

[Trail Adopter Basics](#) from [North Country Trail](#) on [Vimeo](#).



National Park Service Trail Safe Program

<https://www.nps.gov/noco/trail-safe.htm>

The Wampum Chapter currently has sections of the NCT available in both Lawrence and Beaver counties available.

Guidelines for those adopting sections of the NCT (Wampum Chapter) for maintenance from April through September:

Volunteers who adopt sections of the North Country Trail typically make a minimum of four trips to their trail section annually.

In the spring, volunteers walk their section to assess how the trail fared over the winter, clear downed trees, inspect signs, and report any significant problems (e.g. hazard trees, flooded spots, ATV incursions, etc) to Deb Charleson at dlcharleson@yahoo.com.

In summer volunteers are asked to walk their trail sections at least once in June – July – and August to:

- **Remove fallen branches, limbs and debris on the trail.**
- **Mow trail sections that can simply be cleared using weed trimmers (either your own or those provided by the Wampum Chapter). Remember “four feet wide and six feet high”.**
- **Prune back any shrub or branch growth that impinges on the “4×6” rule.**
- **You do not need to remove large downed trees. This will be scheduled as a Chapter work day. Simply inform Deb and Dave Brewer – Chapter Work Coordinator – will be informed.**

Finally, volunteers are asked to walk the trail one last time in the fall after hunting season to cut back trailside vegetation and check on overall conditions.

This information will help us maintain the trails the Wampum Chapter is responsible for keeping clear:

- 1. Walk your trail sections regularly and report any major problems with your section**
- 2. After you’ve done some clearing – contact Deb Charleson and let her know when and where you’ve cleared the trail. We’ll keep a running log so we can schedule work dates appropriately.**
- 3. To be sure the trails are walkable – if Deb has not heard from a trail adopter at least once a month – she will connect with you to see if we need to put your trail section on a work schedule.**

Send feedback to: Deb Charleson dlcharleson@yahoo.com

No prior trail maintenance experience is necessary and volunteers need to sign a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service. This agreement insures that volunteers are covered by the federal government if they are injured while volunteering on the trail. People do not need to be NCTA members to volunteer.

Another link –

https://northcountrytrail.org/docs/resources_docs/Adopter_handbook.pdf

If you are interested in caring for a mile or two (or more!) of our off-road treadway please contact us at wam@northcountrytrail.org.

If you'd like to be added to our email list to be notified of chapter work days please let us know. All help is appreciated on our group projects and no experience is necessary. We are all volunteers in this endeavor, out to enjoy our time in the woods.

