

Our Trail-Eastern Sections

CLARION CHAPTER'S TRAIL GUIDE TO THE EASTERN SECTIONS

Clarion Chapter's section of the North Country Trail begins in the northern end of Clarion County, at the boundary of the Allegheny National Forest. Sections 1, 2 and most of Section 3 follow Baker trail through the Maple Creek area, Clear Creek State Forest Cook Forest State Park. Sections 4-7 travel through Clear Creek State Forest, several State Game Lands and private property.

SECTION 1 – MAPLE CREEK AREA

Trailhead: *Route 66 at Clarion / Forest Counties Line*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 25.150 W 079° 12.622*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.5 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT in Clarion County starts at the trailhead on Route 66 north of the town of Vowinkel, PA and ends at the trailhead on the North End of Forest Drive. Parking is available here on both sides of Route 66. Be careful not to block the gates on the south side of Route 66.

From the trailhead, the NCT follows a gas line. Approximately half a mile down the gas line, the trail veers off into the woods and heads toward the first of two crossings of Maple Creek. A log box is found where the trail enters the woods. It is about a 3/4 of a mile hike from the gas line to the first suspension bridge over Maple Creek. Another 3/4 of a mile hike from Maple Creek, the trail crosses Maple Creek Road (N41° 24.186 W079° 11.733). After crossing Maple Creek Road, the trail winds through the woods just over a 1/2 mile to another suspension bridge over Maple Creek and then Jacks Hollow Road. Here there is a short road walk of just under 1/2 a mile along Jacks Hollow Road

then left on Maple Creek Road. The trail enters the woods again (N41° 23.932 W079° 12.502) and continues on for approximately 1.25 miles through Clear Creek State Forest property. After crossing Greenwood Road, the North End of Forest Drive trailhead is located approximately 900 feet further through the woods.

SECTION 2 – Northern Cook Forest State Park

Trailhead: *North End of Forest Drive*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 23.173 W 079° 13.149*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.7 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the trailhead on the north end of Forest Drive and ends at a the trailhead on the south end of Forest Drive (just before Forest Drive meets with Route 36 above Cooksburgh).

The trail enters into the woods on the west side of Forest Drive. The trail in Cook Forest is very well used and easy to follow and the terrain is relatively flat. Approximately 1 1/2 miles from the trailhead, the trail crosses a bridge over Brown's Run. The trail then follows along Brown's Run for just over half a mile before crossing Toms Run Trail Road (N41° 21.669 W079° 13.980). Another 500 feet after crossing Toms Run Trail Road, the trail crosses Toms Run. The trail continues another 1 1/2 miles, following the hillside just above Toms Run, to the area of the Cook Forest Environmental Center (N41° 20.783 W079° 13.084). If you wish for a short hike of 3.6 miles, you can stop at the Environmental Center. However, from here, the trail goes through the famous Forest Cathedral in Cook Forest for just over a mile, to the South End of Forest Drive trailhead. This extra mile is worth it.

SECTION 3 – Southern Cook Forest State Park

Trailhead: *South End of Forest Drive (1/4 mile of trail from Route 36)*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 20.263 W 079° 12.841*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the South End of Forest Drive trailhead and ends at the Gravel Lick Road trailhead.

This section starts with a piece of trail that connects Forest Drive with Route 36. Take care when crossing Route 36, it can be very busy, especially in the warmer months. After crossing Route 36, the trail ascends the hillside and continues on to the Seneca Point area of Cook Forest. There is an overlook, a fire tower and many side trails in the Seneca Point area. From Seneca Point the trail descends through a hillside completely filled with mountain laurel to the banks of the Clarion River. The trail follows the river to Henry Run. This is a very scenic section of the Clarion River and along this stretch, the hiker gets some nice views of Hemlock Island. At Henry Run (N41° 19.282 W079° 13.620), there is a waterfall created by a dam that was built to run a Clarion River Logging Era sawmill. The trail crosses Henry Run using a cut stone bridge that was once part of the structure. After crossing Henry Run, the NCT leaves Baker Trail. The NCT cuts to the right and up over the hillside, while Baker Trail continues onward down the Clarion River. The trailheads across this hilltop on it's way to Gravel Lick Road. Scurry Overlook, with a nice view of the Gravel Lick area of the Clarion River, is located just before descending to gravel lick road.

SECTION 4 – Gravel Lick Road to Highland Drive

Trailhead: *Gravel Lick Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 19.204 W 079° 14.703*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.7 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the Gravel Lick Road trailhead and ends at the Highland Drive trailhead. There is parking for 2 or 3 cars along Gravel Lick Road where the NCT crosses. Additional parking and an alternate starting spot is located at the top of Thompson Hill.

From the trailhead, the trail leads across a small stream and then follows the side of the hill to a y in the trail (N41° 19.040 W079° 14.631). At the y in the trail is a log box. The North Country Trail goes to the right at this point. From here the trail climbs the very steep Thompson Hill. Almost the whole way to the top of Thompson Hill is a bench with a nice view of the hillside (N41° 19.008 W079° 14.722). At the top of the hill, the trail meets with an old State Game Lands Parking lot (N41° 18.940 W079° 14.746) and then follows a gas company road back down the other side of Thompson Hill and to the banks of a remote section of the National Wild and Scenic Clarion River. As soon as this road reaches the river there are 3 campspots along the Clarion River for use by hikers and canoes (N41° 18.403' W079° 15.143'). After leaving these camping sites, the trail follows this beautiful piece of the Clarion River for just over a mile. A nice bench on a bend in the river offers scenic views of the Clarion River (N41° 18.524 W079° 15.346). Two small streams are also crossed while walking along the river. When leaving the banks of the Clarion River, the trail follows long abandoned lower section of Kline Road to the top of a hillside above the Clarion River. The trail follows this hilltop for a little over a mile before descending to a hollow that angles away from the Clarion River. The trail follows an old logging road up this hollow for a little under a 1/2 mile before cutting

its own path to the top of the hill on the left. Once on top of the hill, the trail follows the hilltop to the Highland Drive trailhead.

SECTION 5 – Highland Drive to Sarvey Mill Road

Trailhead: *Highland Drive*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 17.956 W 079° 16.834*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *3.4 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the Highland Drive trailhead and ends at the Sarvey Mill Road trailhead.

From the Highland Drive trailhead, there is a 7/10 of a mile road walk to the end of Highland Drive. On a section hike, it might be wise to use the parking available where Highland Drive meets Miola Road (N41° 18.454 W079° 17.604). There is enough parking for 2 cars here. At the end of Highland Drive, the trail crosses Miola Road and heads through an area that was once strip mined and replanted with conifers. Then the trailheads to Sawmill Road. Upon reaching Sawmill Road (N41° 18.592 W079° 17.961), turn left and follow the road for about 800 feet. The trailheads back into the woods on the right hand side of the road(N41° 18.466 W079° 18.016). The trailheads for Toby Creek and then the trailhead at Sarvey Mill Road.

SECTION 6 – Sarvey Mill Road to Breniman Road

Trailhead: *Sarvey Mill Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 18.046 W 079° 19.459*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.4 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the Sarvey Mill Road trailhead and ends at the Breniman Road trailhead.

From the Sarvey Mill Road trailhead, the North Country Trail follows along the hillside above Toby Creek for approximately 2 miles to White Oak Drive (N41° 17.149 W079° 20.586). There is enough parking along White Oak Drive to park several cars if a shorter hike is desired. After crossing White Oak Drive, the trail ascends the hillside and continues on across this hillside, descends to and crosses a small stream then follows an old logging road up to Breniman Road. Once on Breniman Road, it is approximately a 1/2 mile road walk along Kinbahne/Breniman Road to the bridge over Toby Creek. The Breniman Road trailhead is another 700 down the road from the bridge.

SECTION 7 – Breniman Road to North Kiser-Wagner Road

Trailhead: *Breniman Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 15.498 W 079° 22.213*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.3 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the Breniman Road trailhead and ends at the Northern Kiser Wagner Road trailhead.

Leaving the trailhead at Breniman Road, the trail follows along the hillside above Toby Creek. After an approximately 1 mile hike, the trail meets with Game Lands Lane (gated Game Commission dirt road) where Game Lands Lane comes across Toby Creek (N41° 15.025 W079° 22.281). The NCT follows game lands lane to the right (do not cross the bridge over Toby Creek). The trail follows Game Lands Lane up and out of the Toby Creek Valley and across the hilltop. After about a mile of traveling on Game Lands

Lane, the trail leaves Game Lands Lane (N41° 15.197 W079° 23.126) to the left. The trail follows along this wide open hilltop and offers some stunning views of the countryside. The trail enters the woods again (N41° 14.652 W079° 23.141) and follows an old gas line to the crossing of Rapp Run, where there is a log box and then continues on to the North Kiser-Wagner Road trailhead.

Trailhead: *North Kiser-Wagner Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 14.391 W 079° 23.866*

There is a road walk of approximately 3/4 mile to the South Kiser-Wagner Road trailhead.

SECTION 8 – South Kiser-Wagner Road to State Game Lands 63

Trailhead: *South Kiser-Wagner Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 14.078 W 079° 24.175*

Distance to next recommended Trailhead: *4.03 Miles*

Trail Description: This section of the NCT starts at the South Kiser-Wagner Road trailhead and ends at the State Game Lands parking lot off of East End Road.

Leaving Kiser-Wagner Road, the trail enters a small strip of woods between Kiser-Wagner Road and State Route 322. The trail mostly follows along a gas pipeline through this section of woods approximately .6 miles to a crossing Route 322 just above the Clarion River bridge. From this crossing, the trail follows behind the guard rails about 500 feet along 322 through a parking area (N 41° 13.605 W 079° 24.341) and back into the woods below B&O and Doe Run Roads. The trail follows old logging roads and along the hillside for approximately 1.2 miles before crossing Doe Run Road at the

bridge with the blue guard rails. The trail crosses the bridge with the blue guard rails and heads back into the woods again. The trail ascends a small hillside from Doe Run Road and follows 1.6 miles through hardwood and conifer forests and open field before meeting up with Myers Road. After crossing Myers Road, the trail continues on another 750 feet to a crossing of State Route 66. This is a very busy section of road and caution should be taken when crossing here. After crossing State Route 66, the trail follows through open field again 375 feet to East End Road. The trail follows along East End Road for approximately 1/3 mile to an unmarked road to the right that leads 800 feet to a State Game Lands parking lot in State Game Lands 63.

Trailhead: *State Game Lands 63 parking lot off of East End Road*

Trailhead Coordinates: *N 41° 12.795 W 079° 26.544*