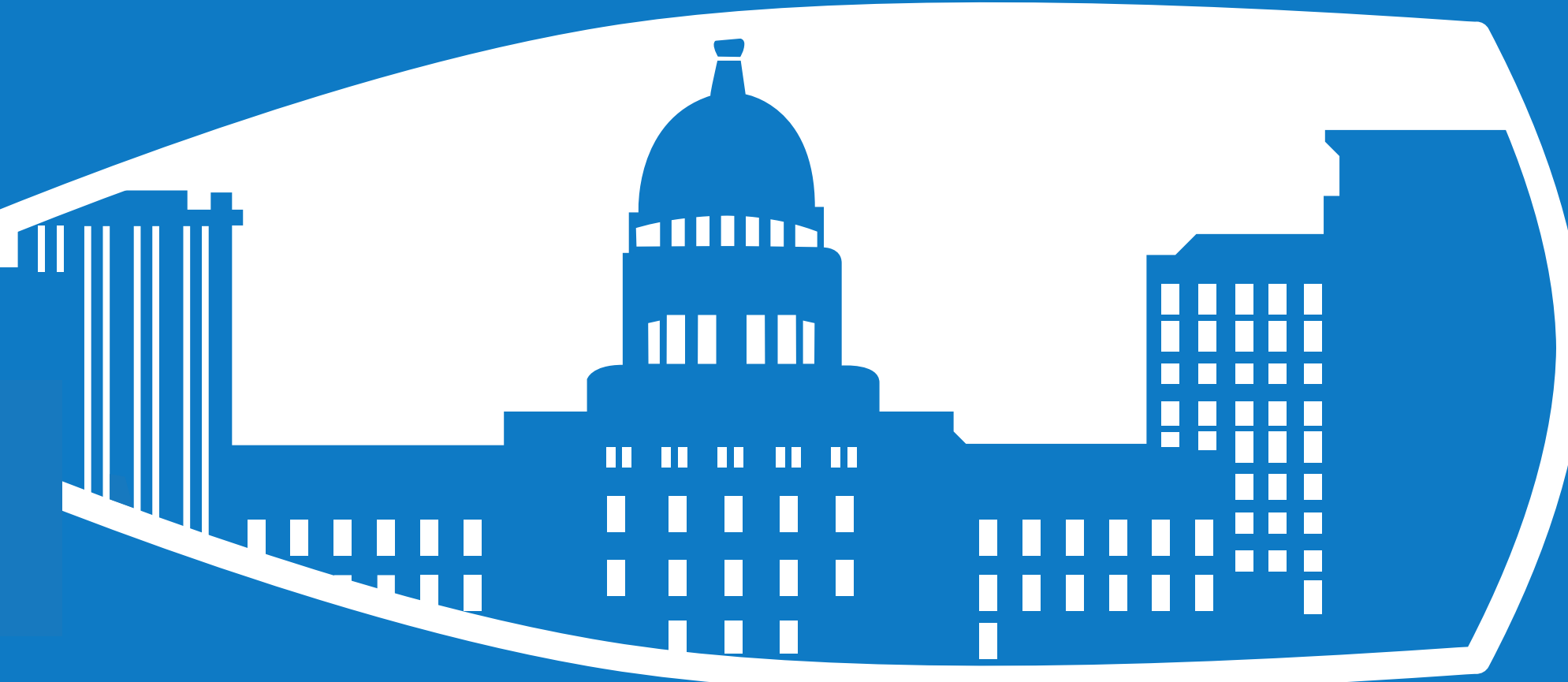


# TOP TEN PADDLE DESTINATIONS



1

## THE BIG SPRING

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy  
DURATION: 1 hour

You leave the lake, pushing your way past lily pads bigger than your boat. You disappear between cattails and emerging under towering trees into a haven for fish, turtles, and birds. The Big Spring is a natural wonder with a powerful spiritual energy.

### TIP!

Drift in the calm waters of the spring and soak up the tranquility.

6

## PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Intermediate  
DURATION: 2 hours

You'll want to linger and enjoy every moment from upland oak savanna to lowland wet prairies. Pheasant Branch is a must-do paddle every spring, summer, and fall as the seasons change.

### TIP!

Bring your binoculars! This is an excellent spot for bird watching.

2

## HENRY VILAS BEACH & ZOO

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy  
DURATION: 1-2 hours

One of Madison's largest and most popular beaches, Henry Vilas Beach, is just a 20-minute paddle from Wingra Boats. Paddle, build a sand castle, get a snack, and enjoy Wisconsin summer sun!

### TIP!

Plan ahead, bring or borrow a lock from Wingra Boats.

7

## MONONA TERRACE

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy  
DURATION: 1 hour

Did you know Frank Lloyd Wright designed Monona Terrace to be seen from the water? Paddle a short 20 minutes from Brittingham Boats to see it as Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned it.

### TIP!

The view of the Capitol Building is stunning. Go to the center of the Terrace then paddle out 5 minutes. Now turn around. WOW!

3

## WINGRA CREEK

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Intermediate  
DURATION: 3 hours

Locals and visitors alike will enjoy this paddle offering wildlife, great fishing, and urban bridge art. Be sure to bring refreshments, and a camera to capture the best skyline view of Madison (just out of Wingra Creek on Lake Monona) and dramatic views under the bridges.

### TIP!

Wingra creek is best paddled early in the season. Weed growth makes this paddle more of an adventure as the summer progresses.

8

## NORTHERN YAHARA RIVER

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Intermediate  
DURATION: 3-4 hours

The Yahara River cuts through Madison's isthmus, connecting Lake Monona and Lake Mendota. Paddle past Monona Terrace to the Yahara River for an urban treat.

### TIP!

If you decide to stretch your legs and meander around Willy Street, bring a bike lock and cable to lock your boat while you're away.

4

## SPRING HARBOR BEACH

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy  
DURATION: 1 hour

The paddle to the beach is beautiful. You'll navigate through the sailboat mooring field and past beautiful lakeside homes, enjoying nature along the way.

### TIP!

Bring your swimsuit and sand toys, and don't forget the sunscreen!

Rent from MARSHALL BOATS and paddle out to Spring Harbor Beach!

9

## SOUTHERN YAHARA RIVER

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Advanced  
DURATION: 4-5 hours

The Yahara River heads south, connecting Lake Monona with Upper Mud Lake, the Waubesa, and the rest of the Yahara chain of lakes. This paddle features many different stops from great parks to restaurants!

### TIP!

Enjoy the Madison skyline as you paddle back to Brittingham. Spin around and grab a selfie with the skyline in the background. Don't forget to tag us!

5

## GOVERNOR NELSON STATE PARK

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Advanced  
DURATION: Half a day

The farthest destination on our list is Gov. Nelson State Park, a perfect picnic destination for a half-day paddle. This state park provides many amenities: boat slips to pull into, a well-maintained beach, bathrooms, playground equipment, and plenty of picnic tables.

### TIP!

This is a challenging trip, especially when the wind is blowing from the northwest, but well worth the effort!

10

## OLBRICH PARK & STARKWEATHER CREEK

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Advanced  
DURATION: 4-5 hours

If you're up for an adventure, paddle your way across Lake Monona to Starkweather Creek. Your reward is enjoying Olbrich Botanical Gardens from the water, paddling under vine-covered walking bridges and a breathtaking view of the gold-trimmed Thai Pavilion.

### TIP!

Take the long way home and continue your way along the East Shore and stop for a "dip" at Monona Bait & Ice Cream, a famous stop for Babcock Hall ice cream.

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