

# **WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION 2016**

Lac du Flambeau  
Waterways Walk



# **NIBI WATER**

Waterways Walk 2015

Water is essential for life.

Water is a gift.

Water deserves our respect, gratitude  
and reverence.

With these thoughts, volunteers in Lac du Flambeau chose to give the community an opportunity to express gratitude, respect and reverence for the gift of water by sponsoring a *Waterways Walk*.



**Water Way Walk**

Having a water walk is not unique to Lac du Flambeau. Since 2003, folks elsewhere have shown reverence for water by walking around lakes like Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Ontario.



Well before sunrise on the Saturday before Mothers Day 2015 (a day of rebirth and renewal), women, men and children, residents, guests and visitors began to arrive at the sacred powwow grounds.



As the sun rose, Tinker Schuman (Migizikwe – Eagle Woman), a local Ojibwe Spiritual Woman, and a few others, led a water ceremony for all present.











For Tribal and non-tribal participants alike, the ceremony included smudging with sage, sharing a pipe, singing and feasting, and expressing gratitude, respect and reverence for water.



















After water was placed in a small copper pail and blessed, Tinker carried the pail to the front of the assemblage, and about 100 walkers left the grounds with the water always in the lead, always carried by women, and always moving forward.











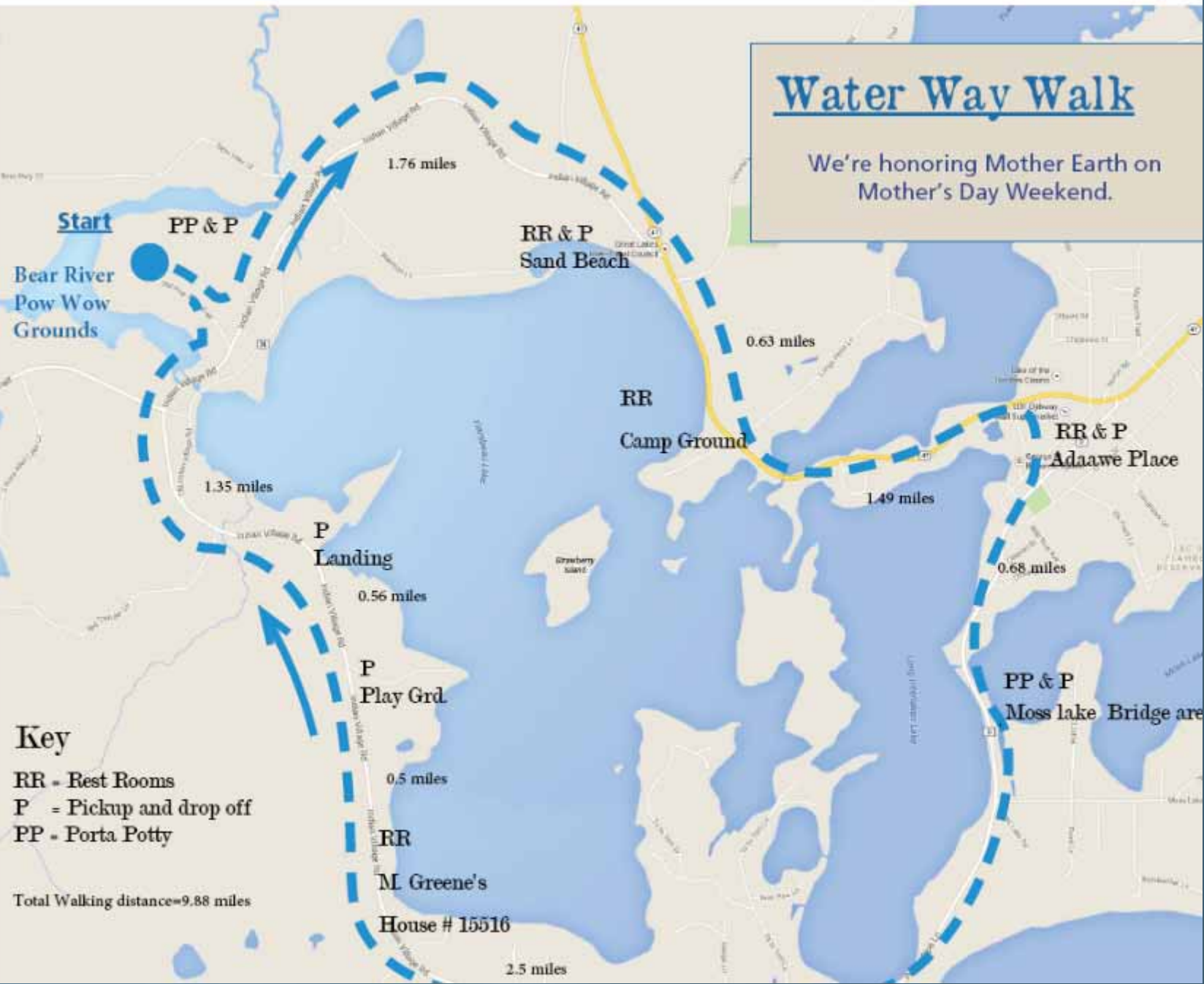




The walkers followed a ten-mile route around Flambeau and Long Interlaken Lakes at a steady pace, returning to the sacred grounds by mid-afternoon for a celebratory feast and one more expression of gratitude, respect and reverence for water.

# Water Way Walk

We're honoring Mother Earth on Mother's Day Weekend.



### Key

- RR - Rest Rooms
- P - Pickup and drop off
- PP - Porta Potty

Total Walking distance=9.88 miles





































Another *Waterways Walk* is being planned for 2016. Volunteers are designing and ordering t-shirts, writing and distributing literature, contacting the police department, planning for food and rest stations, and so on.....,

...for the water deserves at least  
another day of respect, gratitude and  
reverence.

# Appreciation

- ▣ For the words and singing *The Water Song* – Doreen Day
- ▣ For preparing and/or conducting this presentation and ceremony – Virginia Chosa, Roberta Gast, Nancy Junkerman, Tinker Schuman, Norm Wetzel
- ▣ For enabling the 2015 & 2016 *Waterways Walks* – All of the volunteers on the planning committee
- ▣ For walking – All those who express appreciation, respect and reverence for the water, nibi



