Madison 5K Routes

Run your own route or choose from our routes below! Some have been recommended by our Sport Club Teams.

**Route:** Picnic Point and Lakeshore Path  
**Starting Point:** Picnic Point Entrance  
**Ending Point:** Memorial Union  
**Why run this route?** This flat, scenic run is one of the most popular routes on campus. With a fresh breeze blowing off the lake and beautiful greenery, it makes for a pleasant run.

![Picnic Point and Lakeshore Path Route Map](image)

**Route:** Monona Bay Route  
**Starting and End Point:** Bernie's Beach  
Brought to you by the Women's Club Volleyball Team

![Monona Bay Route Map](image)
Route: UW-Arboretum Route
Starting Point: Intersection of Vilas Park Drive and South Orchard Street
Ending Point: Intersection of McCaffrey Drive and Seminole Highway
Why run this route? This route will take you through the Arboretum where you'll be fully immersed in nature and catch some views of the stunning Lake Wingra. This is also a great route if you'd like to challenge yourself with some hills.

Route: University Bay Loop
Starting and End Point: Porter Boathouse
Brought to you by the Triathlon Club
Route: **Capital Square Run**  
Starting Point: Memorial Union  
Ending Point: Bascom Hill  
Brought to you by the Women’s Club Soccer Team

Route: **State Street Run**  
Starting Point: Union South  
Ending Point: Memorial Union  
Brought to you by the Men’s Club Basketball
Route: Camp Randall Bike Path  
Starting and End Point: Camp Randall  
Brought to you by the Boxing Club
Route: History of Madison
Starting Point: Memorial Union
Ending Point: Bascom Hill
Brought to you by the Fencing Club

On this route there are 5 historical sites to stop at:

**Stop 1: Mansion Hill Historic District**
The intersection of Gilman and Pinckney St has a historic mansion on each corner. The Keenan House, Bashford House and Mansion Hill Inn all date back to the Victorian period of almost 150 years ago. The Mansion Hill neighborhood was home to Madison’s “high society” which consisted of wealthy politicians, industrialists and university officials.

**Stop 2: Gates of Heaven Synagogue (to the runner’s left)**
This 19th century place of worship is a significant addition to the Mansion Hill neighborhood. Built in 1863, it is the eighth oldest synagogue in the United States. The temple highlights the often forgotten importance of Madison’s Jewish community throughout the city’s history.

**Stop 3: Wisconsin State Capitol**
The capitol building which stood 150 years ago was unfortunately destroyed by a fire in 1904. The old capitol was located on the same grounds as the current building, which
was completed in 1917. Capitol square has always been the heart of Madison; the city’s tree-like growth originated from this location.

**Stop 4: Lake Monona/John Nolen Dr**
The John Nolen land bridge and nearby rail trestle are not necessarily new. The Monona Bay trestle existed in the 1860s when passenger rail was widely used. Madison’s railroads and waterways were the city’s primary modes of transportation before the automobile was invented. 150 years ago, Lake Monona would have been full of steamboats and other commercial vessels. The rail line along John Nolen Dr was in constant use and served as one of Madison’s largest connections to the rest of the country.

**Stop 5: Bascom Hill**
Bascom Hill is known today as the heart of the UW-Madison campus. 150 years ago, the state university was located solely on Bascom Hill. Many of the buildings located on the hill, such as Bascom, North, South, Science and Music Hall are more than a century old. The Wisconsin Historical Society has also seen its fair share of history; the organization was founded in 1846 and has occupied its campus headquarters since 1900.