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The Cherokee Marsh News Oct / Nov 2023



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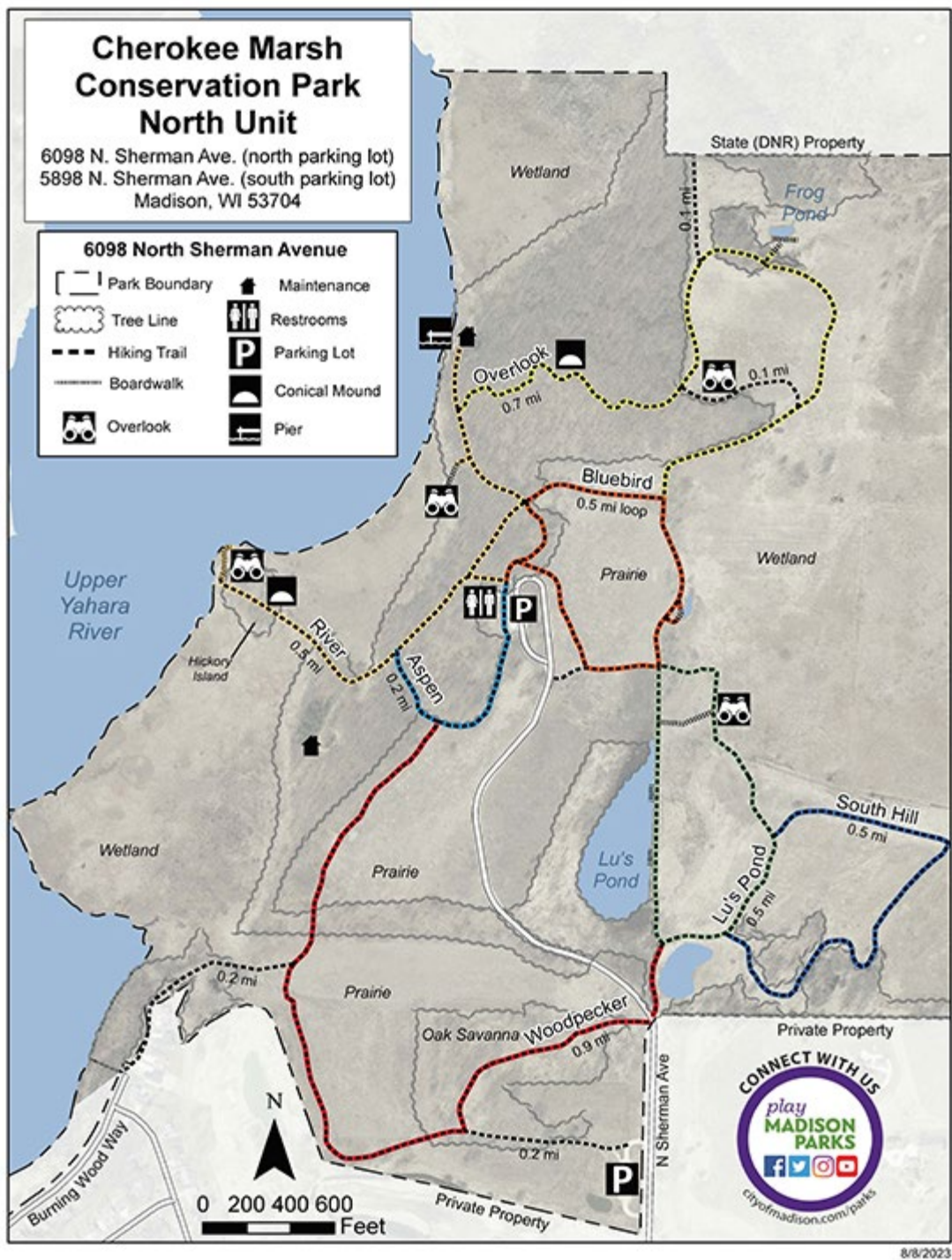


New trails at North Unit

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit has two new trails to explore.

The South Hill trail takes you to the top of a drumlin and offers fantastic views the wetlands to the north and east. This trail is located on the southeast side of the trail system. The surface is still a little rough compared to the established trails.

The second new trail is an unnamed spur at the north end of the trail system. The spur ends at the boundary with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area. The Fishery Area extends north along the upper Yahara River and Token Creek and borders Dane County lands to the north. The Fishery Area has no established trails and you may walk anywhere within it, but be mindful of your location and take care not to stray onto bordering private land.



[Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North Unit trail map with new trails](#)

[Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area](#)



Trails rerouted around mounds at North Unit

Last time we reported on [Dane County Parks' rerouting of a trail in the Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area](#) to maintain a respectful distance from an ancient effigy mound.

Madison Parks recently rerouted two trails to protect the conical mounds at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit. See the [trail map](#) for the mound locations.

Thanks to Madison Parks for performing this work. Please use the new trail routes to help protect and show respect for these ancient earthworks.



Queen rusty-patched bumblebee spotted

In August, Mary Binkley spotted this queen rusty patched bumblebee at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's South Unit. (The queen has no rusty patch.) The sighting was [confirmed](#) by the Wisconsin Bumblebee Brigade, a citizen-based monitoring project coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Rusty patched bumblebees are listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.



Events and volunteering

Join us for any or all of these upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Events are free with no registration required unless otherwise indicated.

Unless otherwise indicated, events are free with no registration required.

[Sign up](#) to receive notices about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities including announcements for last-minute events and volunteer opportunities that don't make it into the newsletter.

[See the full calendar](#) for latest information.

Bird and Nature Adventures

Sunday, Oct 1, 1:30 - 3 pm, Fall colors with John Newman

AND

Sunday, Nov 5, 1:30 - 3 pm, Ice Age geology with Dave Mickelson, UW emeritus professor, geology and geophysics

AND

The first Sunday of EVERY month, year-round, ALWAYS 1:30 pm – 3 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park - North Unit, 6098 N Sherman Ave.
Follow N. Sherman Ave. north to the parking area at the end of the gravel road.

Contact: Paul Noeldner, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com, 608-698-0104

[Madison Parks bird and nature adventure page](#)

Northside Farmers Market

Stop by and say hi to us at our table at the Northside Farmers Market:

Sun, Oct 15, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Northside TownCenter, 1865 Northport Dr, in front of Willy St Co-op

northsidefarmersmarket.org

Hayrides and Hikes

Sat, October 21, 1 pm – 4 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.
Follow N. Sherman Ave. north to the parking lot at the end of the gravel road.

Tour Cherokee Marsh on a tractor-pulled hay wagon, enjoy nature activities, take a short guided hike, or do all! Plus enjoy free hot cider and marshmallows to roast on the fire.

Hayrides are \$3/person (age 2 and under free) to offset the cost of Parks staff time. Hikes and other activities are free.

No reservations needed. Show up any time from 1 pm to 3:30 pm for a hayride or a hike. The last hayride will depart at 3:40.

If you have questions, contact Jan at janaxelson@gmail.com or (608) 215-0426

Sponsored by Madison Parks and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

[More information](#)

Land Steward training

This training is for anyone interested in taking a leadership role in restoration work at Yahara Heights, the Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area, or other Dane County lands.

Dane County Parks Natural Areas staff are hosting another [Certified Land Steward Orientation](#).

Thurs, October 19, 8:45am - 3:30pm.

This orientation, along with our [Natural Areas Program Volunteer Handbook](#) empowers volunteers who want to take a leadership role as a Certified Land Steward to help manage a natural area within a [Dane County Park](#).

With guidance from staff, Certified Land Stewards plan, organize, and conduct restoration work in the parks without direct on-site staff supervision. The orientation provides an overview of the Dane County Parks' Natural Areas Program, covers important policies and procedures, reviews herbicide safety, and orients volunteers to the assortment of tools and resources available to them for working safely and efficiently in the parks.

If you're interested in conducting a variety of ecological restoration activities (such as invasive brush and weed removal/treatment, native seed collection, herbicide application, etc.) in our parks, this training is for you.

[More information and register](#)

Chainsaw training

Volunteers who want to use chainsaws on public land must complete training. These trainings are hosted by Dane County Parks, but the certification is also valid for Madison Parks and DNR properties. Multiple dates, includes **women only** training.

[More information and sign up](#)

Board meetings

Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting. Public welcome. Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Dr. *In the summer, you will likely find us outdoors at the Rainbow Shelter.* Third Wednesdays. To confirm time and place, contact janaxelson@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Oct 18, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov 15, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Self-guided nature adventures

Get ideas for your own self-guided nature adventures at Cherokee Marsh and other locations.

tinyurl.com/selfguided-adventures

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