Welcome to Otsego Marsh!

This beautiful natural area is made up of 116 acres that is truly a hidden gem in southern Wisconsin. You will find a small parking lot, informational sign, and trailhead located at 3382 Old County Road F. The entire sanctuary area is relatively flat, with the area east of Old County Road F containing mowed hiking trails (orange dashed lines in the map on page 2).

We welcome and encourage individuals of all walks of life to visit the sanctuary. It is free and open to the public during daylight hours every day of the year.

The area west of Old F is in the early stages of restoration, and while no designated paths are established, you are welcome to walk into the wetland (blue dashed line). Please do not walk in the cropped field.

Canoeing and kayaking are permitted at Otsego Marsh from May 1 - September 1; you can park in the lot and carry your craft to the water east of Old Co Rd F. Dogs are not allowed, with the exception of service animals.

The Otsego Marsh property is managed by staff and volunteers from our nearby Goose Pond Sanctuary. The first 80 acres of property were partly donated by The Nature Conservancy and partly purchased by Madison Audubon in 1984, consisting of Hawkos Pond, oak hickory woodland, and a pine plantation. In 2020, Madison Audubon purchased 36 acres of wetland, cropland, and woodland, which will be restored to vibrant wetland, prairie, and oak savanna. This restoration will benefit the water quality and inhabitants of Hawkos Pond and surrounding natural area.

Some species to look for:

Wood duck • hooded merganser • great egret • sandhill crane • barred owl • pileated and red-headed woodpeckers • eastern wood pewee • willow flycatcher • great crested flycatcher • warbling and red-eyed vireos • blue-gray gnatcatcher • wood thrush • scarlet tanager • rose-breasted grosbeak • indigo bunting • monarch butterfly • dragon and damselflies • green frog • snapping turtle • blue flag iris • wild geranium • swamp milkweed • bur and white oak •

Many, many others!
From Hwy 51 north of Madison near Goose Pond: Go straight (north) onto Hwy 22 • immediately right (east) on Hwy 60 • after 4 mi, turn left (north) onto Cty Rd C • after 5 mi, turn right (east) onto Sampson Rd • after 1 mi, turn right (south) onto Old Co Rd F • parking lot is .7 mi ahead on left