

**1** **Prairie Restoration** — An impressive prairie restoration, lovingly hand-planted by volunteers with the county's Adult Conservation Team under the guidance of County Naturalist Wayne Pauly. Watch the native wildflowers and grasses change from season to season and take note of animal tracks and birdsong. The prairie provides much-needed habitat for our feathered friends and wildlife as nearby areas are converted for development.

**2** **Rod's Rest** — Sit a spell and enjoy the view at this well-loved spot, furnished with a memorial bench donated on behalf of a local angler who loved the park.



**3** **Bear Mound** — An excellent representation of a bear-shaped mound, once hidden but recently made visible after volunteers removed thicket and trees that were obscuring this fascinating piece of Native American history. Did you know some of these prehistoric mounds (including this one) contain evidence of human remains? What might its builders have had in mind? Was this spot part of a spiritual ceremony? We may never know, but we are lucky to have a chance to contemplate the origins of this earthwork in person.

**4** **Panther Mound** — The crown jewel of this park is a 208-foot panther-shaped spirit effigy located at the crest of the hill. The head of this majestic animal shape (which faced the water) was unfortunately removed by farming, but the rest is still here. Please stay on the trail and respect the mounds from a safe distance so others can enjoy and learn from them in the future.

**5** **Wetlands** — Part of Cherokee Marsh, Dane County's largest wetland. The wetlands provide habitat for a rich variety of wildlife. Cherokee Marsh improves the water quality of the Yahara River and its downstream chain of lakes by filtering storm water, tempering flood surges, and discharging cold, clean groundwater into the river and lakes.

**6** **Dog Park** — Jump, run and play with your furry best friends in this popular northside 20-acre patch. Dogs are allowed outside of the fenced-in playground as long as they stay leashed to protect wildlife, plantings, natural features and effigy mounds.



**7** **Kayak/Canoe Launch** — Convenient access to the Madison area's most important waterways; Cherokee Marsh and the Yahara River inlet. A quiet spot, perfect for anyone looking for fresh air, solo paddle time, or fishing opportunities. To reach the launch, portage your canoe or kayak about 500 ft from the south end of the parking lot.

## Take a closer look at Yahara Heights County Park

Tucked away at the north tip of Madison, Wisconsin, this county park is a hidden gem for residents and visitors alike. Many locals know the spot for its friendly off-leash dog park, but few know its other charms including over 3 miles of secluded hiking trails, easy paddling access, well-tended prairie restoration, prehistoric spirit mounds, and spectacular wetland views. We welcome you to explore!

Design by Erika Zar in cooperation  
with the Friends of Cherokee  
Marsh and Dane County Parks.

Friends of Cherokee Marsh  
[cherokeemarsh.org](http://cherokeemarsh.org)



[countyofdane.com](http://countyofdane.com)

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