

Welcome to the 2010 Wisconsin Bicycle Map

Wisconsin has long been considered a premier state for outdoor recreational activities, including bicycling. This map will help cyclists get from one location in the state to another. The map includes roadway bicycling conditions utilizing a classification scheme based on traffic volume and roadway characteristics. Also on the map are statewide bicycle trails, mountain bike trails, rustic roads, and bicycle shop locations. The map is a product of a partnership between the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

BIKE CONDITIONS MAPPED

The Wisconsin Bicycle Map highlights the most favorable bicycling conditions while presenting the full continuum of roadways—from narrow town roads to U.S. Highways. This approach enables cyclists of all abilities to select their own routes to meet their individual transportation and recreational needs. The methodology used with this map is applicable to rural roadways, but not urban streets. Increased traffic volumes, lower speeds, and changing road design affect bicycle travel in urban areas in ways that cannot be accurately depicted on this map. Thus, the bicycling condition ratings for roadways stop at urban fringes; however, the major streets are still depicted. Local bicycle maps are available for many communities and are listed on the WisDOT Web site. In addition, the Wisconsin Bicycle Map suggests some routes into and through many of Wisconsin's major metropolitan areas.

DISCLAIMER

The user of this map bears full responsibility for his or her safety. The bicyclist assumes the risks encountered and is advised to use good judgment and obey traffic laws on all roads, regardless of the classification depicted on this map. The State, counties, cities, villages and their officers and employees, and those of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, the University of Madison-Cartography Lab, and American Bike Trails shall not be answerable or held accountable in any manner for loss, damage or injury that may be suffered by bicyclists who use this map.

The information on this map should be used by state and local transportation planners to improve conditions for cyclists, especially in areas that are currently less suitable for bicycle travel and experiencing growth or increased auto congestion. Transportation planners should also consult the WisDOT State Bicycle Plan 2020, as well as bicycle groups and local bicycle plans, before any decisions are made that could affect the use of a route for bicycling.

LEGEND & HOW TO USE THIS MAP

The map is provided to assist bicyclists age 16 and over who have had drivers training and are capable of riding longer distances between communities. As you use the following legend, know your level of skill and comfort in sharing roadways with motor vehicles, and select routes with conditions that match your abilities. New for this map is a different color scheme for roadway conditions that is usable for anybody with color vision deficiencies.

Town Roads

This is the most extensive system of local roads in the state. These could not be individually evaluated or classified as part of this map in the same way county and state highways were. Most are likely to have narrow pavements with no paved shoulders and low volumes of traffic. Traffic volumes are likely to be heavier when traveling these roads into cities. Town roads will be quite steep with poor sight lines in the Southwestern and Mississippi Valley areas of the state. The map depicts whether town roads are paved or unpaved, as well as identifying town roads with higher levels of traffic. Dashed patterns for unpaved town roads may be inconsistent.



Best Conditions for Bicycling

These county and state highways will have light volumes of traffic and may have many other favorable factors such as good sight distance and minimal truck traffic. This classification also includes highways approaching a moderate level of traffic but with paved shoulders.

Moderate Conditions for Bicycling

These roadways have moderate traffic volumes for the amount of pavement width present. This classification may also include county highways and state highways with paved shoulders, but slightly more traffic. Due to moderate traffic volumes, less experienced cyclists should use care on these segments.

Higher Volume, Wider Paved Shoulders

These roadways have moderately-high car and/or truck volumes, but have wider paved shoulders (generally 4 or 5 feet). This classification also includes a select number of 4-lane highways that have wide paved shoulders and moderate levels of traffic. Most of the 4-lane highways are posted for 65 mph motor vehicle traffic. Due to traffic volumes, less experienced cyclists should use care on these segments.

High Volume, Undesirable Conditions

These roadways have moderately-high traffic volumes with no paved shoulders, or high traffic volumes with narrow paved shoulders, and many have moderate to high truck traffic. This classification could also include some moderate volume roadways, but with an assortment of negative factors for bicycling. Bicyclists should try to plan around these roads and/or use considerable caution when using them. Bicyclists should have appropriate amounts of experience with these types of riding conditions if choosing these highways.

Bicyclists Prohibited

These roadways are 4-lane Interstates and freeways posted as "pedestrians and other non-motorized traffic, motor bicycles, power-driven cyclists prohibited." There are some 4-lane divide highways that will permit bicycling, but pay close attention to how they are rated on the map.

Bicycle Touring Trails

These are bicycling trails that include state, regional, and local trails. The state trails are often a finely screened limestone. These trails are excellent for use with hybrid and mountain bikes and most are also suitable for road bikes. Most of the trails are paved in urban areas. Many of these trails are particularly good for children and inexperienced cyclists.

Urban Escape Routes

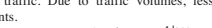
These routes are likely to be the best connections into and out of large cities and are often routes recommended by area cyclists. However, many have moderate traffic volumes without bike lanes or paved shoulders.

Major Urban Streets

Bicycling conditions are not presented for these streets. They are likely to have high volumes of traffic. The urban boundaries depicted on this map are based on a combination of municipal boundaries, speed zones, and built-up areas.

Rustic Roads

Wisconsin's designated system of scenic, lightly-traveled country roads. Many of these roads are identified with the word "Rustic" near the name of the road. See the Web site for additional information: www.dot.wi.gov/travel/scenic/maps.htm



Amtrak Service

Passenger rail service is available through part of the state. However, only the stations indicated on the map (Milwaukee, Columbus, La Crosse and Winona, MN) provide the baggage service necessary to transport a bicycle. Bicycles must be boxed; you may provide the carton or purchase one from Amtrak. The boxed bicycle will be included as one of the three allowed pieces of checked luggage and a nominal fee is charged. See www.amtrak.com for the most current information.

Ferries

There are six ferry services in Wisconsin. All ferries charge a fee except the publicly owned Colzac II at Merrimac/Highway 113, (608) 246-3871, on the Wisconsin River. Contact ferries directly for schedules and rates, or visit the WisDOT Web site at www.dot.wi.gov/travel/water/ferries.htm. Washington Island Ferry, (920) 847-2546; Madeline Island Ferry, (715) 747-2051; Mississippi River Ferry (Cassville, Wis. to Ludington, Mich.), (888) 337-7948; Lake Express (Milwaukee to Muskegon), (866) 914-1010.

Important Note: By including a ferry trip across Lake Michigan, cyclists are able to ride cross-country and into Canada without having to route around the lake.

ABOUT THE BICYCLE FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN

The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin is a statewide membership organization dedicated to making Wisconsin a better place to bicycle. We offer bicycle safety education, vibrant events and activities to encourage bicycling, updates on opportunities to voice bicycling support, and helpful tools to make biking fun and convenient.

Members are our strength! Please join us. Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, www.bfw.org, info@bfw.org, Madison office: 106 E. Doty #400, P.O. Box 1224, Madison, WI 53701-1224, (608) 251-4456, Milwaukee office: 1845 N. Farewell Ave. #100, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-9685.

CONTACTS FOR OTHER STATE & NATIONAL BICYCLE ROUTE INFORMATION

Detailed state trails information is available from the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921; (608) 266-2181; or at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/findatrail.html.

Detailed national guide maps for two Adventure Cycling routes that run through Wisconsin are available from Adventure Cycling, 150 E. Pine Street; P.O. Box 8308, Missoula, MT 59807-8308; (406) 751-1776 or www.adventurecycling.org. Information on the Mississippi River Trail, including a long segment of trail in Wisconsin (Great River Road Bicycle Route), is available at www.mississippirivertrail.org.

A map of the Great River Road Bicycle Route is available on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Web site: www.dot.wi.gov/travel/bike-foot/grmap.htm.

To promote recreational trips within Wisconsin, the Department of Tourism publishes the Wisconsin Biking Guide, a detailed ride guide including attractions and amenities along 30 bike tours and trails. The guide is free from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, 123 Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 7976, Madison, WI 53707. Toll-free (800) 432-TRIP, or www.travelwisconsin.com/biking_in_wisconsin.aspx.

CONTACTS FOR LOCAL BICYCLE ROUTE INFORMATION

A number of local communities and counties offer detailed and complete maps and information on recommended routes through their respective areas. An assortment of map information can be obtained by going to www.dot.wi.gov/travel/bike-foot/bikemaps.htm.

Cities with more detailed bike maps include: Appleton (Fox Cities), Beloit, Duluth-Superior, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kaukauna, La Crosse, Madison, Marshfield, Milwaukee, and Wausau.

Counties with bike maps include Barron, Brown, Dane, Grant, Iron, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marathon, Marinette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Waushara.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

Lodging

Wisconsin's hospitality industry ranges from small inns and bed & breakfasts to resorts and hotels. Reservations are recommended, particularly on weekends. Call the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, (800) 432-TRIP or go to the Web site at www.travelwisconsin.com. The Wisconsin Lodging Directory or the Wisconsin Bed & Breakfast Directory can be downloaded from that site or ordered for mail delivery.

Campgrounds

Campgrounds are located throughout Wisconsin offering a variety of services and facilities. For information and locations of state campgrounds, contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 266-2181, or contact the Wisconsin Department of Tourism at (800) 432-TRIP, or www.travelwisconsin.com, for a Campground Directory.

Youth Hostels

In Wisconsin, youth hostels provide inexpensive accommodations for self-propelled travelers. For information contact the Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels at www.hiusa.org. Currently hostels are located in Eagle, Newburg, and Madison, Wisconsin.

National Forests

For information on National Forests, contact the Chequamegon National Forest Office, 1170 Fourth Avenue S., Park Falls, WI 54552, (715) 762-2461; or the Nicolet National Forest Office, 68 S. Stevens St., Rhinelander, WI 54501, (715) 362-1300.

