**Suggested Biking Loops**

1. **Lake Crystal Loop**: 34 miles
   - Our most popular loop for bikers. Lake Crystal Loop has it all. Head out of town on the scenic Red Jacket Trail through the Minnesota River Valley, over the Trestle Bridge to the historic Rapidan Dam, where you’ll find a park near a small diner with an award-winning pie. For a longer trip and more river valley to ride up and down, follow the Blue Earth River south to Garden City, where the view is endless. Grab lunch in Lake Crystal or cool down in one of the lakes. For a shortcut back, bike through Minneopa State Park where you’ll find a 39 ft. waterfall, buffalo and several hiking trails to explore. For a longer ride, continue on to Judson Bottom Road along the Minnesota River Valley and stop at Minnemishina Falls where you’ll see an even taller 42 ft. waterfall. Head back into town following the Minnesota River.

2. **Minneopa Cut-Off**: 39 miles
   - Get a taste of the vast landscape of the area on this loop through town, county, lakes and river valley. Along the way you can sample wine from a local winery, hike through wildlife management areas or stop in one of the quaint towns for a meal or cold beverage.

3. **South Route Trail**: 7 miles
   - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

4. **North Lakes Loop**: 35 miles
   - Get the taste of the vast landscape of the area on this loop through town, county, lakes and river valley. Along the way you can sample wine from a local winery, hike through wildlife management areas or stop in one of the quaint towns for a meal or cold beverage.

5. **St. Clair, Smith’s Mill, Madison Lake Loop**: 20 miles
   - Ride the same route as the North Star Grand Prix, finishing with a grueling climb! The rides will complete multiple laps of a 20.5 mile rural circuit which uses beautiful Nicollet County roads and returns to North Mankato up the extra challenging Valley Lane Hill.

6. **North Mankato Grand Prix**: 34 miles
   - Ride the same route as the North Star Grand Prix, finishing with a grueling climb! The riders will complete multiple laps of a 20.5 mile rural circuit which uses beautiful Nicollet County roads and returns to North Mankato up the extra challenging Valley Lane Hill.

7. **St. Clair/Eagle Lake Loop**: 28 miles
   - Visit the nearby towns of Eagle Lake & St. Clair to get a taste of small town charm while dining in or enjoying a picnic at the city park. Follow the Le Sueur River to visit Wildwood Park and take the nature trail across the river on a 140 ft. long swinging foot bridge. Hike through the wooded river valley and keep an eye out for wildlife.

8. **North Gravel Ride**: 29 miles
   - Try something different on a gravel ride just north of town. Ride along the bluffs of the Minnesota River toward the prairie land of Kasota. Stop at the Kasota Prairie for a picnic in the park or quick bike through the 45 acre prairie along the Minnesota River and off the beaten path.

9. **South Route Trail**: 7 miles
   - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

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11. **North Mankato Grand Prix**: 34 miles
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13. **North Lakes Loop**: 39 miles
    - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

14. **Minneopa Cut-Off**: 9 miles
    - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

15. **Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail**: 44 miles
    - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

16. **South Route Trail**: 7 miles
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17. **North Lakes Loop**: 39 miles
    - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

18. **Minneopa Cut-Off**: 9 miles
    - Tour our area lakes on quiet back country roads. Stop at one of the nine lakes you’ll pass to get your feet wet or grab a bike to eat and cool beverage on the water. Extend your trip and visit another lake by taking the North Lakes Loop Extension.

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26. **Minneopa Cut-Off**: 9 miles
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27. **Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail**: 44 miles
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Your Guide to BIKING & HIKING in greater MANKATO

Mankato Loop:
14 miles
Tour the city of Mankato, passing through the Minnesota River Valley without the steep hill. A great ride on a windy day or anytime you want to stay in town. Ride on mostly off-road trails except in the City Center area with low-traffic streets and on-street bike lanes.

North Mankato Loop:
10 miles
A combination of trails and low-traffic roads, this is a nice loop around North Mankato that passes close to several parks, shops and opportunities for a snack.

For biking enthusiasts, Mankato features some of the best trails and scenic roadways in the state, featuring wide shoulders and little to moderate traffic. Our trail system offers a spectacular view of areas that may not always be explored if you stick to the roads.

Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail runs from Mankato to Faribault, totaling 12 miles with an asphalt surface. This fairly flat trail provides riders with beautiful scenery as it wanders along prairies, bottomland, lakes, a forested park and Sakatah Lake State Park, featuring six different cultural pit stops.

Red Jacket Trail runs from Mankato to Pepin, totaling 12 miles with both asphalt and crushed stone surfaces. As Mankato’s most popular trail, the Red Jacket Trail begins along the banks of the Minnesota River. The route utilizes three converted railroad tunnels, including the Red Jacket Tunnel which stands more than 60 feet high and 550’ long.

Minnesota State Park Trail is a paved trail running from Mankato to Minnesota State Park. Once in Minnesota, there are numerous hiking trails to explore, highlighting the famous Minnesota waterfalls. While biking or hiking this trail, visitors can get a good look at a head of 400-foot roasting in a 350-acre area.

Minnesota River Valley Trail is a paved connector between the Sakatah and Minnesota Trails. It is a multi-use trail ideal for hikers and bikers alike. The trail runs along the beautiful Minnesota River, highlighting Mankato’s prime location in the river valley.

Econswood Greenway features a 150-acre trail perfect for hiking and observing wildlife throughout the year. There are over 5 miles of hiking trails inclusive with meadows, wetlands, floating trails, cliffs and a park overlook.

Mountain biking is growing in Mankato due to its geography in the river valley. There are few sustainable, environmentally friendly mountain biking trails: Kiwassa Recreation Area, Fort LeFevre, Mount Kato, Seven Mile Creek Park and the Indian Lake Conservation Area.

Dining/Shopping/Service Areas
Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing
Mountain Biking
BMX Track
Parking
Restrooms
Visitor’s Center
Waterfalls
Multi-use Trail
On-street Bike Route
Mountain Bike Trail
Hiking Only
City Bike Loops

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