The North Country National Scenic Trail is an elaborate project taken on by thousands of individuals across thousands of miles, all working in concert to bring the trail to reality. North Country Trail Association Chapters, Affiliates and Partners build, maintain, protect and promote the trail one mile at a time. When considered separately, every project is a triumph in its own right. When combined with the others, it becomes an extraordinary tale of our shared vision coming to life.

Each year we build, maintain and protect more miles of the North Country Trail. Although we may be far from completion, it’s the journey not the destination that counts, and we should celebrate each mile, challenge and triumph along the way.

Summary of Accomplishments

- 23 miles of new trail
- 28 miles reconstructed or rerouted
- 16 new bridges together spanning more than 250 ft.
- 3,000 ft. of puncheon and boardwalk
- Four shelters
- Five campsites
- Four Trailhead parking lots
- Observation platforms, scenic vistas and overlooks
- Countless miles refreshing paint blazes

Current Trail Miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Estimated Mileage*</th>
<th>Total Off-Road Miles</th>
<th>Total On-Road Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>462.32</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>234.24</td>
<td>43.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>518.64</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
<td>1,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>131.24</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota**</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>581.07</td>
<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>253.6</td>
<td>183.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,540</td>
<td>3,009.89</td>
<td>1,685.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The numbers we present as Total Estimated Mileage are estimates and may change over time as trail is put on the ground or plans finalized. Mileage changes over time: Hundreds of miles of trail data are improved each year, which can lead to discrepancies in the trail mileage totals and the trail mileage actually built in that year.

**Includes Minnesota Arrowhead Reroute

Highlights

- 1,343 volunteers (a 23% increase over 2015) worked 69,708 hours in Fiscal Year 2016, a private sector value of $1,642,320.
- NCTA’s Field Grant program has funded more than $200,000 in trail projects since 1998.

28 new miles were put on the ground, 18 miles were rerouted and more than 130 miles were improved along with the general maintenance of the hundreds of more miles.

We built 13 bridges, 800 feet of boardwalk, 15 new campsites, 2 shelters and 4 parking areas.

More than 5,000 individuals joined the Hike 100 Challenge to celebrate the National Park Service’s Centennial Anniversary. Across our seven states, participants hit the Trail in hopes of earning the coveted patch. 1,768 hikers succeeded, hailing from 28 States plus Canada.

Trail Mileage Since 2002

- 2002: 1,879 Miles
- 2007: 2,404 Miles
- 2012: 2,602 Miles
- 2017: 3,009 Miles

Our Goal: 4,600 Miles
Looking Forward

We have many more miles and projects in the years ahead. Closing the gaps in the trail remains a high priority. At the same time, we’ve got to make sure the trail we’ve already built is maintained, that it’s safe and navigable for the public and that it lives up to the title National Scenic Trail. We’ve got to strive to protect every mile of the trail on private land with permanent easements as well as the corridor from the many impacts from infrastructure development plans. In the coming year we’ll be working together to make a state by state strategy for the trail and to seek the resources needed to accomplish our goals.

Here are some, but not all, of our priorities for the next few years.

**Project Highlights**

**NORTH DAKOTA**
- The Sheyenne River Valley Chapter installed four boardwalks across ravines along Lake Ashtabula.

**MINNESOTA**
- The Minnesota Waters & Prairie Chapter completed building and signing most of the new 9.6-mile loop of the NCT in the City of Fergus Falls.

**WISCONSIN**
- The Chequamegon chapter and the Rivers Crew collaborated to replace a 370-foot boardwalk between Copper Falls State Park and the Trail Town of Mellen.

**MICHIGAN**
- The U.S. Forest Service constructed a 100-foot fibreglass bridge over the Big Sable River in the Manistee National Forest.

**OHIO**
- Buckeye Trail Association added several campsites along the trail and built a new Trail Shelter on the Pretty Run Preserve.

**PENNSYLVANIA**
- The Allegheny National Forest Chapter constructed a 24-foot bridge over Root Run.

**NEW YORK**
- The Central New York Chapter began the Optimal Location Review process to find the best location for the trail around the city of Rome.

**North Country National Scenic Trail Progress Report**

**PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

- Improving training to empower volunteers
  - It’s imperative that we provide the resources and training necessary for our volunteers to do their jobs. Over the next few years, we’re focusing on empowering our volunteers by:
    - Developing new Crew Leader curriculum;
    - Increasing the availability of chainsaw training;
    - Revising the Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance; and
    - Leading more webinars and workshops on important topics.

- North Dakota
  - The Cheyenne River Valley Chapter installed four boardwalks across ravines along Lake Ashtabula.

- Minnesota
  - The Minnesota Waters & Prairie Chapter completed building and signing most of the new 9.6-mile loop of the NCT in the City of Fergus Falls.

- Wisconsin
  - The Chequamegon chapter and the Rivers Crew collaborated to replace a 370-foot boardwalk between Copper Falls State Park and the Trail Town of Mellen.

- Michigan
  - The U.S. Forest Service constructed a 100-foot fibreglass bridge over the Big Sable River in the Manistee National Forest.

- Ohio
  - Buckeye Trail Association added several campsites along the trail and built a new Trail Shelter on the Pretty Run Preserve.

- Pennsylvania
  - The Allegheny National Forest Chapter constructed a 24-foot bridge over Root Run.

- New York
  - The Central New York Chapter began the Optimal Location Review process to find the best location for the trail around the city of Rome.