



# The Wildlife Observation Area

Greater Yellowlegs (Robert Boszhardt, USFWS)

### THE DISTRICT

To combat water pollution caused by sewage from a growing population, Madison opened its first sewage treatment plant in 1898. Thirty years later, the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant was built nearby, and later renamed the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

### PART OF THE CAPITAL SPRINGS COMMUNITY

In 2001, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District completed the restoration of a 140-acre former biosolid storage site and named it the Wildlife Observation Area. The Wildlife Observation Area is a unit of Capital Springs Recreation Area, open year-round for hiking and wildlife viewing. Binoculars are highly recommended.

### RESTORED WETLAND HABITAT

The lagoons were specifically designed to aid migratory shorebirds that need exposed mudflats to find food (see photo at left). Over 257 bird species have been identified here.

IMAGE CREDITS Water monitoring, Metrogro, Yahara WINS, District overhead: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. Dunlin, Lewis Nine Springs, Jenni & Kyle, Lunney Lake Farm, Lake Waubesa: Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area.

## CAPITAL SPRINGS RECREATION AREA (CSRA)

**MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT** treats 42 million gallons of wastewater per day.

**THE DISTRICT'S WILDLIFE OBSERVATION AREA** lagoons are designed to feed migratory shorebirds. Access these areas via interconnected dike trails.

**LEWIS NINE SPRINGS E-WAY** trailhead at Moorland Road is the gateway to hiking the Nine Springs Marsh and a high drumlin restored to prairie.

**JENNI & KYLE PRESERVE** on Post Road provides outdoor experiences for children and adults with physical and cognitive challenges.

**WILLIAM G. LUNNEY LAKE FARM COUNTY PARK** features hiking trails, a boat launch, camping, shelters with playgrounds, and the Lake Farms Archaeological District.

**CAPITAL SPRINGS STATE PARK** is a place for wildlife observation with miles of hiking and undisturbed shoreline.

**you are here**

Other landmarks on the map include: WILDLIFE OBSERVATION AREA ENTRANCE, MOORLAND ROAD, LAKE FARM ROAD, LIBBY ROAD, CAMPGROUND, LUSSIER FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER, GILMAN MOUNDS, NINE SPRINGS CREEK, and LAKE WAUBESA.

## MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

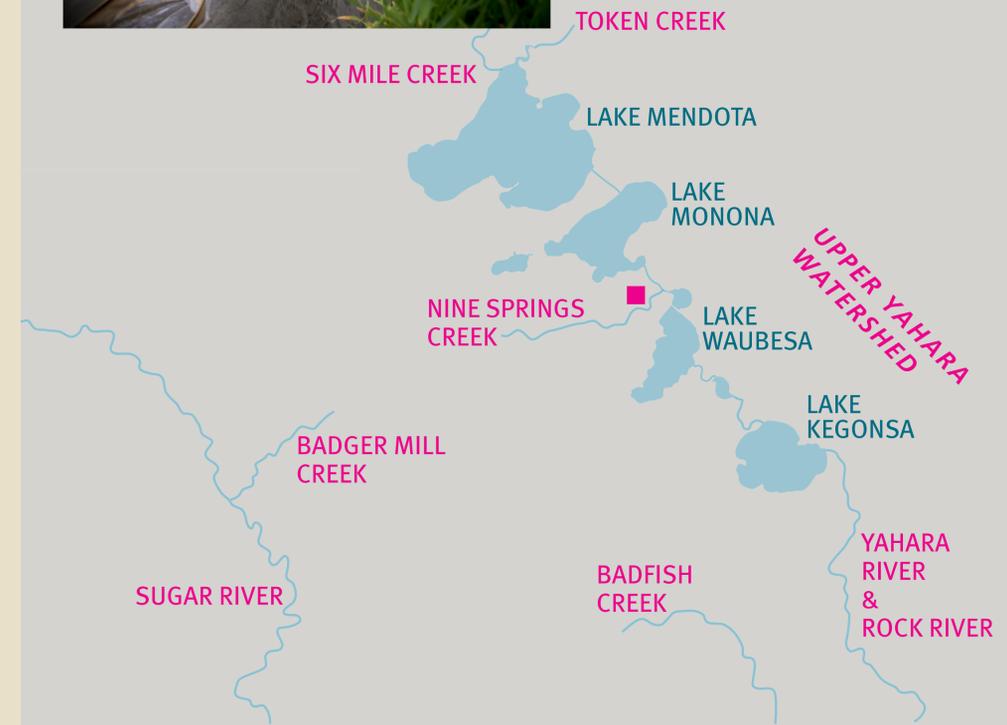
The District is a national leader in protecting public health and the environment through innovative wastewater solutions.



monitoring water quality

### MONITORING WASTEWATER

The District treats wastewater from over 26 Madison area communities. In 2020, the District's lab ran about 72,000 tests on 16,000 water and wastewater samples.



### DEVELOPING NEW RESOURCES

- Phosphorus is harvested from waste material and transformed into granular **fertilizer pellets** that improve crop yields and reduce runoff.
- The Metrogro program utilizes recycled waste biosolids that supply **organic nutrients** for over 5,000 acres of farmland.

- Renewable energy** is created from digester gases that powers more than one-third of the energy needed to operate the District.



### ENGAGING AND EDUCATING

- Led by the District, strong partnerships such as the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS) engage community stakeholders in effective phosphorus reduction initiatives.

- The District works to educate the public in water conservation and water protection from pollutants in homes and businesses.
- Learn about all these initiatives and more at [madsewer.org](http://madsewer.org).