



Thanks for us joining us on Saturday, August 3, 2019 for the 15th Annual

Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour

Here's everything you need to know to have a perfect day

(Feel free to call Ardy at 218-749-4331 if you have any questions before tour day)

If you have questions on tour day, contact:

Steve 218-994-2094 or Rhonda 218-780-4841 or Ardy 218-780-9164

Final Registration:

If you are receiving this packet...we have already received your pre-registration in the mail or on-line.

On Friday night or Saturday morning stop by the finish line or any start location to pick up your final tour packet and confirm all liability waivers are signed. (see schedule on page 2 for details)

EACH ADULT must sign a liability waiver - and parents must sign for their children under 18.

(If you registered on-line, your liability waiver is complete)

Transportation:

Since this is not a circular route, you will be starting and ending your ride at different locations.

The goal on the morning of the tour is to have your bike at your chosen start point and your vehicle at the finish line if you would like to take advantage of our bike and/or rider transportation options.

(Of course... you can always provide your own transportation for bikes and/or riders)

Bikes (details on page 2 schedule)

(NOTE - there is no transportation for bikes on Saturday - only Friday night)

- Friday night - we can transport your bike for FREE from the finish line to any of the four start points, where bikes are tagged with a claim ticket, wrapped in moving blankets & transported to secure overnight storage.

OR

- Friday night - "do-it-yourself" drop off for overnight storage at start points #1, #2 and #3 (#4 come to the finish line).
- Saturday morning - "do-it-yourself" drop off at any of the four start points for storage until the tour starts.

Riders (details on page 2 schedule)

- Saturday morning - come to the finish line and park your vehicle, then we will transport you by bus to your start point, where your bike will be waiting and you can begin the tour. (Some folks say this is the most fun part of the day!)
- When you complete the tour your vehicle is waiting at the finish line, and you can head for home at your convenience.

There is NO transportation for bikes or riders at the END of tour day.

****If you need lodging, staying near the finish line (Grand Rapids) will be the most convenient****

PLEASE REMEMBER...Everyone MUST wear a biking helmet and sign a liability waiver!

Schedule: You may do your final registration on Friday night or Saturday morning at any location to pick up your final tour packet and assure liability waivers are signed (Start #4 - Taconite open only on Saturday).

Friday, August 2, 2019

Final Registration & Bicycle Drop-Off in 4 Locations

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. **Grand Rapids - Gunn Park Finish Line** (NOTE...this is new Grand Rapids finish location)
Final registration and tour packet pick up
Bicycle drop-off for FREE transport to secure overnight storage at all four start points

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Final registration & "do-it-yourself" bicycle drop-off for overnight storage at start points
Gilbert - Hockey Arena (Route #1)
Buhl - Community Center/Curling Club (Route #2)
Nashwauk - Community Center (Route #3)
Taconite (Route #4) - bring your bikes to Grand Rapids (Finish Line) until 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 3, 2019

Final Registration & Bicycle Drop-Off in 5 Locations

6:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Grand Rapids - Gunn Park** (Finish Line)
Final registration and tour packet pick-up
(you may also do this at any start point at times listed below)

5:30 - 9:00 a.m. **Gilbert - Hockey Arena** (Route #1)
Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 1.5 hours to get to Gunn Park by car, park & catch the bus @ 7:00)

6:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Buhl - Community Center/Curling Club** (Route #2)
Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 1.25 hours to get to Gunn Park by car, park & catch the bus @ 8:00)

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Nashwauk - Community Center** (Route #3)
Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 45 minutes to get to Gunn Park by car, park & catch the bus @ 10:00)

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Taconite - Mesabi Trail Kiosk** (Route #4)
Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 30 minutes to get to Gunn Park by car, park & catch the bus @ 10:30)

Rider Bus Transportation from Finish Line at Grand Rapids Gunn Park to All Start Locations

7:00 a.m. To Gilbert (route #1)
8:00 a.m. To Buhl (route #2)
10:00 a.m. To Nashwauk (route #3)
10:30 a.m. To Taconite (route #4)

There is no rider or bike transportation at the end of tour day

Tour Start Times

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Gilbert (Route #1 - 72 miles)
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Buhl (Route #2 - 52 miles)
10:30 – 11:30 p.m. Nashwauk (Route #3 - 24 miles)
11:00 – 12:00 noon Taconite (Route #4 - 10 miles)

**Please do not start the tour before designated times.
Volunteers & support vehicles may not be on the course and rest stops may not be open.**

Finish Line Activities at Grand Rapids Gunn Park

11:30 – 5:00 p.m. Picnic lunch
12:30 – 5:00 p.m. Live Music

Start Locations:

- Begin your tour at your choice of four different locations – all will finish at Gunn Park 3.5 miles north of Grand Rapids.
- Please note the start times and transportation times vary for each start location.
- You will not be allowed to participate without a helmet, tour wrist band, and signed liability waiver.

PLEASE NOTE

- ✚ The Mesabi Trail is NOT flat & straight, there are a number of hills and curves. While this public trail is open at all times, our volunteers be on the course only until 5 p.m. - **please select your route according to your abilities.**
- ✚ **PLEASE stay alert while riding** - the trail is not closed to oncoming traffic and there are a few sharp turns & hills.
- ✚ This is a family event, there may be younger and/or inexperienced riders on the tour - please be patient and **ALWAYS announce when passing** - "on your left".

Route #1: **Gilbert - Hockey Arena**

106 East Iowa Ave / Gilbert, MN

- ✓ **8:00 - 9:00 a.m. start time** / 72 miles to Gunn Park
- ✓ From Gilbert's main street - Broadway (also Hwy 37) - head down the hill on Iowa Ave East - the hockey arena will be on your left. Look for a yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from the finish line – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near registration.

Route #2: **Buhl - Community Center** (Curling Club)

2 Jones Ave / Buhl, MN

- ✓ **9:00 - 10:00 a.m. start time** / 52 miles to Gunn Park
- ✓ Rest stop at Stubler Beach in Buhl.
- ✓ From Hwy 169 take the Forest Street entrance into Buhl – 2nd right entrance if coming from Mt Iron & Virginia / 1st left entrance if coming from Chisholm & Hibbing. Continue on Forest Street for eight blocks, turn left on Jones Ave - the Community Center will be 2 blocks down on your left - look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from the finish line – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near registration.

Route #3: **Nashwauk - Recreation Center** (Hockey Arena)

400 4th St So / Nashwauk, MN

- ✓ **10:30 - 11:30 a.m. start time** / 24 miles to Gunn Park
- ✓ Rest stop
- ✓ There are two entrances into Nashwauk, you want the Fairview Medical Clinic/American Bank entrance (near mile marker 327)...from Highway 169 this will be the 1st entrance if you are coming from Hibbing or the second entrance if you are coming from Grand Rapids (do not take the Dairy Queen/Hwy 65 entrance). This entrance will place you on Itasca County Hwy 86, travel .7 miles into town, take the 1st left (this is more of an alley and has no name) just before 4th street. Two blocks down you will come to a large brown building, this is the Recreation Complex - look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from the finish line – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near registration.

Route #4: **Taconite** - Mesabi Trail Entry Point Kiosk

Near the corner of Hodgins Ave & Bennett St, Taconite, MN

- ✓ **11:00 a.m. – 12 noon start time** / 10 miles to Gunn Park
- ✓ Final rest
- ✓ From Highway 169 enter Taconite at Highway 15 / Hodgins Ave - continue into town on Hodgins Ave, take the 1st left onto Bennett St - you will find the start point at the Mesabi Trail Kiosk near the corner of Hodgins & Bennett.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from the finish line – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near registration.

Finish Line: **Grand Rapids - Gunn Park** (3.5 miles north of the city of Grand Rapids)
4680 MN Hwy 38 / Grand Rapids, MN

- ✓ If you have ridden with us before - **NOTE this is NEW Grand Rapids finish location.**
- ✓ Final registration – Friday night drop off for bicycle transport to start points – Saturday morning loading for rider transport to start points – finish line.
- ✓ **From Coleraine / Hwy 169** (this is quicker than actually going into the city of Grand Rapids): Turn north onto Curley Ave (1st Coleraine entrance coming from Grand Rapids / last entrance passing through Coleraine) - in about .02 miles, take a sharp left onto Gunn St / Hwy 61 - continue straight on Hwy 61 for 4.7 miles - turn right onto Hwy 38 - Gunn Park will be less than a mile on your right.
- ✓ **From Grand Rapids / Hwy 169 (NW 4th St)** : Turn north onto NW 3rd Ave / Hwy 38 - continue on Hwy 38 about 3.5 miles - the entrance to Gunn Park will be on your right.
- ✓ There is ample parking near registration and loading areas.

Rest Stops / Food: Water, Gatorade, fruit and snacks will be available at all these locations:

- **Gilbert - Hockey Arena** (start #1 & food) - 11 miles to next rest stop
- **Mountain Iron - Locomotive Park** (rest stop only) - 10 miles to next rest stop
- **Buhl - Stubler Beach** (start #2 is at Community Center & rest stop at the beach) - 12 miles to next rest stop
- **Hibbing - Greyhound Bus Museum** (rest stop only) - 15 miles to next rest stop
- **Nashwauk - Community Center** (start #3 & rest stop) - 13 miles to next rest stop
- **Taconite - Mesabi Trail Kiosk** (start #4 & rest stop) - 10 miles to finish line
- **Grand Rapids - Gunn Park** (Finish line lunch - including vegetarian options)



To make the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour as "green" as possible,
there will be **NO BOTTLED WATER at rest stops**

Be sure to bring your own bike water bottle to refill from coolers.

(Mesabi Trail water bottles will be available at all start locations & the finish line for \$5)

Saturday Entertainment / Activities:

- The longest route will travel across the tallest bridge in Minnesota via the Mesabi Trail - be sure to stop and enjoy the view...it's amazing!
- Music in Buhl, Nashwauk and the finish line.
- Visit the Greyhound Bus Museum at the Hibbing rest stop.
- Finish line concert / 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.



Miscellaneous:

- All riders will receive a commemorative t-shirt at the finish.
- If you want to ride the Mesabi Trail for a few more days, your tour wrist band will serve as a three-day trail pass.
- We will ride – rain or shine – the tour will be cancelled or postponed for lightening or severe weather - no refunds.
- No showers or massage available this year.
- Please support and thank our very generous sponsors – we couldn't do it without them!
- Profits from the ride are used to support the Mesabi Trail and Club Mesabi...we are the "Friends of the Mesabi Trail".

Questions before tour day – call Ardy at 218-749-4331

Questions on tour day, contact: Steve 218-994-2094 or Rhonda 218-780-4841 or Ardy 218-780-9164

Other Information

If you are coming from a distance and need lodging...

It will be most convenient to stay in or near the Grand Rapids area (the tour finish line) this will allow the easiest access to rider and bike transportation.

Receive a discount on tour weekend (Aug 2 & 3), by making a reservation with any of these fine Mesabi Trail lodging sponsors.

Be sure to tell them you are riding in the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour.

Timberlake Lodge & 17th Street Grill

- 10% lodging discount
- 17th Street Grill - 10% discount and one free house wine or tap beer with purchase of entree

Off Highway 169 South / 144 SE 17th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

1-866-800-2200 / 218-327-2600

<http://www.timberlakelodgehotel.com/>

Super 8 Grand Rapids & 17th Street Grill

- 15% lodging discount
- 17th Street Grill - 10% discount

Off Highway 169 South
1702 Pokegama Avenue South
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

218-327-1108

<http://www.super8.com/hotels/minnesota/grand-rapids/super-8-grand-rapids/hotel-overview>

Hotel Rapids

- 10% lodging discount

680 East US Hwy 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

218-326-3458

<http://www.hotelrapids.com/>

Camping in Grand Rapids

(About 2.5 miles from the finish line)

No tour discounts / No reservations
1st come - 1st serve

Itasca County Fair - Campground

1136 NE 3rd Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

218-326-6470

<http://itascacountyfair.org/campground/>

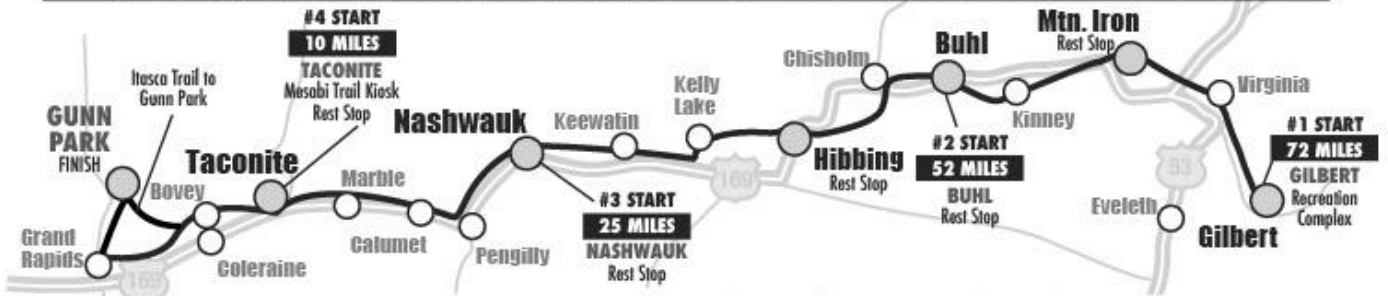
For more lodging and camping information go to:

<http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/> or <http://www.ironrange.org/>

Mesabi Trail merchandise will be available at the finish line, including jerseys and t-shirts.



GREAT RIVER ENERGY MESABI TRAIL TOUR 2019 - START/FINISH LOCATIONS



The tour follows the Mesabi Trail™. You will receive more detailed maps at final registration on tour weekend.

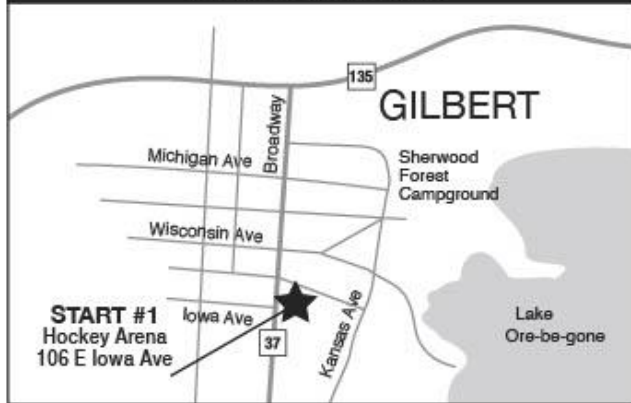
GREAT RIVER ENERGY - MESABI TRAIL™



#3 START - NASHWAUCK



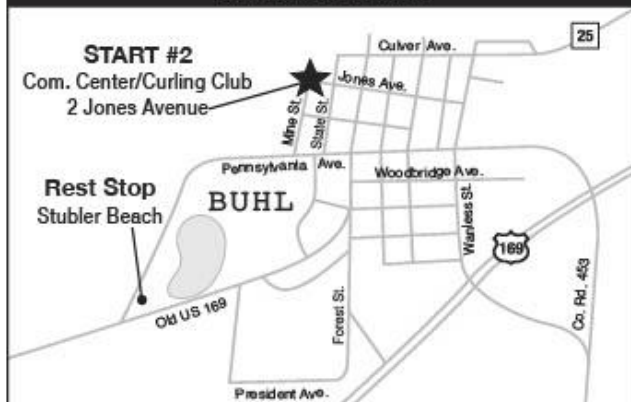
#1 START - GILBERT



#4 START - TACONITE



#2 START - BUHL



FINISH - GRAND RAPIDS (GUNN PARK)

