Biking UW-Madison
Destinations, Commutes, and Resources

Campus Drive Path

A safe and quick way to navigate the west side of campus on bike, the Campus Drive Path runs from University Bay Drive to Linden Drive and ends behind the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Plans are under way to extend the path to Babcock Drive.

Blackhawk Path and Connections

To travel by bike between Middleton and campus, the Blackhawk Commuter Path begins where the Campus Drive Path ends at University Bay Drive, and runs about 3.5 miles to University Avenue at Allen Boulevard.
Howard Temin Lakeshore Path

This iconic campus destination is also a major thoroughfare for joggers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Lakeshore Path travels along the northern length of campus along Lake Mendota, between College Library and Lakeshore Nature Preserve/Eagle Heights, and provides access to Picnic Point through Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Facilities for cyclists and pedestrians are located along the path, which is maintained for use in winter.

Arboretum Drive

This 3-mile scenic route through the UW-Madison Arboretum is shared by cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles. Bike racks are situated at trail heads throughout the arboretum, and at entrances to the Longnecker Horticultural Gardens.

Access this route via the Vilas neighborhood on the south end of campus and McCaffrey Drive on the west side. Check the UW Arboretum website for information on hours and road closures.
Southwest Commuter/Capital City Trail Loop*

A 27-mile ride on completely dedicated bike routes awaits on the doorstep of campus!

Traveling either east or west from the Southwest Commuter Path entrance at N. Charter Street, the intersecting Capital City Trail will take you on a loop around the city. Other paths intersecting the Capital City Trail include the Badger State Trail, Cannonball Path, and the Seminole mountain bike trail system.

Badger State Trail*

The scenic Badger State Trail travels 40 miles between Madison and the Wisconsin-Illinois border. Highlighting this route is the 1,200-foot long Stewart Tunnel (currently closed for maintenance: click here for the Ice Age Trail detour). The trail connects to the Capital City, Military Ridge and Sugar River* state trails. In Madison, the Badger State Trail continues along the Southwest Path, and at the Illinois border it connects to the Jane Addams Trail.

Military Ridge State Trail*

The 40-mile Military Ridge State Trail connects Dodgeville and Madison by way of an 1855 military route. The scenic path runs along the southern borders of Governor Dodge and Blue Mound state parks. Observation decks overlook natural areas along the trail. Look for hiking trailheads at the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area in Iowa County. Most of the trail follows the former Chicago and North Western Railroad corridor, which has a gentle grade of 2-5%.

*Some portions of state trails require trail passes. Learn more about purchasing trail passes or applying for a commuter’s exemption.