

A Guide to Cycling Jefferson County

Jefferson County's diverse glacial terrain, extensive system of scenic back country roads, and two of Wisconsin's premier bicycle trails, the Glacial Drumlin State Trail and the Glacial River Trail, provide nearly unlimited opportunities for bicycling enthusiasts. The Glacial River Trail features an unique covered bridge, and runs from Dodge County to the north and Rock County to the south. The portion of the trail in Jefferson County has about 17 miles of off-road path segments, with the remainder being on road.

Other recreational attractions include the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Aztalan State Park, the Sandhill Station State Campground (convenient to bicyclists just off the Glacial Drumlin Trail), the 10,089-acre Lake Koshkonong, and 17 individual County parks. The Glacial Drumlin Trail headquarters is located in the restored railroad depot in Lake Mills.

Parking lots are located along Highway 26 (at the intersection of the Glacial Drumlin Trail and Glacial River Trail), Switzke Road, and in Sullivan just south of Highway 18 on Palmyra Street/Highway E. (See symbol on map)

Two Major Trails
 - Glacial Drumlin Trail: approximately 25 miles in Jefferson County
 - Glacial River Trail: approximately 35.5 miles in Jefferson County

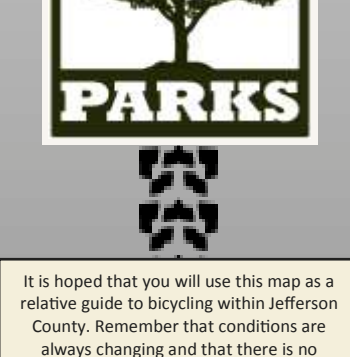
Riding Conditions

You will find that most roadways in Jefferson County are friendly to bicyclists, except for the busiest state highways. Such roads carry high volumes of car and truck traffic, but may have paved shoulders. County highways typically have moderate traffic volumes, with many being upgraded with ample paved shoulders. Most town roads are paved to narrower widths and are more lightly traveled.

This guide map was designed to identify low stress bicycling routes that provide direct access between communities. As part of planning and development occurring within Jefferson County, look for certain sections of recommended routes to be scheduled for additional bicycling improvements in the future.

Since "every road is a bicycling road," this map also depicts relative conditions on a variety of roadways as determined by the 1996 and 2008 studies of existing conditions for bicycling within Jefferson County, with review and updates in 2014. Such conditions assume that the cyclist is over age 16 and has had drivers training.

	GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL - multi-use paths separated from the roadway: asphalt		ICE AGE TRAIL		COUNTY PARK
	GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL ON ROADWAYS		ZEOSKI UNIT TRAIL		WAYSIDE
	GLACIAL DRUMLIN TRAIL - multi-use paths separated from the roadway: crushed stone		COUNTY BOUNDARY		COUNTY SEAT
	DESIGNATED BICYCLE ROUTES between communities on low-volume roads (These routes are marked with Jefferson County Bike Route Signs)		RAILROAD		RURAL PLACES
	MORE DIFFICULT SEGMENTS due to higher traffic volumes: use extra caution riding through these areas		STATE PARK/FOREST		HISTORICAL SOCIETY
	ROADWAY SUITABLE for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use		PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS		UNIVERSITY
	ROADWAY MAY BE SUITABLE depending on individual cyclist's skill level		COUNTY PARK		GOLF COURSE
	ROADWAY NOT RECOMMENDED as bike route in current Condition		BICYCLE FACILITY/PARKING		CAMPGROUND
	ROADWAY NOT EVALUATED		AIRPORT		COVERED BRIDGE
	CONNECTS TO BICYCLE ROUTES in adjacent counties		HOSPITAL		



It is hoped that you will use this map as a relative guide to bicycling within Jefferson County. Remember that conditions are always changing and that there is no substitute for riding within your ability. The agencies involved in the development of this guide assume no liability for the personal safety of those using the Jefferson County Bicycle Map.

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Jefferson County: An Overview

Jefferson County is ideally located between the Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago metropolitan areas. It offers cyclists a pleasant mixture of natural resource features and community amenities. Jefferson County is the home of TREK USA Bicycle Corporation and is a leading area for bicycling enthusiasts.

Every season offers residents and visitors a wide variety of opportunities for diverse outdoor recreation: kayaking, canoeing, horseback riding, hiking, skydiving, hot-air ballooning, golfing, hang-gliding, rock climbing, and more!

The aim of the Jefferson County Parks Department is to have a well-connected bicycle transportation system linking communities and activity generators. The hope is for bicycle facilities that enrich the small town lifestyle, contribute to tourism, support active lifestyles and enable residents and visitors to experience the scenic beauty of Jefferson County.

The Jefferson County Parks Department's broader purpose is to preserve natural resources for public use and conservation, to operate a parks system with resource-oriented recreation, trails (including bicycling) and special use parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of its residents and visitors. This growing system of large parks, extensive trails and natural areas give form to Jefferson County communities and rural landscape. The Jefferson County Parks System is fundamental in creating special places to live, vital and distinctive communities and working farms. The parks system provides multiple recreation facilities for all ages and abilities in a way that balances recreation and conservation values.

The Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) is a network of parks, wildlife and natural areas, historic and cultural sites connected to each other and nearby cities and villages by trails, waterways, and preserves - like pearls on a string. The GHA provides recreational

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activities, preserves wildlife and water resources, complements voluntary protection of working farms, combines ecology and economies to improve residents' quality of life and unites various groups with the common goal of preserving these precious pearls. This string of pearls is also an economic development engine that meets a growing demand for accessible and diverse recreational choices between Madison and Milwaukee.

Parts of the network are in place and offer exceptional opportunities to bike, bird watch, hunt, paddle, fish, and hike. Additional portions are in the works.

Day-trippers will find revitalized Main Street shopping districts featuring bakeries, coffee shops, ice cream parlors, microbreweries, wineries and retail destinations that range from antiques and specialty shops to a brand name outlet center. Many of these places are convenient to designated bike trails!

Jefferson County's Council for the Performing Arts, the well-known Fireside Dinner Theater, and many community theater troupes offer another dimension of recreation.

And then there are the Festivals! Jefferson's Gemutlichkeit Days, Watertown's 4-day music-filled Riverfest, Fort Atkinson's Buckskinners' Rendezvous, and the Jefferson County Fair are but a few of the fabulous events that await you.

And there is no shortage of historical attractions - such as the Octagon House Museum, America's First Kindergarten, the National Dairy Shrine and Aztalan State Park.

There's so much to see and do in Jefferson County - you'll be glad to know there are plenty of campgrounds, cottages, bed and breakfasts, and hotels to accommodate you.

Want to know more? The Jefferson County Tourism Council publishes an annual visitor's guide dedicated to providing useful and comprehensive information to guide your exploration of the County's small and mid-size communities and its nearly 600 square miles of rural landscapes that provide a welcome respite from Wisconsin's most populated areas.

Learn more at: enjoyjeffersoncounty.com

Jefferson County Wisconsin

Bicycle Routes