

GM Walking Festival

Hosting or organising a Festival Walk: Frequently Asked Questions

Please see below FAQs for those organising or hosting a Festival walk.

Q: Why take part in the GM Walking Festival 2024?

A: The GM Walking Festival is a month-long celebration of walking, promoting 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 and it is hoped 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 2024 is a great opportunity to start.

Q: Who can host a walk?

A: Anyone can! Whether you're an individual, group, schools, or organisation, we'd 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!

Q: Do I need any training to host a walk?

A: No, you do not need any formal training to host or organise a walk. However, it is important you know the route, any risks and have some experience managing a group. If you'd like some guidance on supporting others to walk in a group, please see our [tips and advice document](#) on how to do this safely.

Q: Do I need insurance?

A: You don't need to be insured to take others out on a short walk in the community. Walking is the most accessible and lowest-risk form of physical activity.

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

A: Read [our tips and advice document](#) that has useful recommendations for hosting a Festival walk, including pre-planning the route, group considerations, and what to do in an emergency.

Q: Can I charge people to attend my walk?

A: All walks must be free of charge as a condition of being part of the GM Walking Festival 2024.

Q: Are there any funds available to help my organisation host a walk?

A: Small grants are available for organisations as part of the GM Walking Festival Fund. Please note, due to one of the main aims of the GM Walking Festival being to expand the reach to underrepresented groups, priority funding will be given to:

- Organisations or groups who have **not** received this fund before
- Organisations or groups who want to engage people from either or both of the below focus areas:
 - o women and girls age 18-30
 - o those with long-term health conditions

[Find the funding guidance and application form here.](#) **Applications must be submitted before Friday 16th February 2024.**

There may also be local activation funds if the walking is part of Bee Network schemes. There may 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.

Q: Can I submit multiple walks?

A: Absolutely! Please complete a separate submission form for each walk. Find the submission form on our [main Festival page](#)

Q: Can I keep the walk private and promote just for the people I work with?

A: Yes! Question 18) on the submission form asks if you want the walk publicly visible on the website page. If you'd like to keep the walk private, tick '**No**' to this question.

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 promoting your private walk.

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

A: 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, GM 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

Q: Is there a minimum/maximum number of participants for each walk?

A: The number of walkers you have can only be monitored if you use a booking system. We advise walk organisers to be prepared for any number of walkers if you are not using a booking system. That may mean more than one person from your organising helping out on the day.

Q: Can I restrict the number of people attending the walk?

A: Yes, if you set up a booking system, you can restrict the numbers that can book on. There is an option to add a booking link to the submission form in Question 19). If you choose to use a booking system, it will be your responsibility to communicate with walkers who book on.

Q: Can the walks be any length, duration, or difficulty?

A: 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 hosting 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.

Q: Do children have to be accompanied?

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

Q: Do I need to take registers/participant forms?

A: 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 Moving will contact walk organisers after their event to ask for information about the walk, including estimated number of participants, if there were people new to walking or your organisation/group taking part, and any feedback from participants. etc.

Q: What am I committing to by being part of the GM Walking Festival

A: By being part of the GM Walking Festival 2024 you are giving permission for GM Moving 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 further questions, please contact info@gmmoving.co.uk or see the [GM Walking Festival page](#) for more information.