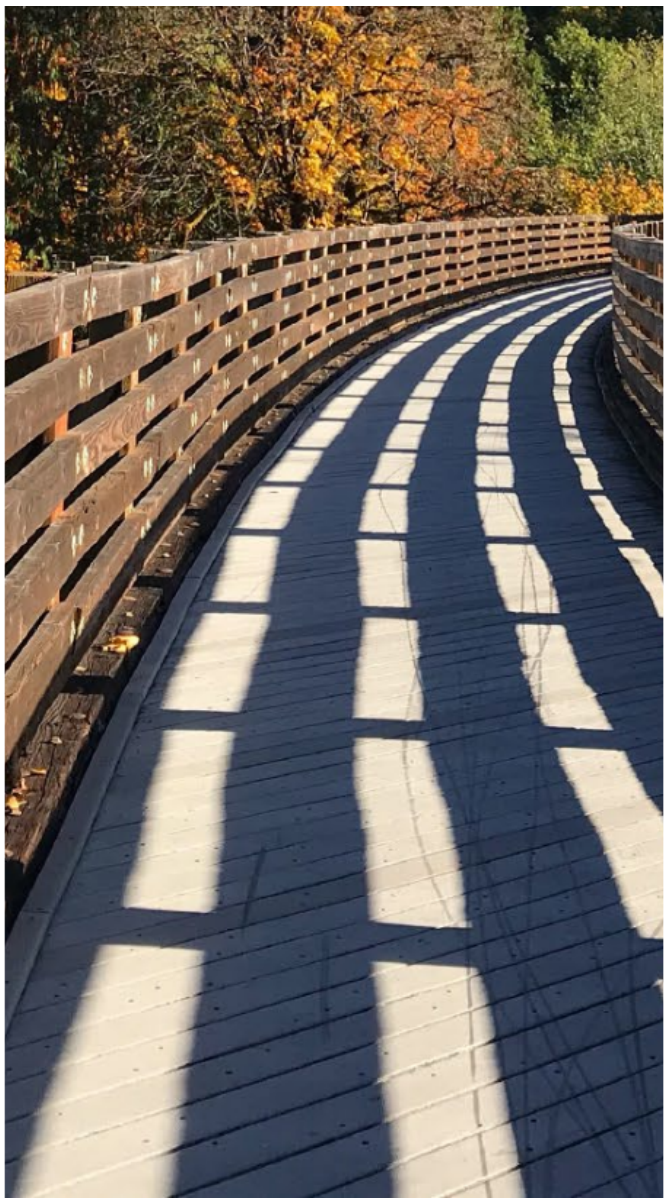
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2026

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail

Minnesota

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This trail is so nice they named it twice: Sakatah is the Dakota word for "singing hills." The Dakota people of the Great Sioux Nation originally lived in this scenic part of Minnesota, where the Big Woods once met the prairie. A rail line was built through the area in the late 19th century and rendered inactive by Chicago and North Western in the 1970s. In 1980 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources opened the route, which it had acquired as a rail trail shortly after it went inactive.

The Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail runs for 39.3 miles through a beautiful landscape of farmland, lakes, wetlands, and woods.

About the Route

The two anchor towns of Mankato on the western end and Faribault on the eastern end are the trail's largest towns and are home to many restaurants and shops. In Waterville, near the trail's midpoint, the trail leaves the former railroad corridor for a short signed detour on city streets. Other towns on the route are smaller but can serve as refreshing rest stops.

At times, the trail runs immediately adjacent to several large lakes, including Wells Lake, Cannon Lake, Sakatah Lake, Lake Elysian, and Eagle Lake. Be sure to stop for an extended rest at Sakatah Lake State Park; the trail runs through the park for 3 miles and the area is a great place to picnic, hike, or swim.

Connections

In Mankato, trail users can continue along the North Minnesota River Trail.

In Faribault, trail users can continue along the Northern Link Trail and the Batchelder Trail.

Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail

Minnesota

States: Minnesota
Counties: Blue Earth,Le Sueur,Rice
Length: 39.3miles
Trail end points: W Duke St. (Mankato) to 900 Lyndale Ave N (Faribault)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Fishing,Horseback Riding,Inline Skating,Snowmobiling,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Sakatah Singing Hills State Park trail runs between W Duke St. (Mankato) and 900 Lyndale Ave N (Faribault), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- 101 4th St NW (Elysian)
- Maiden Rock East Campground, 9403 Morristown Blvd (Morristown)
- Shager County Park, 22399 Dalton Ave (Faribault)

See TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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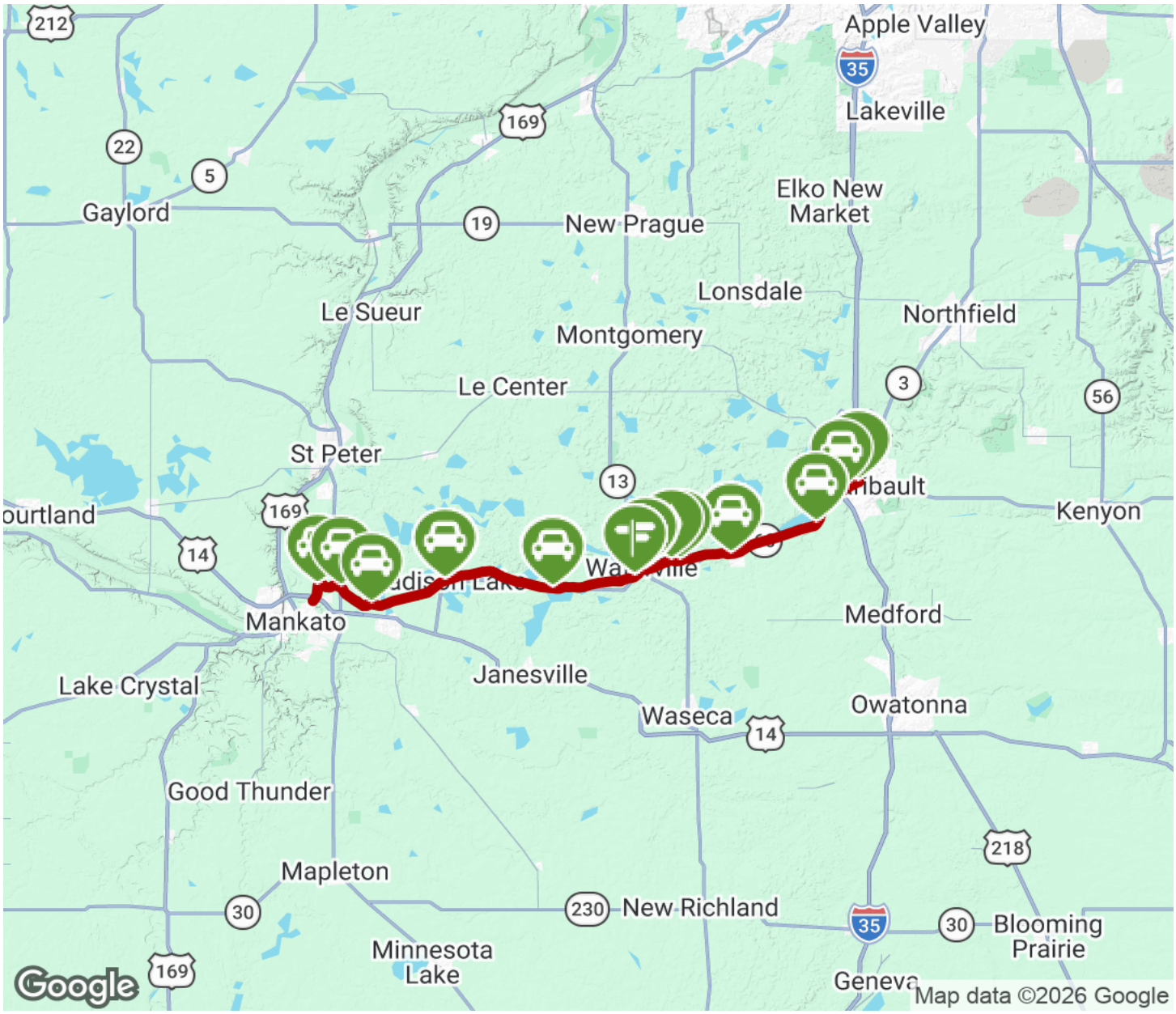

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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