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 (Holiday hours may vary)

**Holdingford Municipal Liquor Store**

- Appetizers
- On & Off Sale
- Minnesota Lottery
- Charitable Gambling

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Next To Wobegon Covered Bridge

Open Mon.-Sat. at 8 AM  
 Open Sundays at Noon

**HEADLEY HARDWARE**  
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A hardware store with so much more - stop and see!

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581 Main St., Holdingford

**HOURS**  
 Mon: Closed  
 Tues-Thurs: 4pm-8pm  
 Fri-Sun 4pm-9pm

Show this ad for \$1 off of any pizza!

**ADVANTAGE 1- INSURANCE AGENCY**

Dan Fiedler  
 Agent

320-746-2938  
 PO Box 207  
 Holdingford, MN 56340

**Holdingford Legion**  
 Main Street, Holdingford

Stop on in for a drink!

**HOURS**  
 Closed Mon & Tues  
 Weds-Sat Open at 5 PM  
 Sundays Open at 1 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**JIM'S** (320) 746-2165  
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Sales, Service & Parts

130 River Street  
 Holdingford, MN 56340

Polaris ATV's, Rangers, Snowmobiles  
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Located on Main Street in Holdingford

**CLARK** Holdingford Gas & Grocery

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Hot Food

### The Trail Beyond this Ride...

The trail extends east 2.2 Miles beyond the Blanchard Bridge, to the US 10 Trailhead, and rises above the surrounding treetops to pass over US Highway 10. East of the trailhead the Soo Line Trail is gravel and designed for 4-wheeling.

Returning to Holdingford, you can continue south for 3 miles to County Road 10. Approximately a half mile south of there is Two Rivers County Park. Bike camping is permitted at the park.

Continuing another 7 miles will take you to Albany.

From mile marker 150.0 traveling north 8 miles on the Great River Road will lead to Lindberg State Park, Little Falls, MN.

Camping is available Holdingford's City Park.

**City of Holdingford**  
 Phone 320-746-2966  
 PO Box 69, Holdingford, MN 56340.  
 Email: clerk@holdingfordmn.us  
 www.holdingfordmn.us

**Lake Wobegon Trail**  
 Stearns County Parks  
 (Contact for bike camping permits.)  
 Phone: (320) 255-6172  
 www.co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/CountyParks.

**Lake Wobegon Trail Association**  
 www.lakewobegontrails.com

**City of Bowlus**  
 http://www.bowlusmn.com

**Soo Line Trail**  
 Morrison County Public Works  
 Phone: (320) 632-0121  
 http://www.co.morrison.mn.us

www.lwtrails.com/bridgetobridge




# Bridge to Bridge Ride

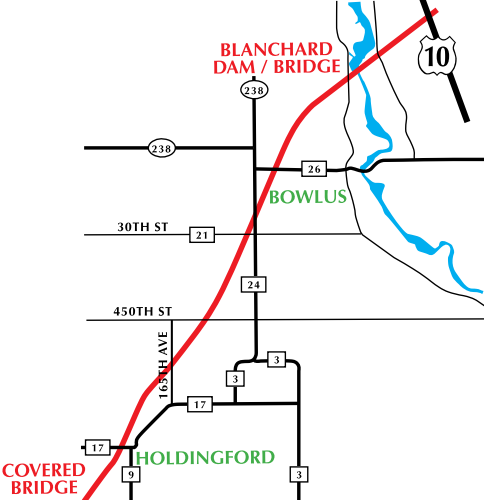


# Bridge to Bridge Ride

The bike trail from Holdingford's Covered Bridge to the Blanchard Dam Bridge is one of the most beautiful scenic bike rides in Minnesota. This paved trail is the successor to the Soo Line Railroad line built in 1907. Long ago railroad crews consisting of man and animal power, cut through rolling hills and filled in lowland swamp areas to create a gentle sloping route. The grade of the trail declines slightly from Holdingford to the mighty Mississippi River.

The converted railroad bridge in Holdingford is Minnesota's longest covered bridge. The Blanchard Dam Bridge is adjacent to the highest water fall on the Mississippi River. Between these two bridges, the Lake Wobegon Trail/Soo Line Trail winds its way through productive farms and pastures, lowland shrubbery and dense woods that provide a cooling relief on hot sunny Minnesota summers. The bridge to bridge ride is 27 miles round trip.

The stop signs and banners  show where to stop and read about the landmarks along the next stretch of the trail. The mile markers show the approximate location of landmarks.



Holdingford offers a great place to fuel up for this ride at Rudolph's Redneck Roost for lunch or dinner. The Corner Pizza is also a fine stop in the evening.

The ride begins 2 blocks south of the Holdingford Trailhead at Minnesota's longest covered bridge.

## Lake Wobegon Covered Bridge

**139.6** Minnesota's Longest Covered Bridge  
This bridge is listed at the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges with the following information:  
Number: 23-73-a  
County: Stearns  
Name: Lake Wobegon Trail Covered Bridge  
Water: Two Rivers River  
Length: 186 feet  
Built: Bridge in 1907 Cover in 2008  
GPS: N45 43.723 W094 28.641  
Description: Built by Holdingford Lions Club with help from Army Reserves 492nd Engineer Company.

### Things to Do at Bridge

- ✓ Sign the guestbook.
- ✓ Check out the donor list.
- ✓ Read the historical plaques.

**139.7** Randolph's Dream. This stainless steel art sculpture, by Keith Raivo, depicts the history of Holdingford. Eleven community members' faces were cast in aluminum and welded to this project.

**139.8** Enjoy the Pedals to Petals Garden Club Gardens and pond.

### Things to Do at Trailhead

- The trailhead park was a Boy Scout Eagle project.
- ✓ Take a break at the shelter and bathroom.
  - ✓ Kids enjoy the wooden train.
  - ✓ View the murals by Frank Gosiak on the old Soo Line boxcar.



### Mile Markers 140.0 to 142.8

- 140.0** The houses along the first half-mile of the trail are the last to be seen for quite a while.
- 140.6** After crossing a field road, the trail divides a large hill. Remember that this level trail was dug by hand and animal power. Enjoy the cool woods.
- 141.1** The bench at the side of the trail honors Robert A. Gambrino, a Stearns County Commissioner and trail advocate.
- 141.5** Cross over South Two River on a bridge framed by a long split cedar rail fence. View Minnesota agriculture at its best.
- 142.1** The trail intersects 165th Avenue.
- 142.8** The trail intersects 445th Street. Note that avenues run north and south and streets go east and west.

### Mile Markers 143.5 to 145.5

- 143.5** Stop sign at 450th Street. This is the county line between Stearns County and Morrison County. Here the Lake Wobegon Trail transitions into the Soo Line Trail.
- 143.5** The farm house at this corner is the closest to the trail between Holdingford and Bowlus. The Soo Line Trail again returns to travel through woods.
- 143.?** In June watch for the Minnesota state flower, the pink ladyslipper, on the west side of the trail. They do a good job of hiding. Please remember to leave this fragile plant alone.
- 144.4** There is a bench to rest.
- 145.8** To the west, South Two River and North Two River merge into Two River. The trail bridge crosses Two River flowing into the Mississippi.
- 146.0** Cross County Road 21.
- 146.2** Be alert for automobile traffic at the angled crossing of County Road 24.

### Mile Markers 146.2 to 150.5

- 147.0** The Bowlus Trailhead is an air conditioned rest stop with cooled water, picnic area and playground. A good place to take a break is Jordie's Trailhead Cafe across the street from the trailhead. It has indoor and outdoor seating, a garden area, great food and pies and ice cream.
- 147.2** Cross County Road 26. To the east, this road crosses the Mississippi on the way to Royalton.
- 148.0** Cross Fantail Road.
- 147.0** Cross over Little Two River.
- 148.8** Cross 65th Street.
- 150.0** Cross the Great River Road that extends the length of the Mississippi and is part of the Mississippi River Trail bike route.

### Blanchard Bridge / Dam

- 150.5** The Blanchard Dam is north of the bridge. Blanchard was the owner of much of the land flooded when the dam was built. The 46 foot drop is the largest on the Mississippi River.

### Things to Do at Bridge

- 150.5** ✓ Looking south from the bridge is a marvelous view of the Mighty Mississippi. Below the bridge there are often people fishing or looking for rocks.
- ✓ This is one of the few places in the world where cross rocks (twinned staurolite crystals) are found.
- ✓ A canoe portage located east of the bridge consists of a semi-rough path, about 300 paces in length, that leads from the trail to the river. Walk this to the river to hunt for cross rocks.

