



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Gandy Dancer Trail (Southern Section)

Wisconsin



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Running between St. Croix Falls and Danbury, the 48.6-mile Gandy Dancer State Trail (Southern Section) commemorates gandy



Running between St. Croix Falls and Danbury, the 48.6-mile Gandy Dancer State Trail (Southern Section) commemorates gandy dancers—those hardworking section crews who manually restored the railroad tracks in alignment to prevent train derailments. While "dancer" likely referred to their rhythmic motion of working in unison to tamp down ties or adjust rails, "gandy" comes from the fact that the tools were made by the Gandy Tool Company of Chicago (according to the website for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).

Combined with the [northern section](#), the rail trail rolls for 98 miles from St. Croix Falls north to Superior. Along the way, it crosses into Minnesota for 32 miles and then returns to Wisconsin.

About the Route

Leaving from the southern end of the trail in St. Croix, trail users can set off on the Interlink Trail that leaves the Polk County Information Center. With 15 trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, the town on the St. Croix River has earned its nickname of "City of Trails." This portion of the Gandy Dancer Trail also overlaps the western tip of the state's expansive Ice Age Trail; this National Scenic Trail spans 1,200 miles from here to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Leaving Riegel Park, the trail passes through forests and farmland for the rest of the journey. This area is sparsely populated, but there are small towns with services every 4–8 miles. The first of these is Centuria, which arrives less than 5 miles away, where the trailhead has a library.

Another 10 miles up the trail, after passing through Milltown, the trail arrives in Luck. The town earned the title "Yo-Yo Capital of the World" after Duncan Toys opened a yo-yo factory here in 1946 to take advantage of the area's hard maple forests. The trail reaches Frederic in another 6 miles where the circa-1901 Soo Line Railroad Depot has been renovated and serves as a museum.

After visiting Lewis, in another 5 miles, the trail arrives in Siren, named for the (misspelled) Swedish word for "lilac." The town also has a vintage railroad depot, privately owned, and a park on the shores of Crooked Lake just north of town. The trail passes through Veterans Park, in the heart of Siren.

North of Crooked Lake, the trail passes the Amsterdam Sloughs State Wildlife Area, where bald eagles and blue herons make their homes.

More services are available in Webster in 6 miles, after which the final leg to the trailhead in Danbury is the longest, about 10 miles. The trail crosses the St. Croix River on a 520-foot trestle into Minnesota here.



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Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin

Counties: Burnett, Polk

Length: 48.6 miles

Trail end points: MN/WI Border to Pine St. (St. Croix Falls)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: ATV, Bike, Snowmobiling, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Gandy Dancer Trail (Southern Section) runs between the MN/WI Border and Pine St. (St. Croix)

Parking is available at:

- 7475 WI-77 (Danbury)
- 7471 Main St W (Webster)
- 112 W 1st Ave. (Luck)

[TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

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