different options to select for distance on the submission form which might help you decide.

Walks longer than 3 hours or those over hills and moorland, should be organised by established walking groups, with experienced, appropriately qualified, and insured walk leaders.

### **Do children have to accompanied?**

Yes, under 18s should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please refer to your organisational safeguarding policy and ensure appropriate measures are in place.

### **Do I need to take registers/participant forms?**

There is no requirement from GM Walking to take registers, but if your organisation wishes to have a register or ask walkers to complete a form for your own purposes you may do so. Please ensure you have the correct data protection processes in place to collect this data.

GM Walking will contact walk organisers after their event to ask for information about the walk, including (but not limited to) estimated number of participants, if there were people new to walking or your organisation/group taking part, and any feedback from participants.

### **What am I committing to by being part of the GM Walking Festival**

By being part of the GM Walking Festival 2023 you are giving permission for GM Walking/GreaterSport to contact you in relation to:

- The promotion of your walks and sharing your stories and experiences with us.
- A follow up enquiry after your walk to ask how the walk(s) went.
- Being advocates for walking, its benefits and positive outcome for people and communities.

If you have a question that was not covered by this document, please contact us on [info@gmmoving.co.uk](mailto:info@gmmoving.co.uk)