

Commonly seen birds

A comprehensive checklist of bird species is available at the kiosk within the Wildlife Observation Area.

Marsh birds

American Coot
Belted Kingfisher
Common Grackle
Common Yellowthroat

Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Marsh Wren
Nothern Waterthrush
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Sandhill Crane
Sora
Swamp Sparrow
Virginia Rail
Willow Flycatcher
Yellow Warbler

Other water birds

Bank Swallows
Barn Swallows
Black Tern
Bonaparte's Gull
Caspian Tern
Cliff Swallows
Herring Gull
Northern Rough-winged Swallows
Ring-billed Gull
Tree Swallows

Shorebirds

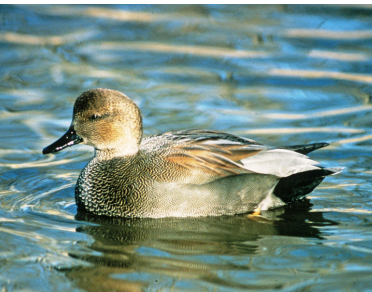
Baird's Sandpiper
Dunlin
Killdeer
Lesser Yellowlegs
Pectoral Sandpiper
Semipalmated Plover
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Solitary Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe



Red-winged Blackbird



Green Heron



Gadwall Drake



Eastern Bluebird

All wildlife photos courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Commonly seen birds *continued*

Upland birds

American Goldfinch
American Kestrel
American Redstart
Bald Eagle
Baltimore Oriole
Cedar Waxwing
Clay-colored Sparrow
Common Redpoll
Eastern Bluebird
Field Sparrow
Great Horned Owl
Northern Cardinal
Palm Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk
Ring-necked Pheasant
Rough-legged Hawk
Savannah Sparrow

Song Sparrow
Warbling Vireo

Waterfowl

American Coot
Blue-winged Teal
Bufflehead
Canada Goose
Common Mergansers
Gadwall
Green-winged Teal
Hooded Mergansers
Lesser Scaup
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Ring-necked Duck
Ruddy Duck
Wood Duck

Commonly seen wildlife



American Badger



Muskrat

Amphibians

Frog

Mammals

Badger
Coyote
Deer
Fox
Muskrat

Reptiles

Snake
Turtle

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District



www.madsewer.org

Welcome to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Wildlife Observation Area

With 3 miles of trails that wind around ponds and wetlands, this 140 acre unit of the Capital Springs State Park and Recreation Area is a birdwatcher's delight. More than 200 bird and waterfowl species use the area to rest, feed and breed.

During spring and fall, the district lowers water levels in the ponds to increase capacity in the event of heavy rainfall. The resulting exposed mudflats are particularly attractive to shoreline, marsh and water birds.

Until the early 1980s, the area served as a storage lagoon for biosolids produced at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lagoons were decommissioned in 1994 and reconstructed between 1999 and 2001 to provide habitat and recreation while helping the district treat high volumes of water.

The district continues to seek nature-based solutions to the water challenges of the 21st century as we work to protect public health and the environment. Through our work to recycle wastewater, we reclaim valuable energy, nutrients and treated water for return to nature.

We invite you to explore and enjoy this resource. It's part of our vision to enrich the community by improving the environment and encouraging others to join us as partners in conservation.

Michael Mucha, P.E., ENV-SP
Chief Engineer and Director



Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Wildlife Observation Area

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District



Other Nearby Natural Features

Other recreational and conservancy areas adjacent to the Wildlife Observation Area include:

Capital Springs State Park and Recreation Area

Designated as a state park in November 2000, Capital Springs State Park and Recreation Area is the focal point for recreational resources within the Nine Springs corridor.

Capital City Trail and Lower Yahara River Trail

The Capital City Trail is a 12 mile multiuse trail that weaves through open prairie, woodlands and creek ravines around the southern part of the Madison metropolitan area. The Capital City Trail connects with the Military Ridge Trail near Verona and with the John Nolen Drive Trail near downtown Madison.

Nine Springs E-Way Corridor

The Nine Springs E-Way environmental corridor extends from the mouth of Nine Springs Creek westward for approximately 7 miles to the headwaters of Nine Springs Creek at Dunn's Marsh. The E-Way Corridor contains native prairie, oak savanna, woodlands and wetlands connected by hiking trails.

Monona Wetlands Conservancy

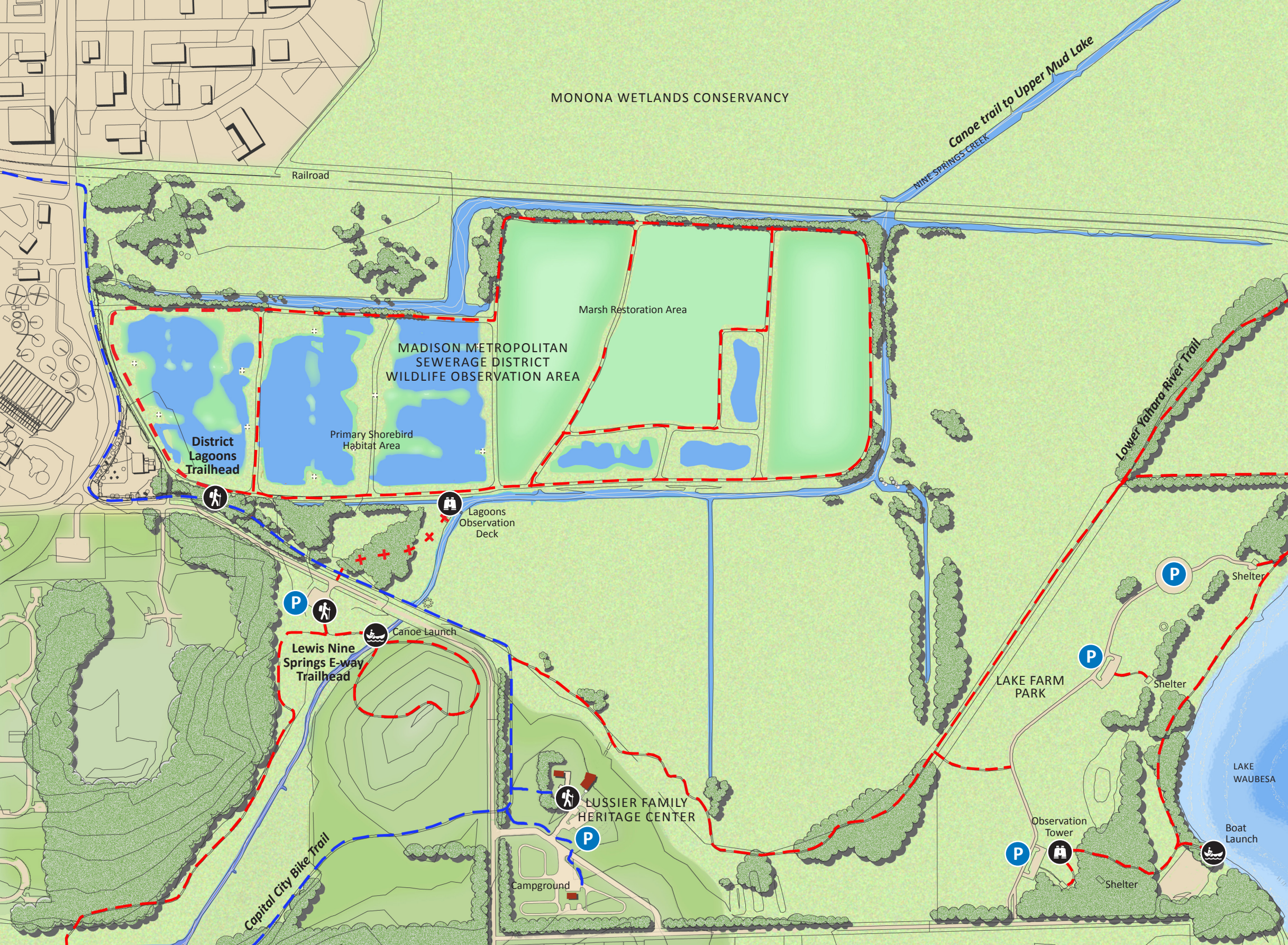
The Monona Wetlands Conservancy is directly north of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Wildlife Observation Area, between the railroad corridor and the South Beltline Highway.

Lake Farm County Park

Lake Farm County Park is a 328 acre Dane County park located southeast of the Wildlife Observation Area. Approximately half of the park is wetland and other conservancy lands. There is a boat landing, beach and picnic area fronting Lake Waubesa. The park includes miles of trails available for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Lussier Family Heritage Center

The Lussier Family Heritage Center occupies the original farm buildings at Lake Farm County Park. The center includes displays describing the cultural and natural history of the region. One display describes the history of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District lagoons including the restoration of this important resource. Trails starting at the Lussier Family Heritage Center connect Lake Farm County Park and the adjoining conservancy areas.



MAP KEY

- - - - Hiking Trail
- - - - Bike Trail
- + + + + Boardwalk

- P Parking area
- 🚶 Hiking trailhead

- 🚣 Boat launch
- 🏠 Observation point

Please refrain from bringing pets onto trails and boardwalks to help us preserve this fragile habitat. Bicycles permitted on some trails.