



History Walk Suggestions – WEEK 3

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Native American Mounds in Madison and Dane County

Human beings have lived in the Madison lakes area for nearly 12,000 years and left behind many traces of their activities in the form of artifacts and the remains of campsites, villages, cemeteries, and earthworks. Among the most visual and impressive vestiges of these ancient cultures are earthen Mounds, built over a two-thousand-year period for burial of the dead and other ceremonial purposes. Over 1,500 of these Mounds in numerous clusters or groups were built on or near the shores of the “Four lakes” of Dane County. Despite Early attempts to protect these monuments, as many as 80% have been destroyed by modern agricultural practices and urban expansion. Fortunately, there are Mounds that have survived. The Mounds are located throughout Madison so find the one closest to you or one you have visited before. [Mounds Location & Description Information](#)

Lakeshore Nature Preserve – Native Americans and the Preserve

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is especially fortunate to have many sites right on campus where the archaeological record can still be explored and studied. The entire campus landscape can serve as a classroom for learning about the peoples and creatures who have lived here in the past. The study of the ancient past in this area is a complex topic and walking is the perfect way to explore the sites. [Find out more.](#)

Madison Historic Resources



The City of Madison is rich with historic and cultural resources that are integral to the City's high quality of life. The City of Madison's historic and cultural resources are looked after by the [Historic Preservation Planning](#) and [Madison Arts](#) sections of the Planning Division.

There are five locally designated historic districts, 14 National Register Districts (excluding the UW-Madison campus), and 165 designated historic landmarks throughout the City. Such assets are defining characteristics of some neighborhoods, and great influences in others. The City is working to preserve and enhance these historic and cultural resources through its Landmarks Commission, which is charged with preserving Madison's architectural heritage.

City of Madison Cultural Walking Tours

The [Cultural Walking Tours](#) page has links to many brochures listing historic homes and buildings in neighborhoods around the city. Some brochures are old and some homes have been replaced, but these brochures are a great resource for you to create a walking route and enjoy many beautiful and historic homes around the city.

On the right side of the page are additional links to other historic resources including the [Landmarks](#) link with information on over 180 historic homes, buildings, and sites. To make it easier to plan a walking route see this [Landmarks Map](#).

Madison Historic Preservation Plan – Walk Inspiration

In February 2020, Madison approved the [Madison Historic Preservation Plan](#), which aims to “celebrate and preserve the places that represent Madison’s collective histories” and is a great resource to inspire a walk. Chapter Two of the Plan focuses on Underrepresented Communities with an overview of the history of the city with specific emphasis on six underrepresented communities: African American, First Nations, Hmong, Latino/a, LGBTQ, and Women. You may find a number of locations that you walk by regularly that you did not realize played an important role in Madison’s history. For example, have you heard of the Benjamin & Amy Butts House at 633 East Johnson Street? Benjamin Butts moved to Wisconsin around 1870, opened his own barber shop, and became a leader in Madison’s early African American community. He resided with his family at 633 East Johnson Street from 1892 to 1907.

Dane County Historical Society Marker Program



Approximately every year since 1963, the Dane County Historical Society erects a marker that notes a person, site, or event that was significant in the history of Dane County, WI. There are currently 47 markers in Dane County. Plan a walk to the one closest to you or maybe you can put together a longer walk that allows you to find several. A list of markers with their locations and a brief description can be found at this [online](#).

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association Nature & History Walk



The Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association with support from the [City of Madison Neighborhood Grant Program](#) created a Nature and History Walk for people to enjoy. A map and more info for a self-guided tour is available in brochure form. You can look for the kiosk at the intersection of the Southwest Path and Glenway Street, or ask at Monroe Street Library, for copies. [Online Information](#)

Forest Hill Cemetery

This historic cemetery is a popular place to walk and is a great place for a history-filled walk. There is even a website that UW faculty and students created that offers a guide to the cemetery. You can do different walks and learn about landscaping, stones, effigy mounds and more. [Online Guide](#)

You can also take the virtual [Talking Spirits Cemetery Tour](#) offered by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and then head out to do a walk on your own. The virtual tour will take you places in the cemetery and also include interesting photos and objects that are not traditionally included in the in-person tour.

WALK-TOBER PARTNERS



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