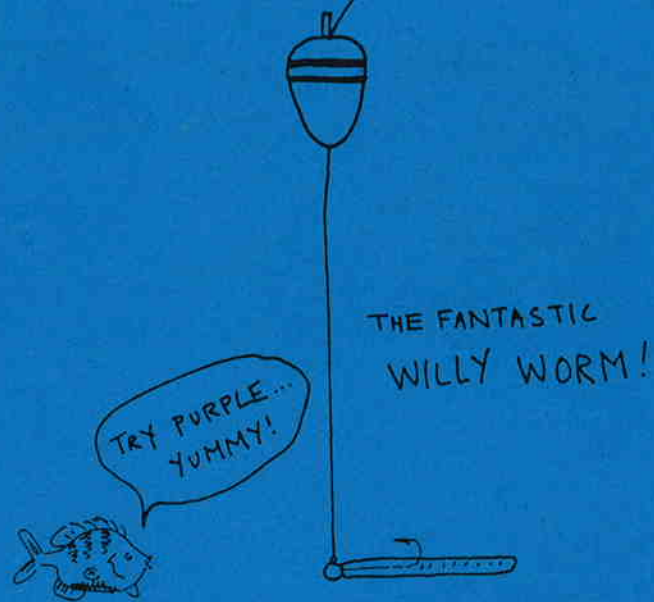


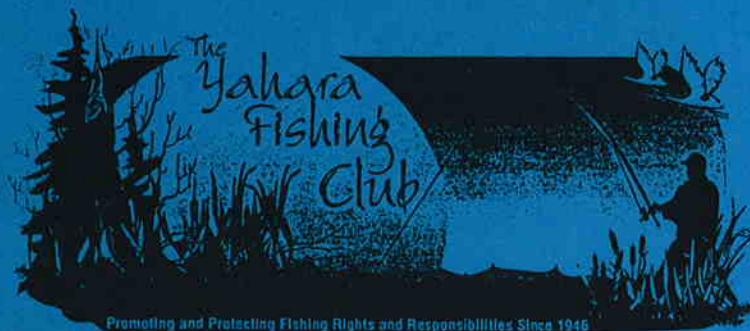
MADISON
Fishing
Expo
Inc.

MENDOTA
MONONA
WAUBESA

A map of the Madison area lakes (Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa) is shown in a dark, textured style. The text 'MADISON Fishing Expo Inc.' is overlaid on the map. The lake names 'MENDOTA', 'MONONA', and 'WAUBESA' are labeled on the map.



SHORE FISHING ON THE MADISON AREA LAKES





Take A Kid Fishing!

Studies have shown that kids who have a good fishing experience early in their lives will be more likely to continue to fish as they get older. This is a good thing for all of us. Here's a few ideas we would like to pass along to help make your outing a success.

1. Safety First!.....Life vest, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen.
2. Keep it simple.....one fishing rod, their's....not your's
3. Numbers, not size, is important. Any fish will do.
4. Don't stay too long.....go again real soon.
5. Bring snacks.....hungry kids get bored.
6. Other activities OK.....skip stones, hunt for frogs
7. Bring a camera.....praise any catch.....save the moment
8. Teach ethics.....obey the rules.....never litter



THE AUTHORS ↓



A Note From the Authors:

This booklet contains only a partial list of possible shore fishing sites in the Madison area. There are many more out there waiting for you to discover. Sadly, over the years, some sites have been lost or have become "private property." In some cases this is due to misuse by fishing folks. So.....PLEASE consider the following guidelines.

1. Never litter. Better yet, pick some up.
2. Never trespass. Respect private areas.
3. Obey all DNR rules.
4. Keep only those fish you will eat.
5. Take a kid along. Teach them to love fishing.
6. Be safe. Consider wearing a life jacket, especially if you fish alone. Kids should always wear one when on or near the water.



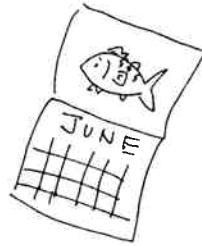
Some Helpful Tips:

1. Use quality tackle. You don't need the very best but junk is a poor investment. Buy a decent rod and reel and take good care of it.
2. Use fairly light line. Unless you fish for large bass or pike you will have more success by scaling down. Especially for panfish, lighter is better. 4# line should be fine. 6# is ok if you expect to catch an occasional bass or walleye. For carp or catfish, try 10#.
3. Use small bobbers or one of the new thin "shy bite" floats. Bigger bobbers are hard for fish to pull under and they often let go of the bait as a result.
4. Wear polarized sunglasses. Very often you can actually see the fish in the shallow water. Even if they are reluctant to bite, you can observe their habits and learn more about them.
5. Small "ice fishing" jigs with a piece of worm or a waxworm work well year round for bluegills. Remember, your bait must fit into the fish's mouth in order to hook them.



6. A plain hook, small split shot, and a nightcrawler is a simple and effective rig for bass and walleye. Retrieve it slowly, let the worm do the work.
7. Keep your line fresh and check it occasionally for knicks. Keep your hooks sharp. Learn to tie one or two knots well enough to trust them.....if you fail to do these last two things.....well, the fish may end up laughing at you more often than you would like.

Shore Fishing Calendar



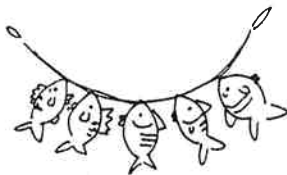
January and February.....mostly ice fishing now at various locations. Some limited open water opportunities near current areas or warm water outlets. Please be safe, use caution around these spots.

March.....early ice out areas begin to warm slowly.....Vilas Park lagoon, the Rutabaga lagoon at the end of Monona Dr., and Viking Park all produce lots of panfish. Late afternoon on the warmer days can be a key to finding the bigger fish.

April.....warmer days can make the above areas even better and also the lagoons at Marshall Park, Warner Park, Tenney Park, and Winnequah Rd. begin to heat up.

May and June.....now everything really starts to heat up. Along with the great panfish action, the gamefish season starts, and the addition of bass, walleye, pike, and muskie make the fishing possibilities endless. Try casting minnow plugs for walleye after dark around the current areas of Tenney Park, Yahara Park, Babcock Park, and Fish Camp boat launch. Try a spinnerbait or pre-rigged plastic worm for Largemouth Bass anywhere you find shallow green weeds.

July and August.....all of the above areas continue to produce but you could also try for catfish on Cherokee Lake or an early morning

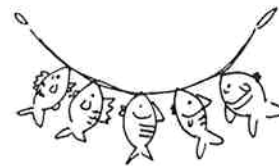


and evening white bass feeding frenzy off of the breakwalls at Tenney and Warner parks.

September and October.....cooler nights and shorter days bring the fish in shallow again. Try mornings at Cherokee for crappie, warm afternoons almost anywhere for bluegills, and throw minnow plugs after dark for walleye. Marshall park, Warner and Tenney breakwalls all provide good action on Lake Mendota. Other good bets are Yahara Park, Babcock Park, and Fish Camp. Walleyes love these areas with current and they move in after dark.....for business!

November and December.....the fall patterns continue, often with even bigger bluegills and walleyes moving in until some of the more sheltered areas begin to ice up. Early ice brings some of the best action, but always use extreme caution!! Cherokee and Monona Bay, along with Viking Park, offer some of that early ice bluegill action.

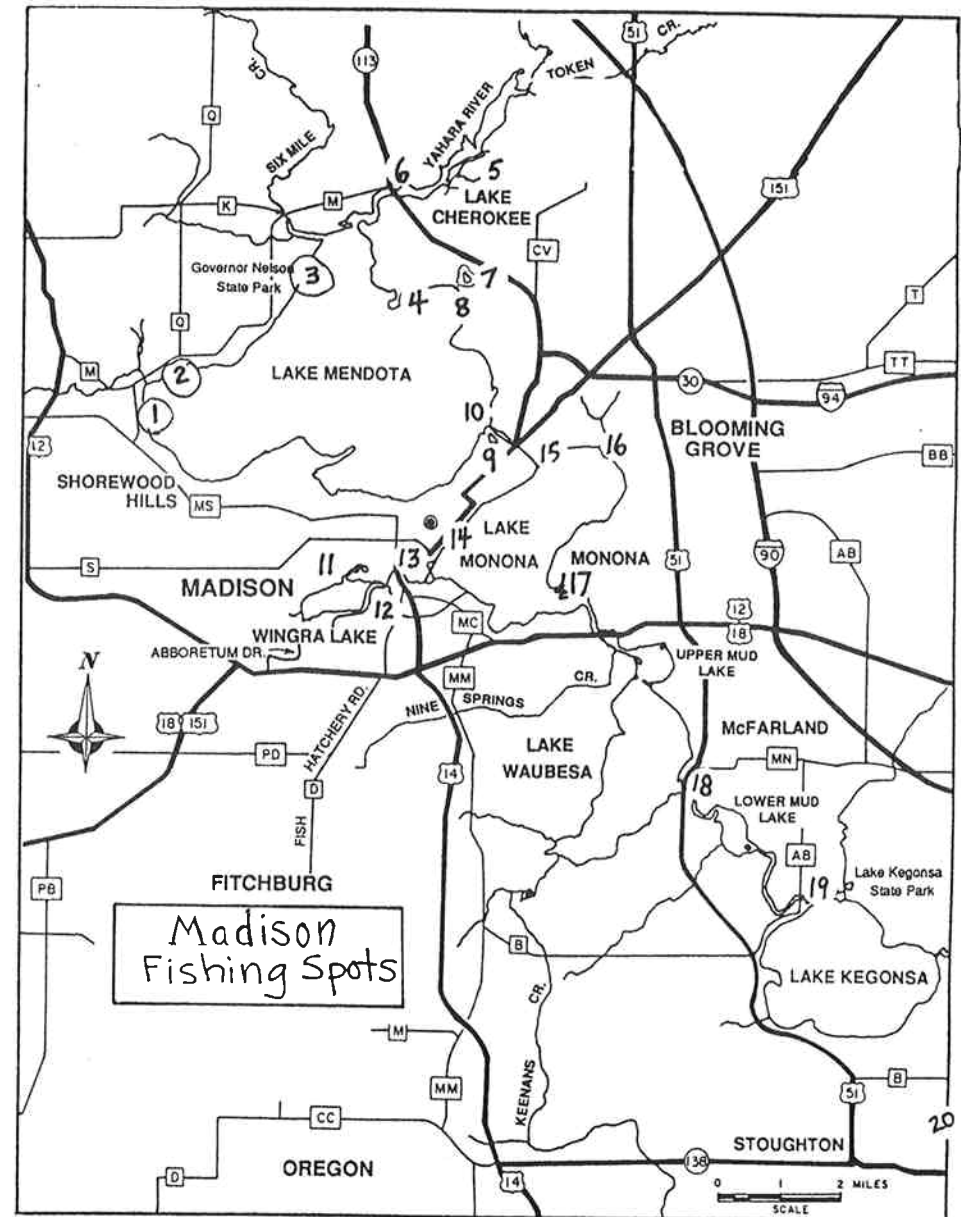
GOOD LUCK





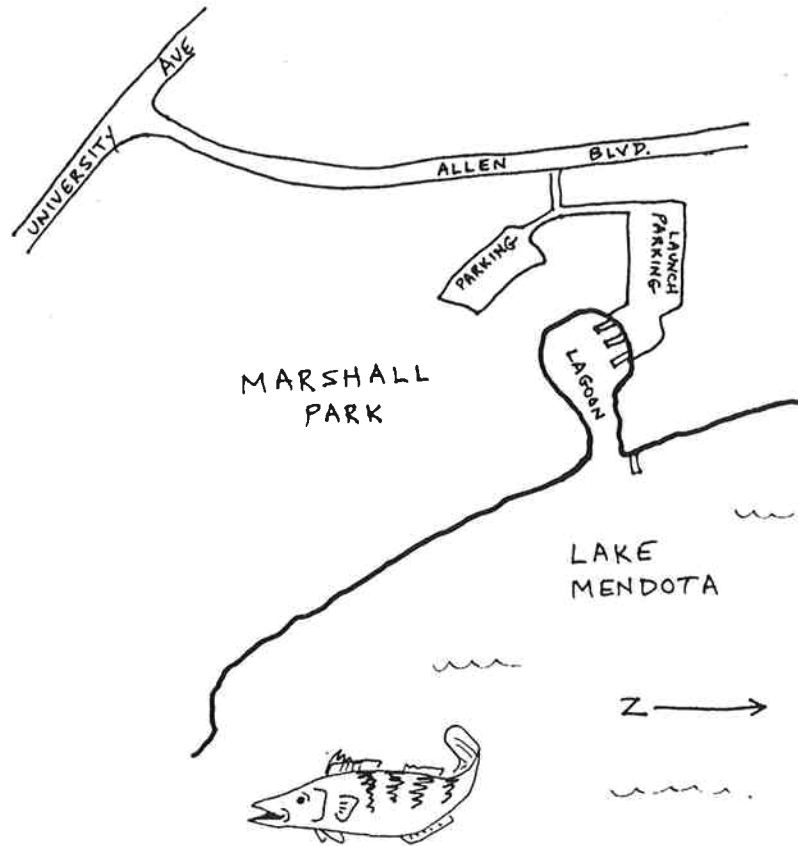
List of Locations:

1. Marshall Park Lagoon
2. Mendota County Park
3. Gov. Nelson State Park
4. Governor's Island
5. Cherokee Lake
6. Hwy. 113 Bridge
7. Warner Park Lagoon
8. Warner Launch Breakwall
9. Tenney Park Lagoon
10. Tenney Park Breakwall
11. Lake Wingra & Vilas Pk. Lagoon
12. Wingra Creek (Murphy's Creek) Parkway
13. Monona Bay & Brittingham Park
14. Law Park
15. Yahara Park
16. Olbrich Park Breakwall
17. Winnequah Rd. Lagoon
18. Babcock Park
19. Fish Camp Launch
20. Viking Park



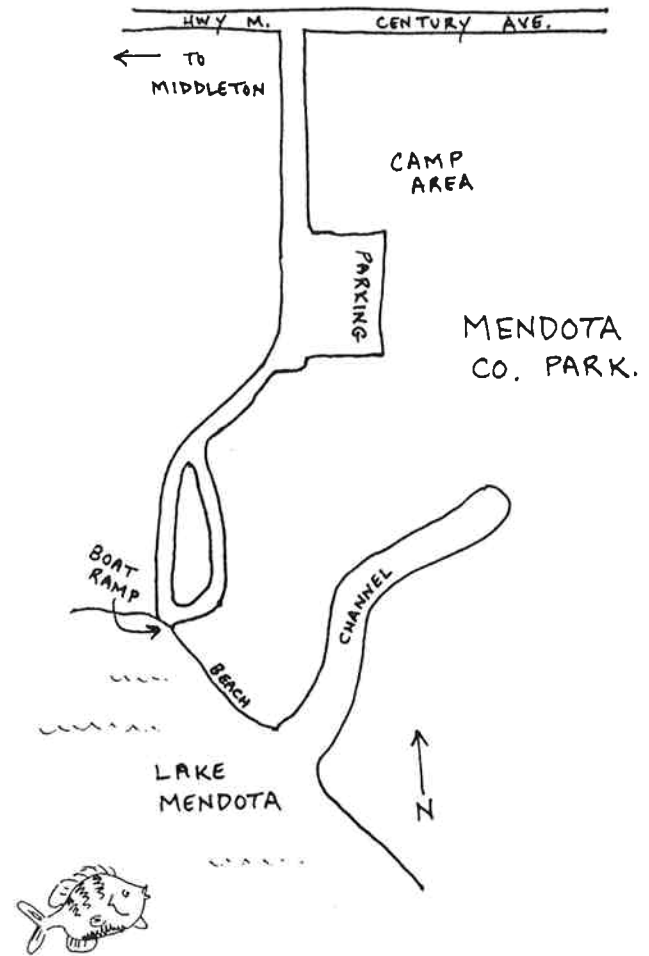
1. Marshall Park Lagoon

Located on Lake Mendota's west shore, near Middleton, along Allen Blvd. (Hwy Q). The lagoon also serves as boat launch area. This is an early spring panfish magnet. Many gamefish also use the area. Fall walleye anglers fish the mouth of the lagoon at night. The lagoon is also an early ice hotspot for bluegills.



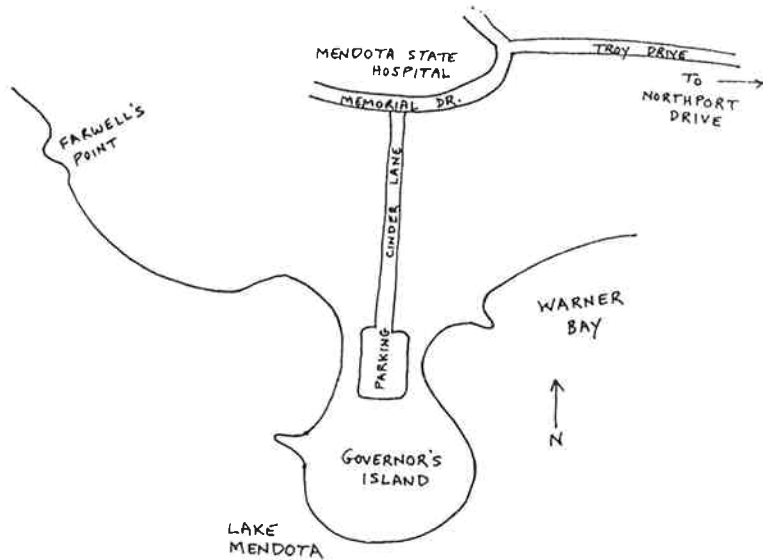
2. Mendota County Park

Located directly off of Hwy. M, just east of Middleton, in the Northwest corner of Lake Mendota. The attraction here is the boat channel adjacent to the picnic area. Panfish seeking warmer water in spring and feeding early mornings in summer use this channel. Some anglers wade the beach area (during non-swim hours.....early a.m. and nights) for walleye or white bass.



3. Gov. Nelson State Park

This park features a very nice fishing pier/platform just next to the boat launch. As with all piers at launch sites, use is not recommended during busy times. Creating a user conflict is not worth the poor fishing you will probably experience on a hectic Saturday afternoon on Memorial Day weekend. The pier is comfortable but somewhat shallow.....although nearby weedbeds often bring the fish in. There is also a breakwall near the adjacent beach that might be worth trying.



4. Governor's Island

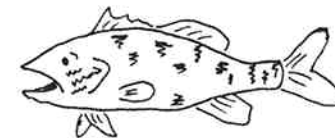
Located on the north side of Lake Mendota. Take Troy Dr. to Mendota State Hospital Grounds, then Memorial Dr. to Cinder Lane. Not really an island, this peninsula offers several places to walk and cast. Also a nice spot for a hike, it is a popular access for winter perch fishing.

5. Cherokee Lake

This area is actually part of the Yahara River above Lake Mendota. Take Commanche Way off Wheeler Rd. (between School Rd. and N. Sherman Ave.). The entire lake can be productive for all species at various times of the year. Most of the shoreline is a public park all along Burning Wood Way. A nearby small boat launch on the gravel dead end of School Rd. also holds fish. Cherokee Lake is very popular for ice fishing, one of the earliest areas to freeze.

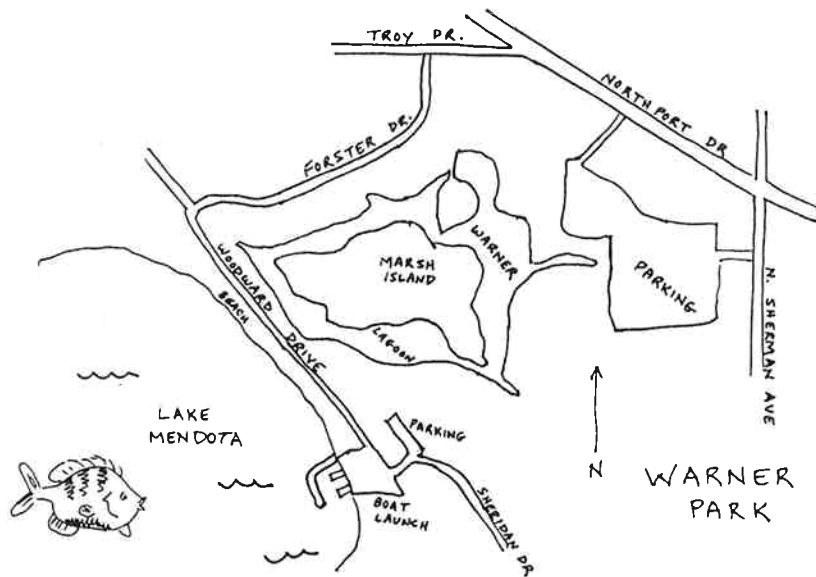
6. Hwy. 113 Bridge

Near the junction of Hwy. 113 and Hwy. M just north of Lake Mendota. The Yahara River passes under the bridge here as well as any fish migrating upstream towards Cherokee. A popular spot for spring walleye and early summer white bass and catfish. Parking can be difficult. Please use caution near the road, around the bridges, and respect private piers.



7. Warner Park Lagoon

This area is located directly adjacent to Northport Dr., Troy Dr., and Forster St. and the large parking area off Sherman Ave. Just an all around great spot for any type of fishing. Lots of panfish and some gamefish present. This is another early spring hotspot because it warms much sooner than the main lakes. It is also a good bet for early ice.

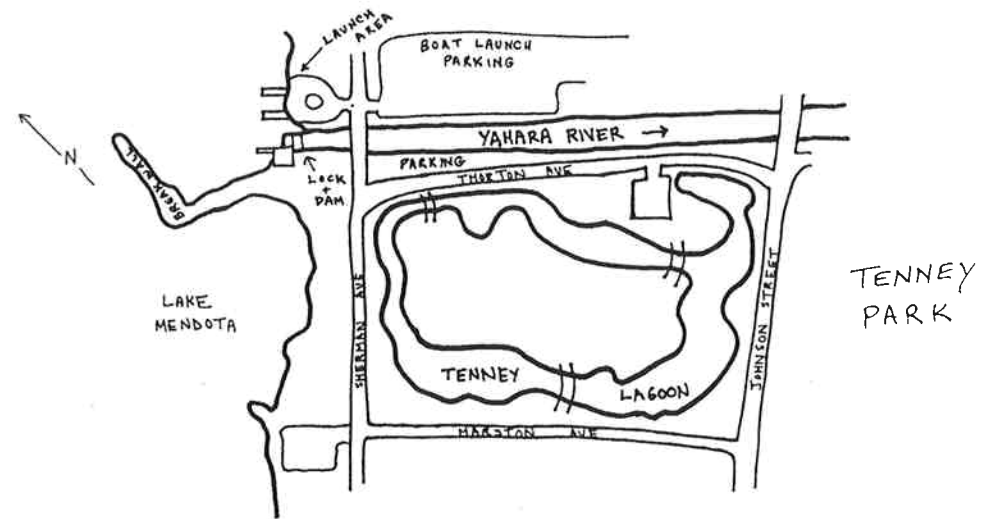


8. Warner Boat Launch Breakwall

Take Forster Dr. off Troy Dr. to Woodward Dr. This launch area is also part of the park. The breakwall, gives good access to Warner Bay. A good spot all year, it is best in May at night for walleye and again in the fall. Try live bait worked slowly on the bottom. White bass are also taken, especially in the evening during June, on a jig/twister tail.

9. Tenney Park Lagoon

The lagoon at Tenney Park is between Sherman Ave., East Johnson St., and Marston St. Since the lagoon receives inflow directly from Lake Mendota, it has a little of everything as far as fish goes. The main target is bluegills, and they are located almost throughout, but some deeper water near the Marston St. bridge often provides bigger fish.

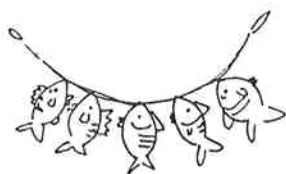


10. Tenney Park Breakwall

In addition to the lagoon and the section of the Yahara River below the dam and lock, Tenney Park also has a large breakwall. This is also a multi-species site. Lots of panfish, bass, pike, etc. It is one of the more popular night fishing spots for walleye. The combination of current from the river channel and the lights on the breakwall attract walleye. Try shallow running crankbaits and a jig and minnow combo twitched along the sandy bottom.

11. Lake Wingra & Vilas Park Lagoon

Both Vilas Ave. off S. Park St. and Edgewood Dr. off Monroe St. will lead you to this area near the Zoo. Lake Wingra is noted for its Muskies and lots of panfish. The lagoon as well as the lake warm quickly in spring. Anglers often catch bluegill here just a few days after ice out. You can also fish the lake just across the street. There is a great fishing pier just above the dam across from the parking lot on Vilas Park Dr. near Mills St.



12. Wingra Creek (Murphy's Creek) Parkway

This stretch from the dam to Fish Hatchery Rd. is the most heavily used. The creek runs all the way to Lake Monona and Olin Park. It is also fished near Olin Park. Lots of panfish along with some bass and muskie are most often targeted. The creek gets weedy in summer and many fish use some of the deeper holes (try near the end of Short St. or just below the dam) then. A good place for ice fishing as well, use extreme caution in winter near the dam where the ice stays thin due to current.



13. Monona Bay & Brittingham Park

This area is accessed from Lakeside St. & South Shore Dr., Park St. & W. Washington Ave., and North Shore Dr. off John Nolen Dr. The bridge areas are commonly called "the Causeway." This entire area is a great shore site. Other than the railroad bridges (Danger!) and the private piers along South Shore Dr., it is almost entirely public park. All species of fish use the area. Ice fishing is also popular, especially near the park shelter and the beach.

14. Law Park



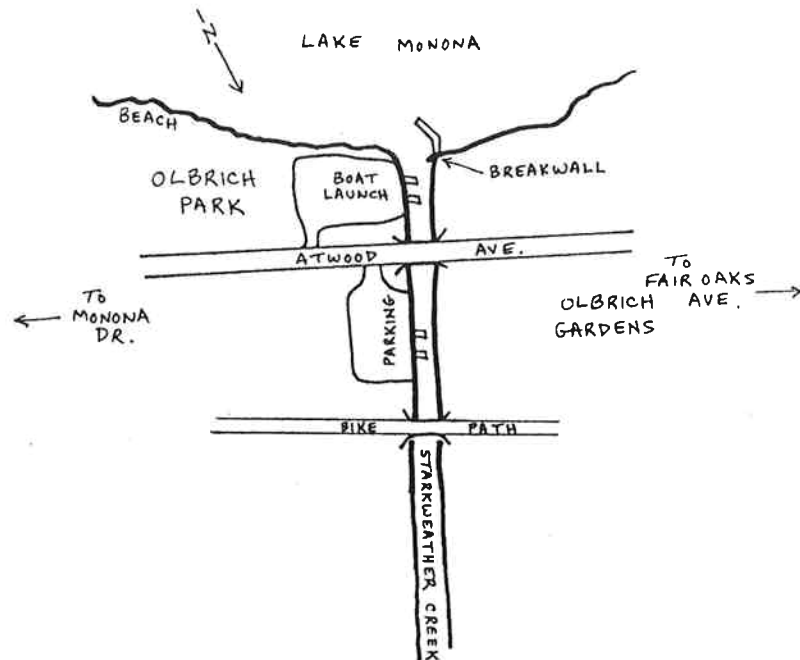
This area runs along the Northwest shore of Lake Monona from the first bridge of the causeway, all along downtown Madison adjacent to the Monona Terrace convention center, to the beginning of Williamson St. The entire stretch is productive for fishing. The steep rocky drop off on either side of the convention center is popular for night time walleye fishing. Two very nice fishing piers are located at the west end of this area, one is next to the first "causeway bridge", and the other is right next to the convention center itself. This is a high traffic area.....with the bike path, people jogging, etc. Fishing can be excellent here at times though. Please use caution near auto traffic areas.

15. Yahara Park

Also known as part of Hudson Park, this section of Lake Monona shoreline, is accessed by turning off Williamson St. onto Thornton Ave. or Riverside Dr. on either side of the Yahara River, as it flows from Lake Mendota (Tenney Park) to Lake Monona. The current draws night walleyes.....most notably in spring and fall. The entire park shoreline is good for casting to bass and pike. In early summer, expect to see folks wading for bluegill on the weedy flats.

16. Olbrich Park Breakwall

Located on Lake Monona's Northeast side, right along Atwood Ave. (Monona Dr.), this large park complex includes a good boat launch, botanical gardens, softball fields, a beach area, and the breakwall at the entrance to Starkweather Creek. Fishing is popular here on both sides of the creek and up into the creek towards the second boat launch. Every year several large pike and bass come from this area. It is also a good ice fishing area for tip-up action.

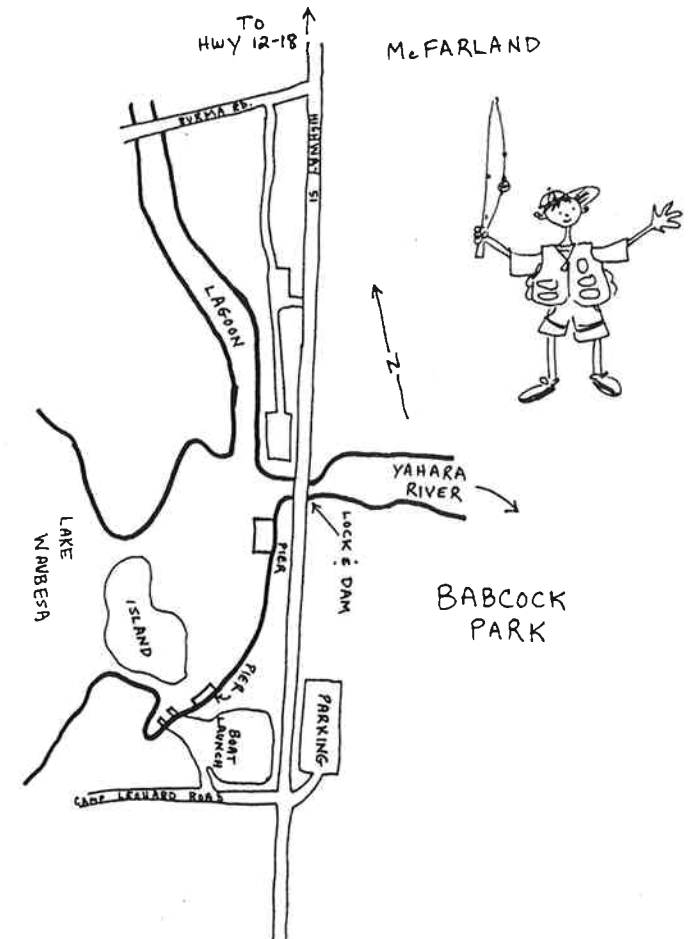


17. Winnequah Rd. Lagoon

Located right on Winnequah Rd. about half way between Monona Dr. and Bridge Rd.. This lagoon is fed by water from the boat channels of Squaw Bay on Lake Monona's Southeast side and sees use by all kinds of fish. Most popular in spring for bluegill and crappie. With a small parking area right at the water's edge and a beautiful playground at the park a block or two away, this is a top spot for small children to try their luck.

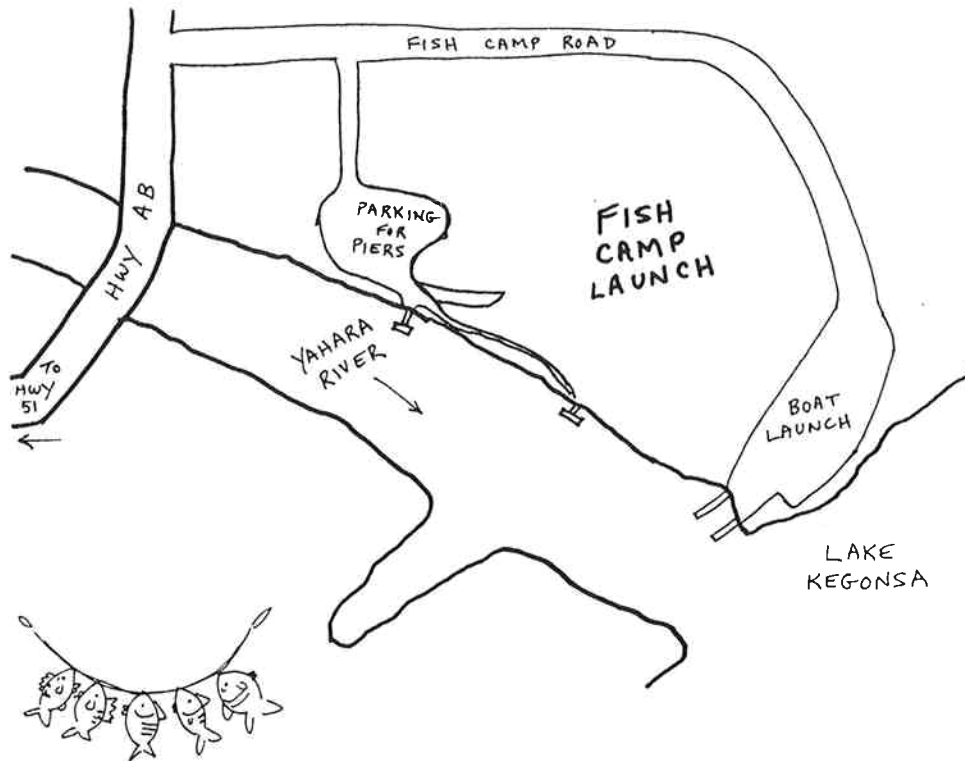
18. Babcock Park

Located right in McFarland along Hwy. 51, this great facility features a camp area, boat launch, and super fishing. The areas to target include the channel by the camping area, the dam, and the boat launch. Two fishing piers help to further accessibility for all fishing folks. The current of the Yahara River flows around both sides of the island on it's way from Lake Waubesa to Lake Kegonsa. This current draws fish of all kinds and concentrates them here.



19. Fish Camp Launch

Located on the North side of Lake Kegonsa, take Hwy AB east off Hwy 51, across the Yahara River and follow the signs. Once again, it is the current of the Yahara River that attracts fish and fishing enthusiasts. This nice park features a good launch right at the lake and several fishing piers as you move upstream along the shore. A popular spot for wading at night for walleye. As always, please use caution.....wear a life vest!



20. Viking Park

Located on Hwy. N about one mile north of Hwy. 51 on the east side of Stoughton. This is actually a big channel coming off of the Yahara River. Fishing is mostly for panfish but the area holds some nice bass and pike. Part of the island is a dog exercise area. Depending on yearly water levels, early ice fishing can be super for bluegills. It is also a top spring spot.....the shallow areas warm quickly and the panfish respond accordingly.

