

CHEROKEE MARSH

North Unit - 6098 North Sherman Avenue,
(3.4 miles of trails)

South Unit - 5002 School, (3.1 miles of trails)

Lake Mendota Unit - 104 W. Sauthoff Road,
(0.6 miles of trails)

Strategically located at the head of Madison's lakes, Cherokee Marsh acts as a living sponge. It filters upland runoff, using excess fertilizer to grow marsh plants, and slowly releasing cleaner water to the lakes below. The marsh is used by thousands of students each year for environmental education. (Total for all units: 1210 acres)

EDNA TAYLOR CONSERVATION PARK

802 Femrite Drive

A glacial drumlin rising above a broad ribbon of marsh forms the backbone of this southeast Madison park. Ongoing projects include oak savanna and wetland restoration. Nearby Glendale School and Leopold Nature Center use it extensively for environmental education. (1.3 miles of trails on 56 acres)

ELVEHJEM SANCTUARY

1314 Painted Post Drive

Located within Elvehjem Park, the Sanctuary is a red oak-basswood forest on a northwest-facing hillside with exposed sandstone bedrock. Trails through Acewood Greenway connect the Sanctuary to Heritage Prairie. (1.2 miles of trails on 9 acres)

HERITAGE SANCTUARY

600 Meadowlark Drive

At peak trillium bloom in mid-May, Heritage Sanctuary is unequalled. Under an oak forest canopy lays a wildflower carpet more typical of a maple forest. The winding trail takes you through this unusual woodland community (0.5 miles of trails on 8.5 acres)

HERITAGE PRAIRIE

5415 Queensbridge Road

In contrast to the rich woods of Heritage Sanctuary is Heritage Prairie, one-half mile southeast. Although grazed, a remnant of dry prairie persisted on a thin layer of soil over the rocky hillside. This area also features some picturesque open-grown Bur Oaks. (12 acres)

HEISTAND PARK

4302 Milwaukee Street

Large red oaks dominate this wooded park located on a northern slope. Trilliums cover the ground with a blanket of white during May. (0.3 miles of trails on 11 acres)

KETTLE POND

5805 Old Middleton Road

The retreat of the glacier 10,000 years ago left many 'kettle holes' in the Madison area. A pond surrounded by woods provides habitat for a variety of wildlife in this small park. (0.4 miles of trails on 8 acres)

KNOLLWOOD PARK

3334 Westview Lane

Black oaks are the dominant tree on this sandy knoll. A diverse 2-acre sand prairie lies below. It forms part of the connecting link between Aldo Leopold School and the Nine Springs E-Way. (0.75 miles of trails on 14 acres)

OWEN CONSERVATION PARK

6021 Old Sauk Road

On a hilltop overlooking Madison's west side, this park was the farm and personal retreat of former University Professor Edward T. Owen. Today, prairies and oak savannas have risen like a phoenix to reclaim the landscape. Coneflowers, goldenrod and bluestem are among the many plants that yield a harvest of ever-changing color and texture throughout the year. (3.4 miles of trails on 93 acres)

PAUNACK (A.O.) PARK

6399 Bridge Road

One of the last marshes on Lake Monona, this park is located on Squaw Bay at the Yahara River outlet. It is one feature of the bicycle trail circling Lake Monona.

PRAIRIE RIDGE

2406 Berkley Drive

The major feature in this park is a diverse prairie remnant located on a steep slope. This park is part of an open space corridor that eventually will be linked to the National Ice Age Trail. (1.2 miles of trails on 52 acres)

SANDBURG WOODS

2902 Independence Lane

Adjacent to Sandburg School, this park contains a rich diversity of oak woodland wild flowers. It is part of a parkway strip. From the trails there is evidence of the July 1991 windstorm that blew down many large trees. These canopy openings will provide space for a new generation of oak and hickory trees. (0.3 miles of trails on 20 acres)

STRICKER'S POND

7214 Longmeadow Road

This glacial "kettle pond" is an excellent place to view migrating waterfowl during spring and fall. The adjacent woods and restored prairie provide a diverse habitat for a variety of wildlife. (0.8 miles of trails on 14 acres in Middleton and Madison)

TURVILLE POINT PARK

1156 Olin Turville Court

This 65-acre natural gem borders the shores of Lake Monona, a short walk from downtown. Large red, bur and white oaks provide the canopy under which a variety of spring wildflowers bloom. A 7-acre prairie opening adds to the diversity of the site. (3.1 miles of trails on 65 acres)

BACKGROUND

In the late 1960's, the City of Madison began purchasing land in what is now Cherokee Marsh. This large and diverse wetland needed to be preserved for future generations. Since formally establishing a Conservation Parks Program in 1971, the City of Madison Parks Division has acquired and manages over 1500 acres of conservation parkland.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PARK?

A conservation park differs in how it is managed and why the land was acquired. The goal of the conservation park is to restore native plant and animal communities while providing educational areas and opportunities for everyone.

Although there is no set combination of characteristics common to all conservation areas, most exhibit one or more of the following attributes:

- Unique plant communities, wildlife populations, geological formations, or historical sites.
- A critical ecological function, such as protecting surface or ground water quality and supply.
- Relatively undisturbed example of native biological communities.
- Location and features suitable for outdoor education programs.
- Outstanding aesthetic qualities.

RULES

To protect our natural areas, visitors to the conservation park are asked to observe the following rules.

- All plants and animals are protected. Disturbance or removal requires written permission.
- Use designated trails only.
- Hunting, trapping and possession of firearms are prohibited.
- Bicycles and motor vehicles are restricted to entrance roads and parking lots.
- Dogs and horses are not allowed.
- Fires, picnics and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Park hours are 4 a.m. until one hour after sunset.

Join us!

HOW CAN YOU HELP PRESERVE MADISON'S WILD SIDE?

Donate Time

- Natural area restoration by controlling invasive plants such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, etc.
- Collect seeds for ongoing prairie restoration
- Maintain trails

Donate Money

- Donate money for native plant material, benches, or maintenance equipment.

Explore Madison's Wildside

- Join the Madison Parks Staff on free monthly guided tours of the parks. See the Madison Parks website for schedule and details.

Forestry Section

Madison Parks Forestry is responsible for the planting, trimming and maintenance for over 100,000 trees along Madison's 700 miles of city streets and the maintenance of hundreds of thousands of trees that are located in the City's parks, golf courses, cemetery and greenways.

Due to Madison's innovative urban forestry program, Madison has been named a Tree City, USA for 20 years running and a Growth Award for 8 years. The National Arbor Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service recognizes Madison's environmental impact and high level of tree care.

Madison Parks Forestry Section
Goodman Maintenance Facility
1402 Wingra Creek Pkwy
Madison, WI 53713
608.266.4816

After Hours Storm Call: 608.266.4275



conserve
**MADISON
PARKS**

DISCOVER MADISON'S WILD SIDE

CITY OF MADISON CONSERVATION PARKS

City of Madison Parks Division
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Rm. 104
Madison, WI 53701-2987
(608) 266-4711
www.cityofmadison.com/parks