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FEATURED RIDES

2014 Top 50 Bike-Friendly Cities

Our biennial ranking of the 50 most cycling-friendly cities in the United States finds that bikes are taking the nation by storm—and not just in the expected places. Read on to find out how your city fared this year. —*Ian Dille*



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Photo: John VanderHaagen

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41. Grand Rapids, Michigan

Population	190,411
2012 Rank	41
Bike Facilities	1.2
People per Bike-Share	NONE
Bicycle-Friendly Business	10

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We provide cycling enthusiasts with the finest components and gear, from the best brands, at the lowest possible prices and deliver it faster than anyone else.

Safety Score NA[Stat Key](#)**One Reason It Makes The Cut**

In addition to 35 miles of new on-street facilities between 2012 and 2013, there's a booming fat-bike racing scene, including the Farmer's Fat Bike Race, where the first place trophy is a snow shovel.

Great Bike Shops

[Village Bike Shop](#) focuses on high-end road and triathlon, but fields a women's Liv mountain bike team and sponsors a variety of other local squads. The Thursday night women's ride out of Jenison offers A, B, and C pace groups and regularly gets 30 riders.

[West Michigan Bike and Fitness](#) sponsors a big women's tri team in addition to a men's road racing team. They do a women's ride on Thursday night, and the Real Women Tri bike club that leads this ride is one of the best clubs in town.

[Freewheeler Bike Shop](#) has a large selection of lower-cost bikes and supports a mountain bike team that's active in trail building and puts on a variety of off-road events.

Community Connections

The [Rapid Wheelmen](#) put on daily group rides, a Monday-night time trial in Ada, and many local touring/charity rides, including the 100 Grand in June and the Colorburst in October.

The [West Michigan MTB Association](#) (WMMBA) is responsible for the area's well designed and well marked mountain bike trails. It holds Tuesday-night trail ride at Cannonsburg Ski Area, which is open for burgers and beer afterward.

Best Events

The [Barry-Roubaix](#) race is 80 percent pavement with 24, 36 and 62-mile options (2,200 feet of climbing in the 36-mile loop). It has something for everyone. For new racers it is an event they can be proud to finish, and the good payout for elite racers attracts people from all over the Midwest. It has a great after party with a beer tent and live music. It's open to 3,500 riders and likely to sell out.

With 12, 25, 40 and 80-mile (out to Lake Michigan and back) options, the [MSU Gran Fondo](#) has something for everyone. After the fondo, you can get good food and tons of choices for Michigan craft beer—and you can watch the Brickyard Classic Crit. This is the second year for the MSU Gran Fondo in downtown Grand Rapids.

If your tire philosophy is “the wider, the better,” check out the [Winter Rush Fat Bike Series](#), promoted by the owner of Central District Cyclery.

Must-Do Ride

The Merrell Trail (8 miles) and Luton Park Trail (10 miles) in Rockford are well laid-out, fast, flowy, fun trails. Also, the Cannonsburg State Game Area (8 miles) and the Cannonsburg Ski Hill (7 miles) are nearby. You can ride them all together with a little bit of nice road.

[Ride Map](#)

Additional reporting by Molly Hurford

Stat Key

Bike Facilities/Square Mile: Miles of buffered bike lane, cycle track, standard bike lane, bike boulevard, and dedicated path per square mile

People Per Bike-Share: Number of people for every bike-share bike (*US Census*)



Bicycling-Friendly Business: Sum of designated points for each business recognized by the League of American Bicyclists: platinum (4 points), gold (3), silver (2), bronze (1)

Safety Score Number of fatalities per 10,000 commuters (*Alliance for Biking and Walking*)

[How We Chose the Top 50 Cities](#)

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