8 Lower Yahara River Trail (Wisconsin)

Lower Yahara River Trail | Courtesy Dane County Parks

While not built on an old railroad bed, the Lower Yahara River Trail parallels still-active railroad tracks, allowing railfans the opportunity for watching trains up close. But trains aren't the only thing to see on this rail-with-trail running between Madison and the Village of McFarland. The 2.5-mile paved pathway offers views of Lake Waubesa and traverses Lake Farm County Park with its woodland and prairie landscapes, as well as an archaeological district on the National Register of Historic Places. For a longer ride (and more great views), the adventurous can also connect to the 17-mile Capital City State Trail.

WHY IT'S HOT:

The trail includes a mile-long bridge across the lake, which the Dane County Parks website proclaims is "the longest boardwalk bridge constructed solely for nonmotorized transportation in North America!"