

Grand Rounds Scenic Byway

The country's longest continuous system of public urban parkways, this has been the preeminent urban parkway system for more than a century. Lovely parks, trails, lakes and parkways surround the city of Minneapolis. Enjoy the Chain of Lakes, Lake Nokomis, Lake Hiawatha, Minnehaha Falls, and much more.



Length: 52 miles / 83.2 km
 Time to Allow: Three to four hours to enjoy this byway.

Local Information

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
 612-230-6400

Visitor Services

Fees



The only fees occur at the various attractions along the way.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Throughout the entire Grand Rounds Scenic Byway System, there are paved pedestrian trails (45 miles) and bicycle trails (43 miles) that are separated from the adjacent parkway road surfaces. Pedestrian and bicyclist intersections with motor vehicle traffic are well marked and properly controlled to provide for the safe management of multi-modal traffic. The entire route is designed and maintained for passenger vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. The 8-foot wide bituminous paths are designed for two directional travel, with one exception: the bike path around the Chain of Lakes. When on the paths, please obey the 10 mph speed limit, be considerate of others, keep to the right side of all paths, sound off when passing, and observe all current bike regulations. Here's a list of 19 pathways found along the byway:

- Memorial Pkwy (2.84 mi.)
- Wirth Pkwy (3.54 mi.)
- Cedar Lake Pkwy (1.68 mi.)
- Cedar Lake Trail (3.50 mi.)
- Lake of the Isles Pkwy (2.60 mi.)
- Dean Pkwy (.59 mi.)
- Lake Calhoun Pkwy (3.10 mi.)
- William Berry Pkwy (.56 mi.)
- Lake Harriet Pkwy (2.75 mi.)

- Minnehaha Creek-Lake Harriet to 36th Ave (4.93 mi.)
- Lake Nokomis Pkwy (2.70 mi.)
- Godfrey Road-Minnehaha Ave To West River Pkwy (.50 mi)
- West River Pkwy - 4th St to Godfrey Rd (4.59 mi.)
- East River Pkwy- Washington (1.08 mi.)
- Emerald (2.10 mi.)
- Central Riverfront- West River Pkwy (1.40 mi.)
- Central Riverfront- Main St (.40 mi.)
- St. Anthony Pkwy (2.80 mi.)
- Shingle Creek Pkwy (1.52 mi.)
- North Mississippi Park (1.50 mi.)

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



Byway Information can be found at the Longfellow House in Minnehaha Park. Byway and park information kiosks exist throughout the corridor. A wide variety of public and commercially produced printed materials pertaining to the intrinsic resources of the byway are available through a number of outlets. Also, the City of Minneapolis provides language interpretation and translation services to the traveling public.

Lodging



There is overnight lodging along this byway.

Phone



Public phones are available along this byway.

Restrooms



There are toilet facilities along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

No significant or unusual seasonal accessibility limitations apply to the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway. With only a few exceptions, the route is generally above local flood

plains. During the winter, in addition to the roadway surfaces, a single paved trail is plowed throughout the system for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.

Restrictions

Truck traffic is prohibited from using all but several short segments of the byway. There are few height or width clearance restrictions on the byway for normal passenger vehicles.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Spring-Fall.

High Season

Summer.

Map and Directions



Legend:

	Point of Interest		Campground		Featured Byway		Water		State Border
	Park		Picnic/Rest Area		America's Byways		Wildlife Refuge		Urban Area
	Mountain		Interstate		Other Byway		Wilderness Area		Tribal Nation
	City		U.S. Highway		Other Road		Other Federal Lands		Military Base
	Capital		State Highway		Trail		Other State Lands		

Driving Directions

In Minneapolis, the byway runs along the following roads:

- Ridgeway Road/Ridgeway Parkway

- Stinson Boulevard
- Saint Anthony Parkway
- Webber Parkway/ Victory Memorial Parkway
- Theodore Wirth Parkway
- Cedar Lake Parkway
- West Calhoun Parkway
- William Berry Parkway/West Lake Harriet Parkway
- East lake Harriet Parkway/ East Lake Harriet Boulevard
- West and East Minnehaha Parkway
- East Nokomis Parkway
- West River Parkway

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

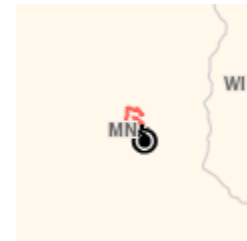
Minneapolis, MN (5 miles / 8.05 km, 9 minutes)

Start: ● Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP)
N 44.883° W 93.207° [?]

Directions:

- Exit from the airport onto SR-5 north.
- Take SR-55/62 west (the Crosstown Highway.)
- Almost immediately exit onto Hiawatha Avenue (SR-55) northbound.
- At Minnehaha Parkway turn left or right to get onto the byway.

Junction with byway: * Intersection of Hiawatha Ave. and Minnehaha Parkway
N 44.916° W 93.215° [?]



Road Trip: Grand Rounds Tour

Departure: Boom Island Park, Minnesota

Destination: Chain of Lakes and Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary, Minnesota

Time to allow: 1 day

This tour of the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway takes you through the natural and historic heritage of Minneapolis.

Day 1

- **Start: Boom Island Park**

Suggested time at this stop: 20 minutes

Begin your tour of the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway at Boom Island Park, a park along the banks of the Mississippi. View several historic buildings, or walk along the peaceful shores of the Mississippi.

- **Stop 2: Nicollet Island**



From previous stop: 3 minutes / 0.95 mi (1.5 km)

Directions: From the northern parking lot of Boom Island Park:

- Head north to the junction of 8th Avenue NE
- Turn right
- Turn right onto Marshall Street NE and continue for 0.6 miles
- Turn right onto 1st Avenue NE and cross the bridge
- Take the first right into the Nicollet Island Parking Lot

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Nicollet Island is the only inhabited island on the Mississippi, and features lovely walkways, tennis courts, and historical buildings. Backtrack across the river and turn right on Main Street to see the historic Nicollet Island Inn, a period building with a rich history and comfortable rooms.

• **Stop 3: Loring Sculpture Garden**



From previous stop: 8 minutes / 2.39 mi (3.8 km)

Directions: From the Nicollet Island parking lot:

- Turn right onto 1st Avenue NE and continue for 0.4 miles
- Turn right onto N 2nd Street
- Turn left onto 1st Avenue N and continue for 0.6 miles
- Turn left onto N 10th Street
- Turn right onto Hennepin Avenue and continue for 0.4 miles.
- Make a slight right onto Dunwoody Boulevard
- Turn left onto S Lyndale Avenue
- Turn left, and then left again onto Hennepin Avenue and the entrance to Loring Park

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

Located in Loring Park, the Sculpture Garden and adjacent Walker Art Center is home to a nice collection of art. Stroll around the park, viewing such classic pieces as Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's "Spoonbridge and Cherry".

• **Stop 4: Minnehaha Park and Falls**



From previous stop: 23 minutes / 9.3 mi (14.9 km)

Directions: To follow the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway from the Loring Sculpture Garden to the Longfellow Home Information Center in Minnehaha Park:

- Head northeast on Hennepin Avenue S for 0.6 miles
- Turn left onto N 9th Street
- Take a slight right to stay on N 9th Street
- Turn left onto N 8th Street
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N 2nd Avenue and continue for 0.5 miles
- Turn left onto N 1st Street
- Turn right onto N 4th Avenue
- Turn right onto West River Parkway and the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway.
- Continue along West River Parkway for 4.1 miles
- Keep left at the fork to continue for 2.6 miles on West River Parkway
- Enter next roundabout and take 3rd exit onto Minnehaha Avenue
- Continue for 0.3 miles into Minnehaha Park.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This regional park is best known for massive Minnehaha Falls, and features several picnic sites and paved trails. See the statue of Hiawatha and Minnehaha, or take a walk through the quiet woodlands.

Find more information about the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway at the Longfellow House Information Center. While Henry Wadsworth Longfellow never lived in Minneapolis, a former fishmonger named Robert "Fish" Jones built a 2/3 scale replica of Longfellow's home in Massachusetts. The Longfellow home now serves as the official information site for Minnehaha Park and the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway.

• **End: Chain of Lakes and Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary**



From previous stop: 40 minutes / 13 mi (20.8 km)

Directions: From the Longfellow House in Minnehaha Park, follow these parkways under wooded canopies and past several of the most scenic lakes in Minneapolis.

From Minnehaha Park to Lyndale Park:

- Start out going northwest on Minnehaha Avenue and continue for 0.3 miles.
- Enter the roundabout and take the 3rd exit to continue west on Minnehaha Parkway for 3.3 miles.
- Turn right onto Stevens Avenue.
- Turn left onto Minnehaha Parkway.
- Veer left to continue along Minnehaha Parkway for 2.1 miles. The road name will change to Lake Harriet Parkway.
- Turn left to continue along Lake Harriet Parkway into Lyndale Park.

From Lyndale Park to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary:

- Continue along Lake Harriet Parkway for 0.5 miles.
- Take a slight right onto William Berry Drive and continue for 1.9 miles. William Berry Drive will become Calhoun Parkway.
- Calhoun Parkway becomes Dean Parkway; continue for 0.3 miles.
- Turn left onto Cedar Lake Parkway and continue for 1.6 miles. Cedar Lake Parkway becomes
- Continue for 1.9 miles along Theodore Wirth Parkway. go 1.9 miles 11: End At Eloise Butler Wildflower Sncy, 1339 Theodore Wirth Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55422, 612-370-4903

Total Est. Time: 20 minutes Total Est. Distance: 6.82 miles

Suggested time at this stop: 20 minutes

Schoolteacher Eloise Butler feared the wild beauty of Minnesota would fall to the ax of city life as surely as her beloved Maine woods had, and she set about to save it. As a result, in 1907 the Minneapolis Park Board created a three-acre preserve for native flora, an immense wild garden that Butler tended all her life.

Stroll along the 2/3 mile trail that winds through this sanctuary, and enjoy the many spring and summer flowers that bloom along the way.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 25.64 miles / 41.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 14 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 2 hours 55 minutes