



Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
Parks Division

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Transportation & Park Access Survey Results

Compiled June 17, 2021

72 total responses

What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

- 2 - American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 4 - Asian or Pacific Islander
- 1 - Black or African American
- 3 - Hispanic or Latino
- 56 - White / Caucasian
- 8 - Prefer not to answer
- 1 - Other - Anglo European mix

What is your age?

- 1 - Younger than 18
- 2 - 18 to 24
- 22 - 25 to 34
- 9 - 35 to 44
- 12 - 45 to 54
- 11 - 55 to 64
- 11 - 65 to 74
- 3 - 75 or older

Question 1: Have there been times that you wanted to visit a specific park or trail but didn't have a way to get there? If so, please tell us about where you were trying to go and what stopped you from getting there.

- 22 responded with only the text "No" or "No with an explanation that they had a car or some other way to get there.
- 29 mentioned wanting more access to parks by bus.

“My family doesn’t own a car. Anywhere we want to go we rely on the bus to get there. So when parks aren’t available to get to by bus we are also not able to go.”

“When I first moved back to Wisconsin from abroad, I didn't own a car for the first 6 months I was here in Madison. Through ride-sharing, I could visit some parks. I would have visited many more, had there been public transportation available.”

“People I work with have been prevented in accessing natural areas due to not having transportation.”

“Many of my friends on campus expressed wanting to go to the Lussier Heritage Center to hike, but it was too far to bike/ bus to.”

Question 2: Are there any parks or trails you would visit more if there were bus or bike routes that connected to them? Which ones?

- 12 respondents said “No” or gave no response.
- 13 respondents listed locations they would visit given better bus access
- 19 respondents listed locations they would visit given better bike access

Locations mentioned by 3 or more respondents:

State Parks

- 7 - Governor Nelson State Park
- 3 – Devil’s Lake State Park
- 3 - Blue Mounds State Park

County Parks

- 5 - Cherokee Marsh /Cherokee Marsh North Unit (City/County)
- 6 - Pheasant Branch Conservancy (City/County)
- 4 – Token Creek County Park
- 4 – W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park/Lussier Family Heritage Center/Lower Yahara River Trail
- 4 - Indian Lake County Park

City Parks

- 6 - Pheasant Branch Conservancy (City/County)
- 5 - Cherokee Marsh /Cherokee Marsh North Unit (City/County)

Other

- 5 – UW Arboretum
- 4 - Ice Age Trail sections

“I'd probably go to many parks if I could get there by public transport.”

“Honestly, all of them. I'd probably even explore new parks if buses went to them.”

“I would start using the bus more for weekend park adventures, especially to parks holding music events if I knew there were bus lines that were easy to use.”

“I would definitely be motivated to visit any park or trail on a bus route. Hiking is one of my favorite activities but I always feel a little guilty burning a bunch of fossil fuels to get there. Having bus routes or shuttles to natural areas would help make nature more accessible and also help people enjoy nature in more sustainable ways.”

Question 3: Are there any other reasons that limit you from visiting parks or trails? If so, please let us know why.

- 21 – “No” or a comment that transportation is the main/only issue
- 20 - No Response
- 8 - lack of bike access
- 2 – safety
- 2 – parking
- 2 – dogs not allowed on busses
- 2 – lack of information
- 2 –fees
- 2 – COVID
- 2 – lack of bathrooms
- 1 – bus frequency
- 1 – lack of time
- 1 – mobility issues
- 1 – too crowded

“I work for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County, and we partner with Dane County for our summer programs, including paid internships & environmental programs. Part of our mission is making these opportunities accessible to youth who generally do not have access to these paid opportunities and/or spaces, but many of our youth still face barriers because although we provide them a bus pass, the routes do not take them directly to many of these parks, trails, and green spaces, and they would have to walk or bike additional miles. This is a major barrier to being able to bring our youth into opportunities that pay them to become more engaged in their community parks & green spaces.”

“I have lived in Germany for over a year. Germany has a fantastic public transit system, particularly its trains and light rails. You can get pretty much anywhere using this system, including to hikes in the mountains. I went hiking in the Alps every single weekend as a result. It was amazing to be able to access parks and trails without the need for a car. I want the US to be more like Germany, generally, but I think Madison and Dane County could learn a lot from their system and how it equalizes access to parks. Madison's sister city is Freiburg, which is a world leader in sustainability, so I feel we should be leveraging that relationship much more than we do!”

