



Jay Knower on the Qual Wall classic, Secret Agent Man, 5.13a.

Governor Dodge State Park

Governor Dodge is an outstanding resource for the boulderer and sport climber, offering excellent boulder problems from V0 to V8 and sport routes from 5.9 to 5.13a. The climbing is scattered throughout the park and there is enough here to keep most folks occupied for quite a few days. All of the rock in the park is sandstone, providing a nice retreat from the hard quartzite edges found at Devil's Lake. The sandstone is typically well-featured and forms everything from edges to pockets to jugs. Much of the rock in the park is of dubious quality, however, everything described here is quite good. As with all sandstone in Southern Wisconsin, wait 24 hours after a rain to climb, as the rock is substantially weaker when wet.

Getting There

Madison: The easiest way to “The Dodge” from Madison is to pick up 18W/151S off the Beltline. After approximately 38 miles take Exit 47 toward Dodgeville/Prairie Du Chien. Turn right on WI-23 and follow this until the entrance to The Dodge appears on your right (~4 mi.)

Milwaukee: Take I-94 west approx. 70 mi. Exit onto WI-30W at Exit 240 towards Madison and merge onto I-39S/I-90E via exit 4A towards Janesville. After ~4 mi. merge onto the Beltline (18W/151S) and follow this 9 mi. Take Exit 258 and get on 18W/151S towards Dodgeville. After approx. 38 mi. take Exit 47 towards Dodgeville/Prairie Du Chien. Turn right on WI-23 and follow this until the entrance to The Dodge appears on your right (~4 mi.)

Chicago: Out of Chicago pick up I-90 W heading towards Rockford and eventually crossing into Wisconsin. Eventually, merge onto the Beltline (18W/151S) and follow this 9 miles. Take exit 258 and get on 18W/151S towards Dodgeville. After approximately 38 miles take Exit 47 toward Dodgeville/Prairie Du Chien. Turn right on WI-23 and follow this until the entrance to The Dodge appears on your right (~4mi.).

Minneapolis: Pick up I-94 E and follow this into Wisconsin and all the way to the US-12 exit (exit 92) toward Baraboo and Devil's Lake and merge onto US-12 E. After ~20 mi. turn right onto WI-60. After another ~20 mi. turn left onto US-14/WI-23 and then right onto WI-23. Governor Dodge will be on the left in ~14 mi.

Entrance: There is a fee to enter Governor Dodge State Park. As of 2007 the rates are:

	Annual	Daily
WI License Plates	\$25	\$7
Out-of-State Plates	35	10

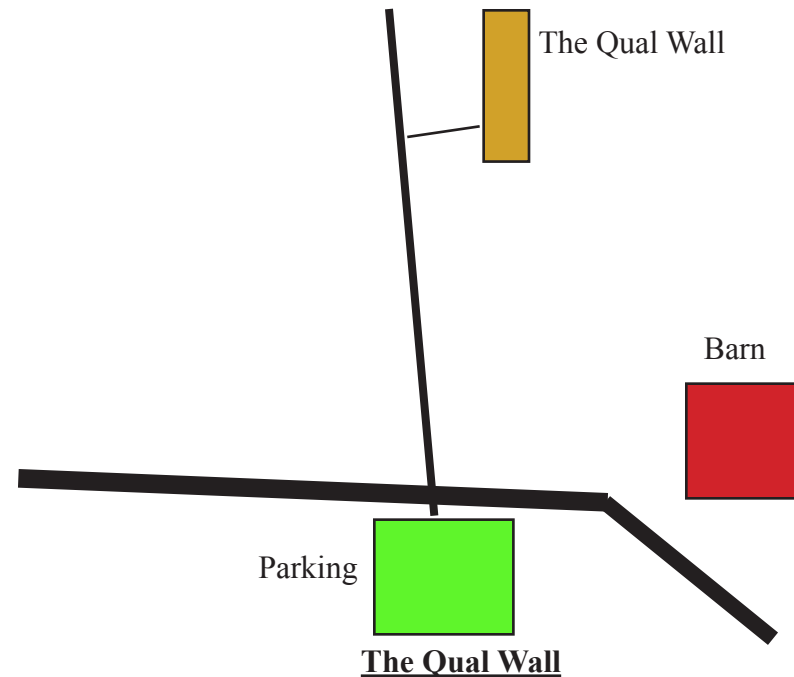
(The annual passes are good at all Wisconsin State Parks)

Sleeping: Governor Dodge has over 200 camping sites within its boundaries, with some of the camping sites being open year round. The fees are \$12 per night for WI residents and \$14 per night for non-residents, Sunday-Thursday night are \$2 off the above fees, and the same discount applies for non-peak times. Reservations can be made via phone at 888-947-2757 or online at www.wiparks.net. As well as camping in the park, Dodgeville, located a few miles away, has numerous hotels.

Food: At times, concessions are available in the park. Otherwise, Dodgeville has everything one might need for a day or two at the crags.

Disclaimer: Rock climbing is inherently dangerous and should not be done by anyone. Rock climbing will lead to serious injury, death, or addiction making it impossible to find and keep a job. The contents of this guide should not be trusted in any way, shape, or form as mistakes and otherwise blatant lies abound. Some of the dangers of using this guide include, but are not limited to: hanta virus, dumbening of your brain, torn rotator cuffs, and getting eaten by bears, mosquitos, and sasquatch. If this is not enough to keep you away, realize that by climbing at "The Dodge" you may be confronted by a hippy. You have been warned.

Grades: Just a quick note about grades...The grades contained within this guide are written in stone. If you climb a route and disagree with the grade within this guide, you are wrong.



The Qual Wall is an excellent wall with approximately fifteen routes ranging in difficulty from 5.8 to 13a. It is almost entirely a sport crag, with only one traditional route. The routes range from slabs to overhangs and short to long, so almost anyone should be able to have a good time here. As with all sandstone in Southern Wisconsin, holds do break on occasion, so be aware and do not climb if the rock is wet.

Directions: The Qual Wall is located in a fairly quiet area in the north-east corner of the park. From the park office drive straight, passing both Stephens Falls and the turnoff for Twin Valley Campground, following signs to Hickory Ridge Group Camp Area. After approximately 3 miles turn left, towards Hickory Ridge Group Camp. The old horse barn will be ahead approximately 100m. Park in the large grassy area across from the horse barn. Pick up the horse trail, located just south of the barn, and walk west. After a couple hundred meters the Qual Wall will be on your right, look for a trail leading directly to the base of the wall.



1. Meaner than Green 5.12a ***

This route and the next share the first four bolts. After the fourth bolt cut right and continue up a vertical wall to a bulge. Rest and pull through the bulging crux above. Use caution if using a 50m rope.

11 bolts to chains

2. Schizophrenia 5.11b **

An enjoyable romp up good holds leads to a crux at the bulge. Make a tough clip mid-bulge and keep moving to better holds above. Shares the first four bolts with route 1.

9 bolts to chains

3. Unlisted Number 11c ***

If you enjoy technical face climbing, look no further. This route climbs directly up the center of the slab to an enjoyable finish on good holds.

6 bolts to chains

4. Fahrenheit 23 5.12c **

Boulder through the first three bolts (crux), shake out, and then continue up the wall above avoiding the chimney on your left. The grade is unconfirmed. Shares the final two bolts and chains with the previous route.

7 bolts to chains

5. The Nordwand 5.11b * (not pictured)**

Start up the first two bolts of Secret Agent Man before stepping around arete and charging up the steep north face. Better than it looks. Good karma points to whoever installs chains at the top.

7 bolts NO CHAINS



6. Secret Agent Man 5.13a ****

7 bolts to chains

One of the best hard routes in Southern Wisconsin! Good holds lead up a dihedral to a roof. Pull this and rest, the crux is just above, pass it statically or dynamically and finish via big, pumping moves.

7. Top Rope Hero 5. ** 2 pins and chains

A few pins remain as signs of previous passage. Toprope off of the upper chains of A Red Recollection to ensure safe passage.

8. A Red Recollection 5.11a ****

7 bolts to chains

Classic! Fun moves on big holds up a steep layback lead to a crux around the bulge. End at the chains on the left, or continue up to the next set of anchors for full credit.

9. Now Or Never 11d **

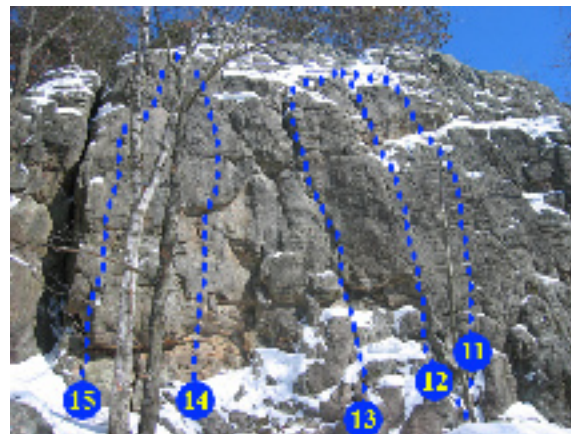
Start just left of A Red Recollection. Sharp, but enjoyable, edges lead up a steep face that ends too quickly.

5 bolts to chains

10. The Great White Top Rope 5. *

A top rope to the left of Now Or Never. Steep moves over an overhang down low lead to an arête above.

TR off of chains



Note: The next 3 routes all share chains.

11. Slab Right 5.10a **

4 bolts to chains

The first route one encounters when rounding the corner. Start behind a boulder and pass 4 bolts to anchors. Beware of easy but runout climbing after the third bolt.

12. Slab Me Harder, Baby 5.10a **

This route shares the first bolt with the previous route. Climb rounded holds up to a thin crux at mid-height. Easy, but runout climbing leads to the fourth bolt and then the top.

4 bolts to chains

13. Nut Job 5.8 *****Gear to 1” and 1 bolt to chains**

This is the only gear route at the crag and is worth bringing a light rack for. Climb the thin crack splitting the face and continue above clipping a bolt and continuing to anchors on the right.

14. Pocket Warm Up 5.10b *****4 bolts to chains**

Start just right of a large tree and climb up to a large overlap/undercling. Forge into the crux above and clip the anchors hidden just over the top. Shares anchors with route 15.

15. Leftwing 5.9 ****4 bolts to chains**

This is the farthest left route at the crag. Enjoy the large holds down low because they will soon disappear. Climb through the blank crux and ramble on to the top.

Secrets of the Dodge Wall

Perhaps it is time to let the cat out of the bag. But not too much-- photos and exact directions are withheld. However, finding this route will be well worth the search!

The Secrets of the Dodge Wall was discovered by Shawn Fick in 2002 and is a wall consisting of 95% choss. However, one route, a long overhanging arete, climbs quite possibly the best piece of sandstone in Wisconsin and should not be missed.

Directions: Continue along the horse/snowmobile path past the Qual Wall for approximately 10 minutes. Keeping your eyes open, find a faint path leading up and right. Another five minutes along this slightly unpleasant “trail” leads to some rock. Take a right and continue walking until the easily identifiable route comes into view. The route is well worth the hike!

16. The Relaton Route 5.12a ******11 bolts to chains**

This is the obvious overhanging arete. Follow the arete with big pumping moves on excellent holds to a shake by the 7th bolt. Climb past 4 more bolts of pumping climbing to a fantastic dyno for a jug at the lip. Clip the chains and lower with a giant grin.