

Hell's Hollow at McConnell's Mill State Park to CEMEX at Sankey Hill Road



Road Walk From Hell's Hollow to Sankey Hill

This section is a 4.6 mile roadwalk along rural western PA roads and links the certified section at McConnell's Mill State Park and the certified section on the CEMEX property just east of Wampum, PA and the Beaver River. This road walk is blue blazed.

Begin your walk by turning left out of the parking area at Hell's Hollow and follow Shaffer Road .1 of a mile to the stop sign at Center Church Road. Cross over Center Church Rd. and then follow Frew Road as it bears off to the left .1 of a mile past the stop sign (.2 from your starting point at Hell's Hollow). The roadwalk is all uphill for the first .6 of a mile after leaving Hell's Hollow, and thereafter descends and climbs over the next four miles as befitting a rural PA road.

At mile 1.4 from Hell's Hollow PA Route 65 is reached. One-tenth of a mile to the south (left) on Route 65 is a Tic Toc Food Mart convenience store where some prepared food and drinks are available and limited resupply is possible. **Resupply Alert July 2018 – A Dollar General Store, located approximately 150 yards north on Route 65 in the Village of Energy opened in late June, offering resupply options for the long-distance hiker.**

Crossing over PA Rt 65 the road's name changes to become Harmony Baptist Road and it descends (steeply) into and through the small community of Castlewood, PA, and then ascends (steeply) to arrive at Old Pittsburgh Road 1.8 of a mile from Rt. 65 (3.2 miles from Hell's Hollow). Turn right on Old Pittsburgh Road and travel north .6 of a mile until Boyd School Road is encountered coming in from the left. Turn left onto Boyd School Road and travel .2 of a mile until Sankey Hill Road is encountered on the right. Follow a winding Sankey Hill Road .6 of a mile to the trailhead for the next certified section on Cemex property.

CEMEX Property, Sankey Hill Road to River Road

This 4.9 mile, certified, blue-blazed section of trail is on the Cemex Company property. Some notes about this part of the North Country Trail: Although the property is posted by the company as “No Trespassing” Cemex is a very supportive partner and North Country Trail hikers are welcome to walk the trail.

Start your walk at the intersection of Sankey Hill Road and Snake Run Road, where there is a trail sign, a bench put in by a Scout for his Eagle project, and room to park three or four vehicles alongside the road. The trail enters the woods and ascends multiple switchbacks, emerging at the top on the edge of a field.

This mile of NCT was logged in 2019, opening up some great views across the western PA countryside.

Camping Alert - A hiker shelter built by Eagle Scout candidates Sam and Sully Egbert was completed in October of 2019 and is available for hikers to use. The shelter is off the trail .1 of a mile, the access trail is located approximately at mile PA30.6 and is indicated by a Carsonite post with a shelter symbol on it. There is no water source at this shelter so all water needed for an overnight should be carried in.

The pathway traces along a couple of different fields along the top of the hill until it suddenly cuts to the left off an old skid or jeep road. Watch carefully for the blazes in this area so as to not miss the turn to the left. Just after the turn there is a haunted house to your left. Make another sharp left just past the house and continue walking along old forest double track (note the old

mines on the hillside to the right) to eventually reach Fletcher Hill Road, one mile



distant.

Cross Fletcher Hill Road, following the blue blazes up a short incline to the field above. This section of trail runs .8 of a mile to the next road – Snake Run Road – and consists of a field walk, followed by a downhill trek through a grove of crabapple trees and crosses a small, unnamed stream via a simple footbridge. Once across the stream you'll walk across another field, and then descend back down into the woods as the trail curves around a large rock formation. Several small limestone cave entrances can be seen in this area. After crossing another small, unnamed stream, you'll see to the left a lime kiln last used in the 1930's. It was heated by burning coal and used to bake the lime out of the limestone found in the area. Once past the kiln the trail skirts the end of a cornfield, crosses Snake Run on a substantial bridge, and then ascends a switchback up to Snake Run Road. At this point you are 1.8 miles from the trailhead at Sankey Hill Road. There is room to park two or three cars at this point.

The next .6 of a mile is a road walk (to the right, or west) down Snake Run Road in order to bypass a private property inholding in this area. The road walk is blue blazed, with trees on the right side of the road marked. At the .6 of a mile mark the trail reenters Cemex property to the right where there is a North Country Trail sign and bench installed by a local Scout for his Eagle Project. There is room to park a couple of vehicles at this spot.

The trail leads you downward through a small field and back over the run via a bridge, and then goes back into the woods and ascends a hill via switchback. This section is primarily a woods walk although it does utilize an old skid road for a distance once you get above the switchback. The trail cuts off to the left back into the woods off the skid road after a couple of hundred yards -watch closely for the blazes to the left. This section is .8 of a mile and leads you

to Chewton-West Pittsburg Road. There is a trail head sign here and room to park three or four vehicles along the road.

Cross over Chewton-West Pittsburg Road and shortly afterwards you'll utilize a substantial bridge to get across a VERY DEEP gully. After you cross the bridge the trail ascends through the woods and then breaks out into a large field. Much of this half-mile segment is a field walk. This area is an old, reclaimed coal and limestone strip mine.

Tony Dytko Road is reached next, and you are 3.7 miles from your starting point at Sankey Hill Road. Tony Dytko Road receives minimal maintenance, and although there is room to park alongside the road care should be exercised in attempting to drive up there, especially in the winter.

After crossing Tony Dytko Rd. the trail works its way downwards over the next 1.2 miles to River Road and the Beaver River. Along the way you'll pass farm fields that permit a good view westward towards the Beaver River valley and the Wampum area. Parking is very limited along River Road, but the Bevington Boat Launch is .2 of a mile south of the trailhead sign and offers a place to park your vehicle.

River Road to Wampum To Wampum Underground at PA Route 18

This section is a 1.6 mile road walk from the end of the Cemex property at River Road, through Wampum, PA to the next off-road section at the Wampum Underground company at PA Route 18. This entire road walk is blue blazed and for the first .9 of a mile parallels the Beaver River. There is truck traffic all through this area so be cautious while you travel along the roadways.

Upon reaching River Road follow the blazes southwest. Three-tenths of a mile from the River Rd. trailhead you'll bear to the right onto Canal Street, following the lesser-used roadway than River Road (and it is closer to the river). Follow this narrow roadway the next half mile as it loops around and approaches the bridge to cross over the river. Cross on the bridge and at its end you'll be a mile from the Cemex trailhead. To your right is Wampum, with a laundromat and a general grocery-type store (The Store).

Parking is available at the Wampum Depot Train Station, located at the corner of Main St. and State Route 288 (the bridge over the Beaver River).



The North Country Trail goes to the left after crossing the bridge, and then within a tenth of a mile turns right onto Darlington Road. Follow the blue blazes! Cross over two sets of railroad tracks on Darlington Road, and upon reaching PA RT 18 turn to the left and proceed .3 of a mile south. You'll pass under an old concrete bridge at the top of the hill, and shortly afterwards follow the blazes to the left up the driveway to the trailhead of the next off-road section of trail at Wampum Underground.

Wampum, PA Route 18 to PA I376

The four miles of North Country Trail immediately to the west of Wampum is certified, off-road walking, traversing the properties of Wampum Underground, Mines and Meadows ATV Park, PA Game Lands 148, and the Edwards family farm. Please respect the wishes of the private property owners and the Game Commission rules and regulations regarding camping and fires as you travel this section.

Begin your hike by crossing over an old concrete bridge over PA Rt 18, located approximately .3 mile south of the intersection of Darlington Rd. and Rt 18. Access to the bridge is along a private driveway so please don't block the drive when parking. The homeowners are aware of and supportive of the trail and are used to vehicles being left parked on the grass alongside the

driveway. There is room to park five or six cars



here.

Begin your walk by following the blue NCT blazes westward across the bridge and up the grade to the Wampum Underground property. Wampum Underground is in the business of storage, specifically, underground storage mines, and consequently doesn't use the "above ground" on the property, although you will see some evidence of secondary/emergency access points and water drainage systems along your walk. Continue to climb to the bench above this old strip-mined area and follow the trail westward. There is a short, white-blazed spur trail leading off to the left during your climb, taking the hiker to an overlook with a view of the Beaver River valley and the Chewton, PA area. There is also a cleared vista at about the .7 of a mile mark along the NCT allowing a view of PA farm country to the west.

Camping Alert There is a hiker shelter located at approximately mile PA23.9 on Wampum Underground property for use by North Country Trail hikers. There is no potable water available at this shelter so anything needed to overnight at this location should be carried in.

At about the 1 mile mark the trail begins its descent from the bench and at the 1.1 mile mark you'll cross over a small, unnamed creek on a wooden foot bridge. In the spring and during periods of heavy rainfall this bridge is essential as this stream can "roar" and flow out of its banks. A very pleasant spot to take a break in calmer times. About a tenth of a mile further west you'll arrive at a dirt road built and maintained by the Mines and Meadows ATV park. A right turn off the trail at this road will take you back down to the Mines and Meadows campground where parking, water spigots, and Porto Johns are available.

Camping Alert– The owners of Mines and Meadows have given permission for hikers to camp on the hilltop above the bridge (before arriving at the dirt road). This is dispersed, leave no trace camping only with no shelter available. Below the hill (and down the dirt road) is M&M's campground for their ATVing and Cycling customers, built with RV's in mind. There is water, electric, and Port O Johns available here. Call the Mines and Meadows office in advance of your stay to make a reservation to stay in their campground

with facilities. They will also be able to tell you the cost to obtain a site for the night. To clarify – No charge for the dispersed camping atop the hill in the woods and there is a charge (and registration required) to stay in the RV campground. Mines and Meadows phone number is 724 535 6026 or more information here <http://www.minesandmeadows.com/>

Cross over the Mines and Meadows dirt road and continue to follow the North Country Trail blue blazes through the woods in the ATV park. The owners of the park are supporters of the trail and do their best to discourage riders from taking unauthorized detours onto the pathway. Recently, barriers were installed at various points on the North Country Trail in this area in an attempt to further discourage riders from leaving the official ATV trails. The trail traverses Mines and Meadows for about .4 mile until PA Gamelands 148 is reached.

Crossing into Gamelands 148 you begin an ascent, following the blue blazes, up an old abandoned (and usually muddy) two-track through the woods. Achieving the top of this hill you'll pass Game Commission feed plots as you follow a maintained two-track, down, down, down a large hill and then back up the other side of the small valley. After climbing to the top of this elevation, a slight downward grade along the Game Commission two-track will lead you to the Possum Hollow Road trailhead where there is a maintained parking area and room for a good number of vehicles. The distance from Possum Hollow road from your starting point at PA Rt 18 is 3.2 miles.

After crossing Possum Hollow Road the trail reenters the woods on Game Commission property along a single-track trail for .4 of a mile, skirting farm fields as it traces through the woods. When the trail reaches Wampum-New Galilee Rd. follow the blue blazes to the right for about one hundred yards along the road until the trail jogs back off to the left into the woods on the Edwards Family farm.

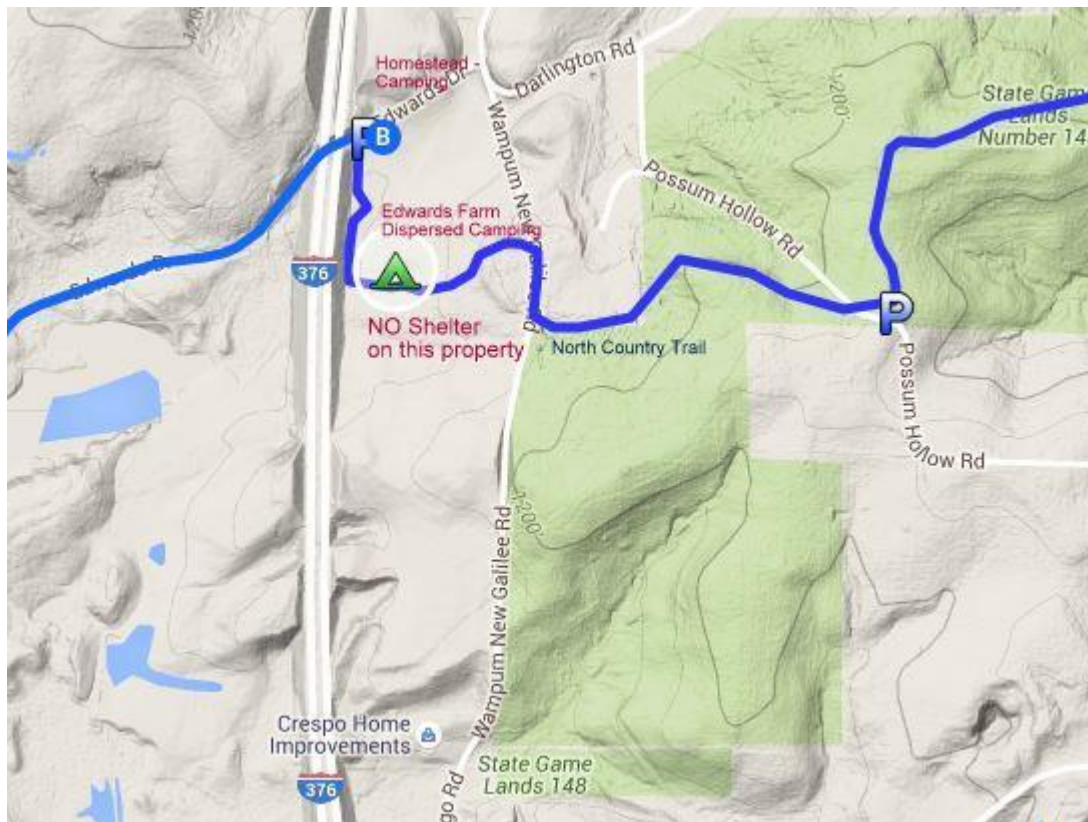


Follow the blazes off the road into the woods. The North Country Trail exits the wooded area after a short distance and skirts the

edge of a cornfield, then reentering the woods for the final half of a mile, leading you downward to the intersection of Edwards Road and I376. Your distance from the starting point at PA Rt 18 is 4.3 miles. There is room to park four or five cars at the Edwards Road Trailhead. This is the end of this off-road, certified segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail, and a road walk will now lead you to Darlington, PA and the next off-road segment of NCT.

Camping Alert - Edwards Family Farm – The Edwards Family has granted permission for hikers to camp on their property. There is NO hiker shelter on the property, but there are a couple of different options available here for people who want to overnight: #1 Dispersed camping (Leave No Trace) is possible in the woods beside the farmed field on the south side of Edwards Rd. The adjoining property owner has been consulted and if hikers stay down near the bottom of the farm (near I376) they are comfortable with this. There is no natural water source available at the farm so hikers should plan to arrive with what they need for overnight and the morning.

#2 Hikers are welcome to camp in the yard of the Edwards Family home on the north side of Edwards Rd. across from the farmed field. Advance notice is appreciated. Send an email to wam@northcountrytrail.org informing us of your plan and we'll contact the Edwards so that arrangements can be planned.



Road Walk Segment – Edwards Rd. to PA Route 168

The North Country Trail leaves the Edwards farm at the point where I376 crosses over Edwards Road four miles west of Wampum, PA. There is no access to I376 at this point. Upon leaving the Edwards property turn left onto Edwards Road and pass under the I376 bridge. At the .8 mile mark there is a stop sign at which you will turn right and continue along Edwards Road. At .7 of a mile past the stop sign (1.5 cumulative from the Edwards Farm trail head) you will reach the intersection of Edwards Road and Britton School Road. Turn right onto Britton School Road and proceed up the hill between two HUGE farm fields. There is nothing to blaze along this stretch of road – so have faith – following this road past Yost Farms .9 miles to its intersection with PA168.

Upon arrival at Route 168 turn left onto PA 168 and follow the road walk .1 mile over the bridge at the PA Turnpike – passing the Indian Run Dairy Farm barn on the left and the NCT parking area provided by the McCready Family on the right. There is room for 10 to 12 cars at this parking area.

The next off-road segment of trail starts below Route 168 to the right, through a break in the guardrail and down a gravel driveway.



Off Road PA 168 to Scott Wallace Road – Enon Valley Route

The next 2.5 miles of North Country Trail is off-road and generally parallels the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek, at first quite close as the space between the turnpike and the creek is narrow, but then the pathway moves to higher ground as the route moves away from the road, before returning to the creek near its western trailhead.



There are fifteen different major bridges (and two bog bridges) on this stretch of trail, each one of a different design and construction, all built by the Wampum volunteers in 2019 and 2020. We appreciate the Lawrence County Commissioners and REI Pittsburgh, as well as our seven private landowners for their support on this project.

Camping Alert! Permission for a shelter along this route (PA Mile 16.7) was revoked by the landowner and the shelter has been removed. It still shows on the official NCTA ArcGIS map as of August of 2021. There is no hiker shelter at this location.

This off-road section of trail ends at Scott Wallace Rd. and the trail route description is continued on the Beaver County Trail Guide.