For everyone's enjoyment & to preserve the trails, thank you for following basic trail ethics:

- **Pack out what you pack in & dispose of waste properly. Take only photos, leave only footprints.**
- **Only camp in authorized areas & minimize campfire impacts.**
- **Respect wildlife & wear hunters orange during local hunting seasons (michigan.gov/dnr).**
- **Not all parking areas are accessible during winter due to snow, plan accordingly for safe trail access.**
- **Stay on the trail, includes walking through mud & water to limit excessive erosion.**

Read more leave no trace principles at lnt.org

FOLLOW THE BLUE BLAZES!

Turn Left | Continue | Turn Right

Trailheads & Access

13- Muncie Lakes (TH)
14- Supply Road (TH)
15- Broomhead Rd (TA)
16- Guernsey Lake SFC (TH)
17- S River Rd (TA)
18- US 131 TH and Boardwalk (TH)
19- Village of KA Municipal Lot (TH)
20- Log Lake Campground (TA)
21- Pickerel Lake SFC (TH)
22- Starvation Lk Rd /ORV lot (TH)
23- Sand Lake (TA), JV45 Chapter

Download the NCT hiking maps for this region!

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL HIKE 100 2025

Hike 100 Challenge

Be sure to log your challenge miles! More information on each challenge can be found at the following links.

NCTA Hike 100 Challenge:
northcountrytrail.org/hike-100-challenge/

GTC *Challenge log:*
northcountrytrail.org/trail/michigan/gtc/

Trailheads & Access

1- Hodenpyl Dam (TA)
2- Northern Exposure CG Exit
3- Fletcher Creek/ M-115 (TA)
4- No. 12-No. 15 Parking (TA)
5- Harvey Bridge (TA)
6- Highbanks Rollway (TH)
7- Baxter Bridge SFC (TA)
8- Townline Rd Parking (TA)
9- Old US-131 SFC (TH)
10- US-131 Roadside Park (TH)
11- Spring Lake SFC (TH)
12- M-186 (TA)

Legend: Parking, Camping, NCT, NCT (on-road), Spurs/Nearby Trails
0 2.5 5 Miles
Updated:4/12/2021 NCTA

Trail Towns

Fife Lake

Fife Lake is an authentic Northern Michigan village in the Lower Peninsula located a thirty-minute drive south of Traverse City. Be sure to check out the famous "Fife Lake Loop" for a perfect weekend hike in the area. Learn more at www.fifelakechamber.org





Kalkaska

Kalkaska is a quaint town in the heart of the Northwest Michigan's Lower Peninsula. A new trailhead on US131 now brings the trail through the heart of downtown! Be sure to stop and visit "the big trout" on your hike. Learn more at: www.explorekalkaska.com

Your Adventure Starts Nearby.

north country trail ASSOCIATION

About Our Chapter

Our chapter began with a tight knit group of volunteers in 1994. Through their hard work and enthusiasm, the club continued to grow. Today the club boasts over 200 members & diligently maintains 107 miles of trail!

Working from south to north, our trail begins at the Trail Access on Hodenpyl Dam Road, Southwest of Mesick and travels along the shores of lakes, rivers, and trout streams for much of its length. If you start at the Hodenpyl Dam Access trailhead and head north, you can hike 41 miles with scenic views of the Manistee River.

Along the way you can hike a short spur trail to visit the Trail Town of Fife Lake and complete the 20-mile Fife Lake Loop. From there head into Sand Lakes Quiet Area and Guernsey Lake SFC before walking through downtown Kalkaska (a Trail Town). After town you'll see a variety of woods and small lakes. A quick walk through mature hardwood forest will bring you to the our Northern boundary at Starvation Lake Road.



north country trail ASSOCIATION

GRAND TRAVERSE CHAPTER



Welcome to Northern Lower Michigan! Enjoy the North Country National Scenic Trail through beautiful Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Wexford, and Manistee Counties.

For more chapter information visit: northcountrytrail.org/trail/michigan/gtc/

@GTHikers

Your Adventure Starts Nearby.

north country trail ASSOCIATION

August 2026





Membership

Love hiking? Join the Grand Traverse Chapter and help maintain and preserve the North Country Trail! If you enjoy exploring the outdoors and want to make a positive impact, we'd love for you to be part of our community. By joining, you can help ensure that this beautiful trail is maintained for generations to come. Simply visit www.northcountrytrail.org and choose "Grand Traverse Chapter" when prompted to declare your allegiance.

We meet monthly in the cooler 'off-season' months at the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Rd in Traverse City, MI. Most of the year, we gather to share exciting trail news, swap hiking stories, and hear from guest speakers who teach us something cool about nature. In the summer, we take a break to enjoy the hiking season ourselves!

Contact our Local Chapter Today!

- Email: gtc@northcountrytrail.org
- Meet Up: www.meetup.com/grand-traverse-chapter-north-country-trail-association/
- Facebook: @GTHikers

About the Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is protected through legislation that Congress passed in 1980 and is part of the National Park System. In 1980 the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) was founded and they work to protect and maintain over 4,600 miles of trail across 8 states from North Dakota to Vermont.

One of the best things about the NCT is that whether you're hiking a few miles, or planning a longer backpacking trip, the trail has so many different landscapes to offer. Learn more about the NCT & find trail updates at www.northcountrytrail.org



Trails Connecting to NCT

Fife Lake Loop:

This 21-mile loop provides scenic views of the Manistee River and the forests it runs through. Hikers can enjoy the two state forest campgrounds (SFC) on the loop as well as the amenities in the Trail Town of Fife Lake. Trail head parking: M-186, US131 Manistee River Roadside Park, Spring Lake SFCG, Old US131 SFCG.

Just a couple of other great trails nearby:

- Vasa Pathway: traversetrails.org
- Boardman River Trail : www.traversetrails.org



Hike 100 Challenges

Need an excuse to get out on the trail? Sign up for the Hike 100 Challenges!

NCTA Hike 100

Each year the NCTA issues a call to hikers to complete this challenge for a special patch and certificate of completion. It's straightforward really. Hike 100 miles on the trail in any of the 8 states. They can be unique miles or the same mile over and over. Visit northcountrytrail.org/hike-100-challenge/ to learn more.

GTC Hike 100

Our club has taken this one step further by issuing the challenge to hike all of our club's 100 miles! You can hike your own hike (North to South, South to North, or skip around), just be sure to track and submit your log to our club email to record your accomplishment. NCTA Members who complete the challenge will get a car decal and their name on the Chapter plaque that's displayed at the Boardman River Nature Center.

Find more information & GTC Hike 100 log sheet at https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/michigan/gtc/

