The Great River Road Mississippi River Trail Bicycle Map

A Guide for Cycling Along
Wisconsin's Great River
August 2016

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Bike Fed

Introduction

The Mississippi River has often been described as the backbone of America. While in past centuries its waters carried native peoples, fur traders and settlers, today it invites bicyclists to ride along its banks. In Wisconsin, the Mississippi River winds its way through the beautiful "driftless" area of the state. Also known as the "coulee region" because of its valleys, the Mississippi River forms the grandest valley of them all.

The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission has been instrumental in enhancing the valley for tourism. The Great River Road has been designated for 250 miles in Wisconsin and the Parkway Commission has been supportive of improving accommodations for bicyclists on this road (primarily WIS 35). Over the years, bicycling has become established as a popular activity in the valley. National effort has created the basis for the ten-state Mississippi River Trail (MRT). For Wisconsin, the MRT follows the Parkway Commission's Bikeway Plan.