

The North Country Trail Association maintains the NCT in cooperation with the National Park Service. The NCT connects more than 160 public land units—including national forests, national wildlife refuges, state parks and state historic areas, as well as private land. Volunteers are the key element of the NCT. Without them the NCT cannot be built or managed as it is today. On the trail, volunteers build, relocate, and design trails, build and repair trail structures, become a trail maintenance activities, become a trail adopter, organize events or lead hikes. You can join the NCTA, affiliate with our chapter, and support our work for \$40/year at <http://www.northcountrytrail.org>. You will get email information on upcoming chapter activities, and the NCTA magazine, 3/2022

O'Brien Pond Boardwalk Team



Join Us!

We are the volunteer group who build, maintain, nurture and promote our 78 mile NCT trail section between Starvation Lake Rd. near Mancelona, and Kipp Rd. near Harbor Springs. We have regular meetings, group hikes, projects and other volunteer opportunities. We are always looking for folks to join us who enjoy the outdoors and want to help advance the NCT while having a good time.

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter North Country Trail Association

Starting from Deadman's Hill, the JVP is popular as a weekend backpacking destination featuring a quiet overnight opportunity, where Pinney Bridge State Forest Campground, where potable water and vault toilets are available in season. Campers must register and pay a fee. Dispersed camping is prohibited between Alba Highway and M32. Wheeled vehicles are prohibited on Jordan Valley trails.

The trail passes numerous springs, streams, and creeks that are all great sources for clear and cold water, however, filtering is a necessity. Potable water and restrooms are available near the trail at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, which is well worth a visit (reached by Jordan River Rd. from trail crossing at "Three Tubes").

The NCT also uses half of the Warner Creek Pathway loop, a popular dayhike and cross-country skiing site with parking on M32.

Between the Jordan Valley and Petoskey the trail is hilly, high and dry, amid old growth forest. There are a few road sections, with awesome vistas. North of Petoskey, the Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center and the Oden State Fish Hatchery are also a nearby attraction.

Landslide Overlook



The jewel of this section is the pristine Jordan Valley with its clear, cold spring-fed streams forming the Jordan River—part of which has been nominated as a State Natural Area. The Jordan is also the first river to be designated in Michigan's Natural Rivers Program. The NCT follows 2/3 of the Jordan Valley Pathway (JVP), a 19 mile DNR loop trail.

Jordan Valley Pathway

The U.S. Congress authorized the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) in 1980 and entrusted its development to a partnership of the National Park Service and volunteer organizations. The NCT is a hiking and backpacking trail that starts in Vermont and travels through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, ending in North Dakota. With 3,200 miles of off-road trail, and over 4800 miles when complete, the NCT is America's longest National Scenic Trail.



The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter's segment of trail through Michigan's Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties is 78 miles long. The trail winds its way through rolling hills and valleys through both State managed forests and private lands. The wetlands and the hilly vistas are a contrast in variety. The trail is marked with blue 2" x 6" rectangular blazes, usually located on trees, but sometimes on rocks or posts. Two blazes signify a turn, with the upper blaze indicating the direction. Certified sections are also marked with the NCT triangle logo.



leaving into Wisconsin at Ironwood. The Michigan "Iron Belle Trail" uses the NCT for its hiking route from Albion to Ironwood. The 4,800 mile long NCT crosses the 45th parallel just once—in the majestic Jordan Valley.

Michigan has the longest section of the NCT, at 1,150+ miles, entering from NW Ohio and



The North Country Trail

The North Country Trail



O'Brien Pond

Through ANTRIM, CHARLEVOIX, EMMET Counties, Michigan



JORDAN VALLEY 45° CHAPTER
www.northcountrytrail.org/j45

National Park Service, NCNST
www.nps.gov/noco
www.tinyurl.com/jv45fb



Petoskey Trail Town

As an NCTA "Trail Town", the City of Petoskey supports hiker services and promotes the trail locally as a resource to be protected and celebrated.



The NCT leverages the Petoskey River Road Sports Park, the North Central Michigan College (NCMC) Natural Area, the Petoskey Bear River Recreation Area, and the Little Traverse Wheelway for a scenic route without urban clutter, but access to services.



Petoskey Bear River Bridge

In 2021 we completed a long-awaited trail reroute south of Petoskey, that utilizes a new footbridge crossing the Bear River, and accesses the Petoskey River Road Sports Park.



Trail Ethics – Leave No Trace

For everyone's enjoyment and to preserve the trails, we need to follow basic trail ethics:

- ❖ Please remember to pack out what you pack in. Dispose of waste properly.
- ❖ Relieve yourself at least 200 feet from the trail, campsite or any water course, in a hole 6 to 8 inches deep, then fill in the hole.
- ❖ Camp in authorized areas. Dispersed camping is not allowed between Alba Highway and M-32. Within this special management area camping is only allowed at Pinney Bridge State Forest campground. Dispersed camping is allowed elsewhere on state land with a free permit. Do not camp where the NCT crosses private land.
- ❖ Know the rules for camp fires. Keep fires small. Use fire rings if available. Use only dead wood—do not cut any live trees. Don't burn trash. Put all fires out with water.
- ❖ Please leave flowers, rocks etc. in place for the next person to enjoy.
- ❖ Stay on the trail—do not make a new path though you may have to walk through mud.

These practices help preserve our precious resources so others can enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

<http://www.lnt.org>

In Appreciation

Arden Johnson (1922—2002)

The development of the NCT in this section is largely the work of Arden Johnson.



Through his dedication and hard work we have a trail to follow that takes us away from the busyness of our everyday lives and into nature where things march to a different drummer.

Register Boxes...With a logbook to write your comments or concerns.



Petoskey Bear River Valley Rec Area
 • Parking: Quaintance Av. off W. Lake St.
 • Restrooms (seasonal)
 • Shelter/Picnic Areas

North Central Michigan College
 • Restrooms at SCRC
 • College Natural Area
 • Loop Trails

Spring Lake Park
 • Restrooms
 • Wetland/Boardwalk

Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center & Oden State Fish Hatchery
 • Restrooms (Seasonal)
 • Exhibits indoor/outdoor
 • Hatchery Exhibit

0 500 1,000 Feet

- Parking
- Camping
- NCT
- NCT (on-road)
- Other Trails
- Trail Mileage Indicator

Reroute Here in 2023?

Add this free map to your smartphone. Track your location w/the "PDFMaps" app.: <http://avenza.com/pdf-maps>



Jordan Valley Pathway
Warner Creek Pathway
 Dispersed camping prohibited

Valley roads may require high clearance or 4WD when muddy.

DNR "You Are Here" Map Signs: 10

See Inset

Warner Creek Pathway

Jordan Valley Pathway Loop

Mancelona

Sand Lake
 • Pit Toilet at the ORV Lot at Mancelona Road
 • Beach

0 1 2 Miles

Pinney Bridge SF Campground
 • Rustic Campsites (fee)
 • Pit Toilet
 • Hand Pump (Seasonal)

Jordan River Nat. Fish Hatchery
 • Modern Restrooms (24 Hr)
 • Hatchery Exhibit
 • Shelter/Picnic Area (Trail access from 3 Tubes)

Pinney Bridge Rd
 • No Overnight Parking

Landslide Overlook
 • Pit Toilet
 • Viewpoint
 • No Overnight Parking

0 0.5 1 Miles

North Country National Scenic Trail Jordan Valley 45° Chapter

TRAILHEADS (N->S)

Kipp Road

Parking ¼ mile N of Hathaway Road

Spring Lake Park

Off M-119 ½ mile N of US-31, across from Top of Michigan Trails Council HQ

Petoskey Bear River Rec Area

Off Lake St. on Quaintance Av., off Sheridan St., and at Riverbend Park off Standish Av.

North Central Michigan College

Parking in front of Student and Community Resource Center (SCRC) at end of Howard St.

Petoskey River Road Sports Park

Parking at end of access drive.

Krause Road (Skyline Trail)

Parking 1 mile S of Brubaker Rd.

Slashing Road

At Thumb Lake Rd., pull off

Warner Creek Pathway

Parking off M-32, 2 miles W of US-131

Deadman's Hill Road

Parking for the lookout, trail descends ½ mile into valley to intersect with NCT

Pinney Bridge

Parking area on Pinney Bridge Rd.

Landslide Overlook

Parking at the N end of Harvey Rd., turn N off Alba Hwy ½ mile W of Alba/US-131

Sand Lake

Take Sand Lake Rd. at ORV lot, keep R to stay on Sand Lake Rd. to end. Spur trail E to NCT.