

For Immediate Release

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**ON OCT 1, 2026, THE SCHOHARIE LAND TRUST IS HONORED TO WELCOME
THE WOMEN’S WATER WALK THROUGH THE PAULSON PRESERVE**

Cobleskill, New York. September 22, 2026 – The Schoharie Land Trust is pleased to welcome the Women’s Water Walk at the Paulson Preserve in the Towns of Jefferson and Summit, NY on Thursday, October 1, 2026.

The [Women’s Water Walk](#) is a two-week, 108-mile prayer walk led by women through towns along the route of the proposed Constitution Pipeline in New York State. Led by Indigenous grandmothers and rooted in prayer and positive action, the walk is being coordinated by the Waterfall Unity Alliance, a Schoharie County based not-for-profit to raise awareness about the pipeline and the threat it poses to New York’s rural environment, and in particular to its water.

“The Women’s Water Walk is not political. It’s a prayer for our water and a call for us to come together to protect our water, our communities, and future generations. Men are welcome to walk alongside us and support this prayer carried by the women—because ultimately, it is a prayer for all life,” said Bethany Yarrow, a Schoharie County resident, co-founder and acting director of Waterfall Unity Alliance and a lead organizer of the Women’s Water Walk.

The Women’s Water Walk is scheduled to cross into Schoharie County on September 30th, arriving at the Paulson Preserve’s parking lot on the south segment of Rum Hill Road (off Peraglie Road) in the Town of Jefferson at about 4pm.

Walkers will be welcomed by the [The Schoharie Land Trust](#) (SLT), a local non-profit dedicated to promoting the preservation, protection and stewardship of agricultural, scenic,

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forest, natural, recreational and open space lands, as well enhancing public appreciation and understanding of Schoharie County's natural heritage. The Schoharie Land Trust owns The Paulson Preserve, which spans 342-acres of hardwood and conifer forests, meadows, and wetlands where beavers have created habitats utilized by a wide range of species.

The public is invited on the morning of Oct 1st at 10am for a greeting at the Preserve by Schoharie Land Trust Board Member Jim Sullivan, who was instrumental in arranging the donation of the Preserve's land to the SLT.

Thereafter, Mine Kill State Park Naturalist Hannah Young will lead a hike to view extensive beaver activity along a stream at the Preserve. On the way she will also talk about foraging in our area, and point out edible plants and fungi on the way. Sturdy, water-resistant footwear is recommended for the hike.

The Women's Water Walk will resume their route, walking through the Paulson Preserve before crossing the lands of Roy Caldwood, a 104-year-old WW2 Buffalo Soldier army veteran who owns land adjacent to the Preserve. "For over six decades, my children, family, friends and I have safeguarded and cherished the natural beauty and environmental integrity of our property in Jefferson N.Y. We ran a summer camp for inner city children and taught them how to nurture and appreciate the pristine streams, observe the local beaver dams and co-exist with the wildlife," said Caldwood. "I experienced, first hand, the value that nature, in its pure state, can have on children. I am proud to give support to the "Women's Water Walk" to walk through my property to conduct this very important prayer walk. The potential environmental disasters from this proposed Constitution Pipeline are way too great for us to sit on the sidelines and put everything at risk."

After walking through the Preserve, the Women's Water Walk will continue north, through the town Summit where there will be a water prayer at Summit Lake.

The Constitution Pipeline is a 30-inch fracked gas mega-pipeline proposed by the Oklahoma-based Williams Companies, which would run from northeastern Pennsylvania to upper Schoharie County, New York. Rejected in 2016 by New York state as a danger to New York's water, the project has returned as a coordinated effort between the federal government and fossil fuel companies that opponents say is an attempt to accelerate the re-permitting process and override New York's previous decision.

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The pipeline would cut through 125 miles of forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats and farmland, including trenching through more than 300 water bodies and 82 trout stream crossings. The Women's Water Walk was organized to alert communities to this accelerated process that has included little to no community consultation.

"If constructed, the Constitution Pipeline would cut right through my property. In the event of an explosion, this puts my family within the 800-foot incineration zone. I have spent years removing invasive species from the forests, planting native trees, and nurturing the meadows here. The thought that this would all be destroyed to build an unnecessary fracked gas pipeline to power AI data centers is devastating. This pipeline would tie our region's future to fossil fuels at the exact moment we must do the opposite. I am so grateful to every person walking across New York to raise awareness and help protect our water, farms and forests," said Tanja Konwinski, a resident of Warnerville.

Organizers emphasize that the Women's Water Walk is open to people of all backgrounds, genders, faiths, and traditions. Community members are invited to walk for an hour, a few miles, a full day, or multiple days. Supporters are also encouraged to join gatherings along the route and welcome walkers as they pass through their communities.

"Water is life. Water is the first medicine. Water transforms, heals, and has memory – and as we walk this journey, I have been reminded that my ancestors loved this landscape just as they loved their children. Owén:nakon Sandra Deer iontiats (my name is). I am of the Bear Clan family (wakskaré:wake). I am a mother, grandmother, great grandmother (Teiokotere'serané:ten) and a Moon Dancer. As a Haudenosaunee, Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman, my responsibility is to preserve lands and waters for those "faces yet to come". This walk is not only to raise awareness regarding land and water protection, it is a Prayer that all Water be protected and respected for the coming generations as well as the wildlife, plants and medicines that thrive within these natural ecosystems," said Owén:nakon Sandra Deer.

There is a map of the walking route on the Water Walk [website](#), with a full schedule of events and pipeline informational sessions. On October 3rd the walk will arrive in Middleburgh, where there is an event scheduled at Timothy Murphy Park at 4pm.

On the morning of October 4th, at 10am, the walkers will again gather at Timothy Murphy Park and walk the last leg of their journey, ending at Lily Park in Schoharie at about 4pm. There will be a closing ceremony at the covered bridge, to which the public is also invited.

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