



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## **Gandy Dancer Trail (Northern Section)**

*Minnesota,  
Wisconsin*



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Minnesota, Wisconsin

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The Gandy Dancer State Trail is divided into a northern segment and a [southern segment](#). Trail uses for the two segments are also divided. Most of the year the southern segment allows only non-motorized recreation on the trail, while the northern segment offers motorized recreation year-round.

This northern segment begins on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River. The trail runs for 32 miles in Minnesota and then crosses back into Douglas County for 19 miles. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) are permitted year-round on this segment. ATVs must display valid registration in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Visitors from Minnesota will need a non-resident ATV trail pass to ride the Wisconsin portion in Douglas County. Walking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling are also permitted on the northern segment. Bicyclists and cross-country skiers do not need trail passes on this segment.

Sections of the trail in Douglas County are typically closed each spring because of the soft trail base.

This 98-mile, "interstate" trail crosses into Minnesota and then back again into Wisconsin on its way from St. Croix Falls to its connection with the Saunders State Trail just south of Superior. In Wisconsin the trail is maintained and managed by Polk, Burnett, and Douglas counties. The Minnesota DNR manages the section of the Gandy Dancer trail in Minnesota.

Built on a former railroad corridor, the trail is named for the work crews who laid the railroad tracks. The crews used tools made by the Gandy Tool Company of Chicago. The crews were known to work by keeping their voices and the movement of their feet and tools in harmony. This manner of work led the crews to become known as "Gandy Dancers."



# Gandy Dancer Trail (Northern Section)

*Minnesota, Wisconsin*

**States:** Minnesota, Wisconsin

**Counties:** Burnett, Douglas, Pine, Polk

Length: 51 miles

**Trail end points:** Gandy Dancer State Trail (Superior, WI) to Gandy Dancer Trail (Southern Section) & the St. Croix River (Danbury, WI)

**Trail surfaces:** Ballast, Dirt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** ATV, Horseback

Riding, Mountain

Biking, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country

## Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at several locations along the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.

