



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Red Jacket Trail

Minnesota



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The popular Red Jacket Trail, which runs south from Mankato, utilizes three converted railroad trestles, including the stunning Red Jacket Trestle, which is more than 80 feet high and 550 feet long and traverses the Le Sueur River and busy MN 66 near the trail's southern end. Two smaller bridges cross just a mile or two south of the Red Jacket Trestle.

About the Route

The Red Jacket Trail extends southward away from downtown Mankato, passing commercial properties before cutting directly through one of the city's older neighborhoods. After about 1 mile, the scenery changes to heavily wooded forest; this landscape continues for the rest of the trek to Rapidan.

Before reaching Rapidan, be sure to spend time at Red Jacket Trail Park. The park contains a picnic shelter, canoe launch, and parking lot, and offers breathtaking views of the trestle. In Rapidan, follow the paved shoulder on 552nd Avenue a short distance south to access the heart of the small village.

A noteworthy side trip is to follow CR 9 west from Rapidan about 2 miles to Rapidan Dam Park for more parking, restrooms, and an expansive view of the Blue Earth River Valley.

Connections

At the northern end of the trail, the Red Jacket Trail connects with the [North Minnesota River Trail](#), which continues along the waterway to the [Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail](#).

At Hawthorn Road, a short section of trail is shared with the [South Route Trail](#), which takes bikers and walkers northwest along County Road 90 for about 4 miles to the southern section of Minneopa State Park.

Trail History

Named after a Seneca chief who lived in the area until the 1830s, the Red Jacket Trail runs along an old Milwaukee Road (formerly the Minnesota Railroad and the Central Railroad) right-of-way that became inactive in 1978.



Red Jacket Trail

Minnesota

States: Minnesota

Counties: Blue Earth

Length: 6.3miles

Trail end points: North Minnesota River Trail (Mankato) to Huffy Lane (Rapidan)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Red Jacket Trail runs between the North Minnesota River Trail (Mankato) and Huffy Lane (Rapidan).

Parking is available at:

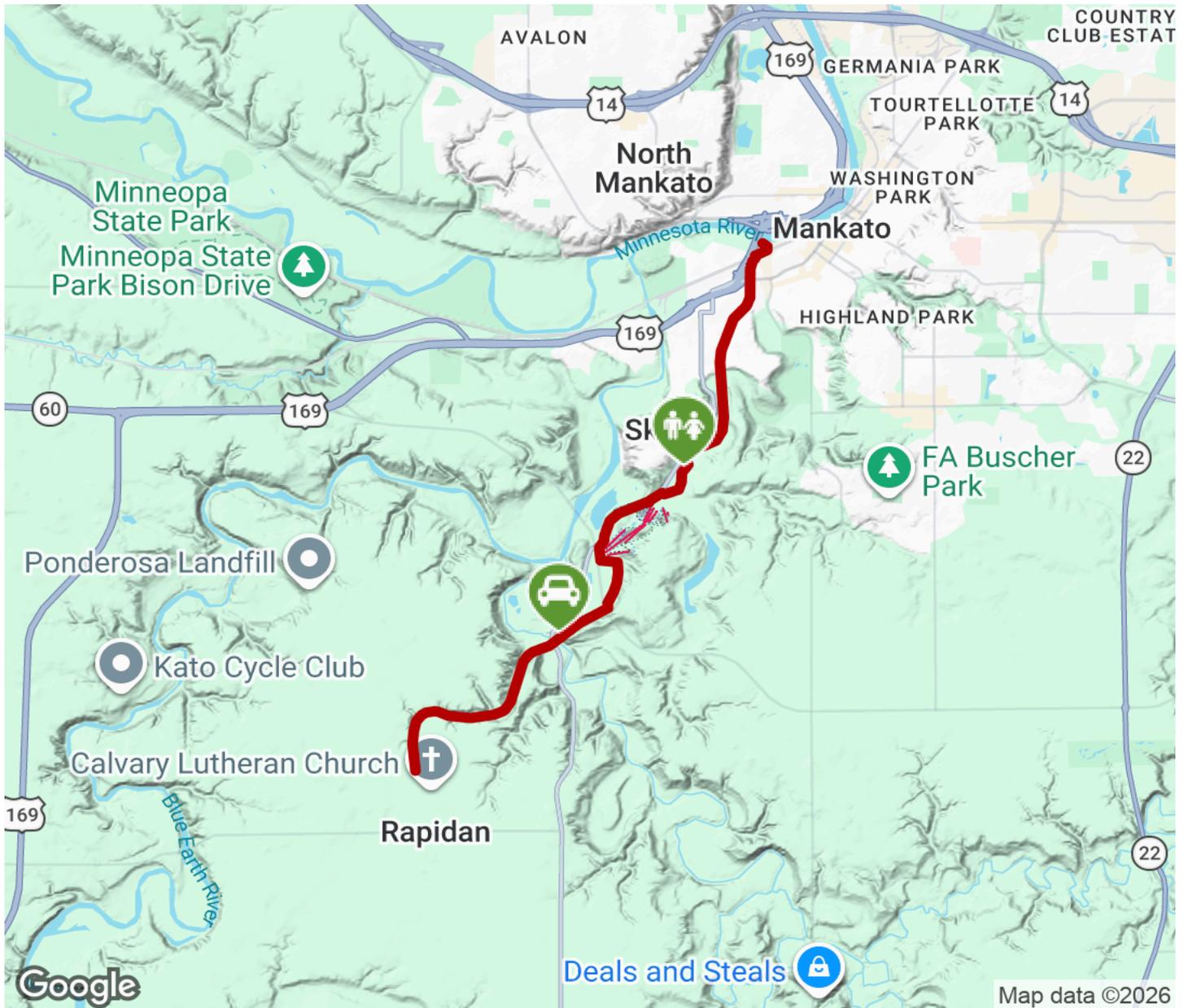
- Weagel Park (Mankato)

These are approximate addresses. Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.



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- Trailhead
- Restroom
- Parking
- Water Fountain
- Tunnel