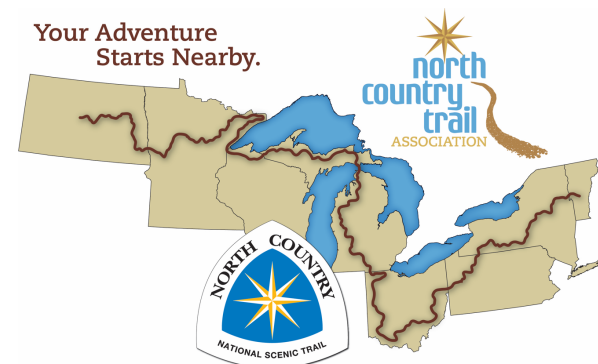


# Five Notable Hikes on the North Country National Scenic Trail In New York State



**The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST)** spans 4700 miles across eight states from Vermont to North Dakota. New York State hosts about 700 miles of the NCNST. You are invited to explore five hikes that showcase some of the outstanding scenery one can experience walking on the NCNST in New York State. The NCNST is concurrent with the Finger Lakes Trail for 422 miles

You can earn a patch by hiking the FLT Hike 50  
And/or the NCTA Hike 100.



## Featured hikes on the NCNST in New York State from west to east:

- \* Rock City (Salamanca/Ellicottville)
- \* Mitchellsville Gorge (Hammondsport)
- \* Tinker Falls/Jones Hill (Fabius)
- \* Stone Quarry Hill Art Park (Cazenovia)
- \* Puffer Pond (North Creek/Indian Lake)

## **Practice Safe, Responsible Trail Etiquette**

*Follow the below tips to ensure New York State trails remain beautiful and accessible for everyone for years to come.*

1. Plan ahead and prepare: weather, clothing, maps, difficulty level, terrain, regulations.
2. Please stay on the trail and respect both public and private property.
3. Leave nothing behind, pack it out, even biodegradables.
4. Take pictures, leave only footprints. Do not pick up souvenirs along the trail.
5. Be respectful of others on the trail, as well as wildlife and plants along the trail.
6. Please have dogs on leash.

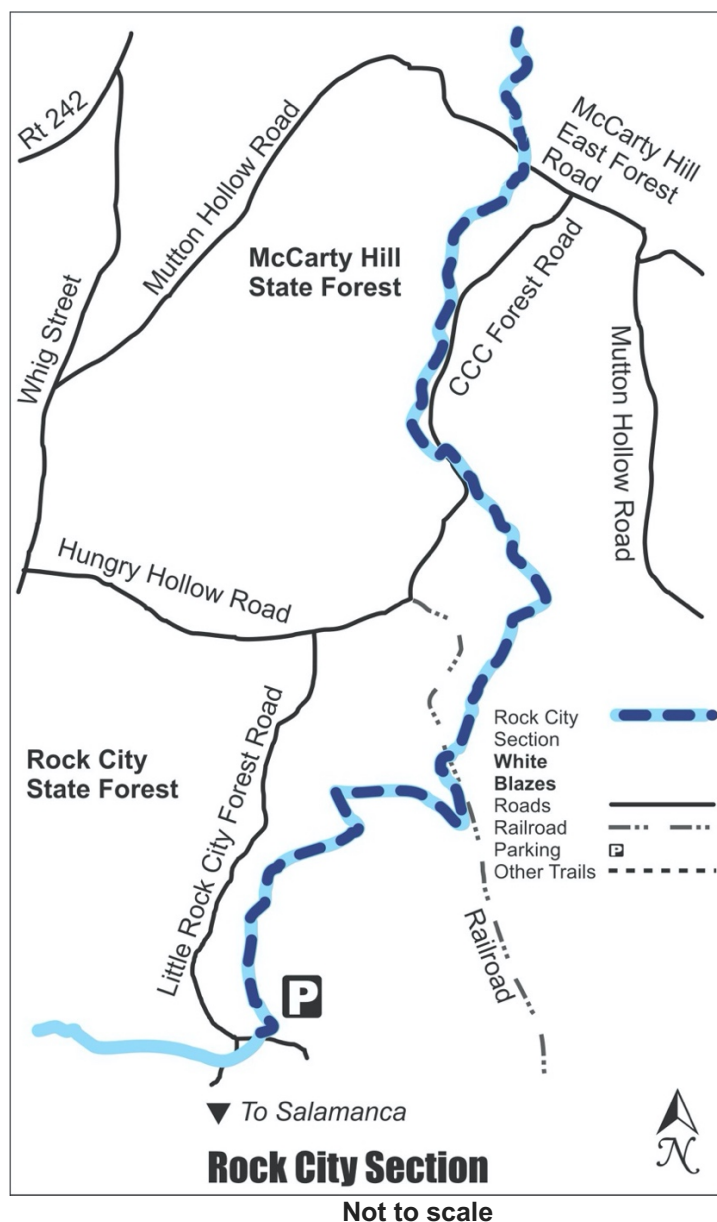
For the “Seven Leave No Trace Principles” check <https://Int.org/why/7-principles>

Document your hiking accomplishments with patches.

NCTA 100 mile Challenge  
<https://northcountrytrail.org/hike-100-challenge/>

Finger Lakes 50  
<https://fingerlakestrail.org/whats-happening/hiking-programs/flt50-2/>





## Little Rock City

**Trailhead/Locations:** (W to E) Little Rock City Rd., Hungry Hollow Rd., Mutton Hollow Rd. This area lies between NY routes 219, 242, and 353. Take I-86 to Salamanca, then NY 353 north towards Little Valley; turn right on Whig St, turn right on Hungry Hollow Rd., turn right on Little Rock City Rd., proceed to cul-du-sac at the end.

**Coordinates:** N 42.20833°/ W-78.70833°

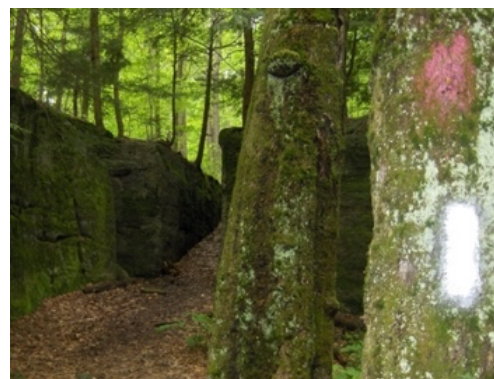
2011 De Lorme p.86

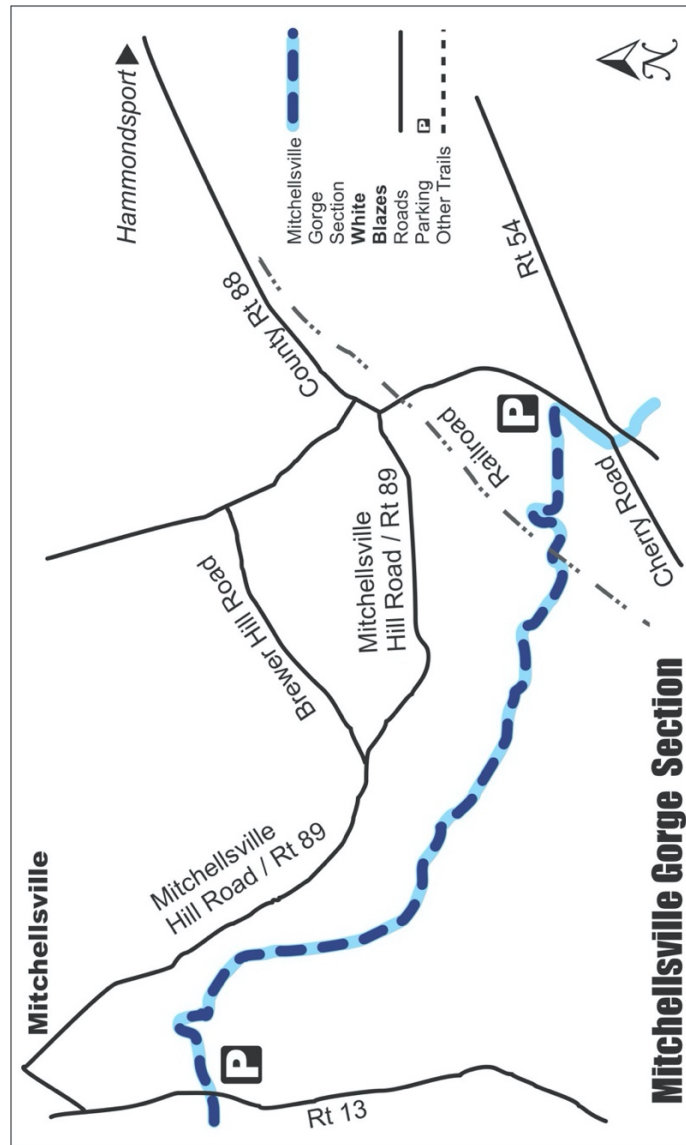
**Hike Distance:** 2.6 miles from parking on Little Rock City Rd. to Hungry Hollow Rd. (5.2 miles round trip and 3 miles from Hungry Hollow Rd. to Mutton Hollow Rd. at Radio Tower (11.2 miles round trip)

**Elevation Gain:** max. 530 ft.(up and down from 2220 ft. to 1790 ft. to 2320 ft.)

**Description:** Take a walk through deep time amid the gigantic moss-covered boulders of Little Rock City, on the NCNST through Rock City and McCartney Hill State Forests. This NCNST section is concurrent with the main trunk Finger Lakes Trail, so follow the *white blazes*.

370 million years ago, this area in the southwest corner of New York between Ellicottville and Salamanca was on the shore of a sea whose currents deposited pebbles and stones (conglomerate) which, over eons of time, was pressed into rock that, beginning 290 million years ago, began to break apart as the area was uplifted by plate tectonics. The exposed conglomerate cracked along seemingly straight lines (joints), creating a magical labyrinth of pathways among the towering rocks. From the parking lot on Little Rock City Rd., the NCNST takes you north through this enchanting "city of stone" to Hungry Hollow Rd. (2.6 mi.) and then on to Mutton Hollow Rd. (5.6 mi.), passing a FLT Passport Hike rubbing station along the way. The rocks have been called alluring; the experience has been called serene.





Not to scale

## Mitchellsville Gorge

**Trailhead/location:** Pleasant Valley, just south of Hammondsport, Steuben County Route 88 parking area, west side of road, near Finger Lakes Trail road sign.

**Coordinates:** N 42.39071° / W-77.25911°

2011 DeLorme p.74

**Hike Distance:** From CR 88 to CR 13, 2.4 mi. one way; 4.8 miles round trip.

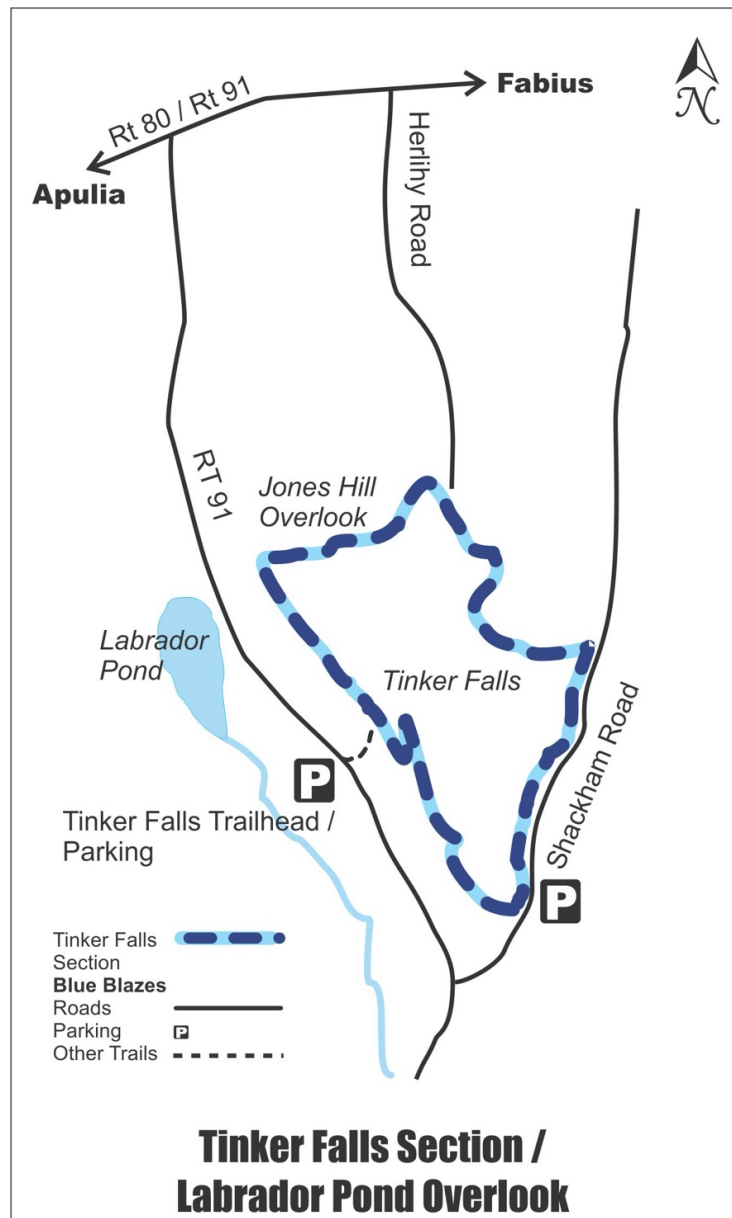
**Elevation Gain:** 580 ft. (820-1400 ft.)

This section of the NCNST is concurrent with the main trunk Finger Lakes Trail, so follow the *white* painted blazes. Be sure to scrape your boots at a newly installed boot brush station to reduce the impact of non-native species. The trail here is on private lands, so please stay on the trail. Start by hiking west across the valley floor, past the vineyards to the footbridge across the Keuka Inlet, cross the tracks, and begin the climb up the gorge. The trail ascends above Mitchellsville Creek through a lovely Eastern Hemlock forest. Shortly before you come to an open field, you'll pass a rubbing station for the FLT's Passport hiking program.

Do not approach the edge of gorge rim which has become unstable. When you come to the open field, follow the trail markers along the right-hand edge. Continue following the blazes, crossing the private road that heads down to the creek and continue your ascent to the plateau, climb over the stile (or pass by the fence), and cross the field to CR 13. At this point, you can turn around and retrace your steps back to your car, 4.8 mi. round trip total. If you parked another car on CR 13, you could take a short jaunt north to the crossroads of Mitchellsville, then take a sharp right turn onto CR 89 (Mitchellsville Hill Rd.) and descend down to Pleasant Valley, then left (north) on CR 88 and head into Hammondsport where you can find excellent restaurants, fine Finger Lakes wines, and a microbrewery or two. The area is also famous for its vineyards and a first-class museum dedicated to Glenn Curtiss, an early aviation pioneer who flew the first seaplane (on Keuka Lake) and whose Curtiss JN-4D "Jenny" trained hundreds of WWI pilots.







## Tinker Falls and Labrador Pond Overlook

**Trailhead/Location** Parking is on the shoulder of Shackham Rd., off Route 91, south of Route 80 between villages of Tully and Fabius

**Coordinates:** N 42.76970° / W -76.01923°

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**Hike Distance:** 5.6 miles round trip with longer 7.6 miles and shorter 3.5 mile options

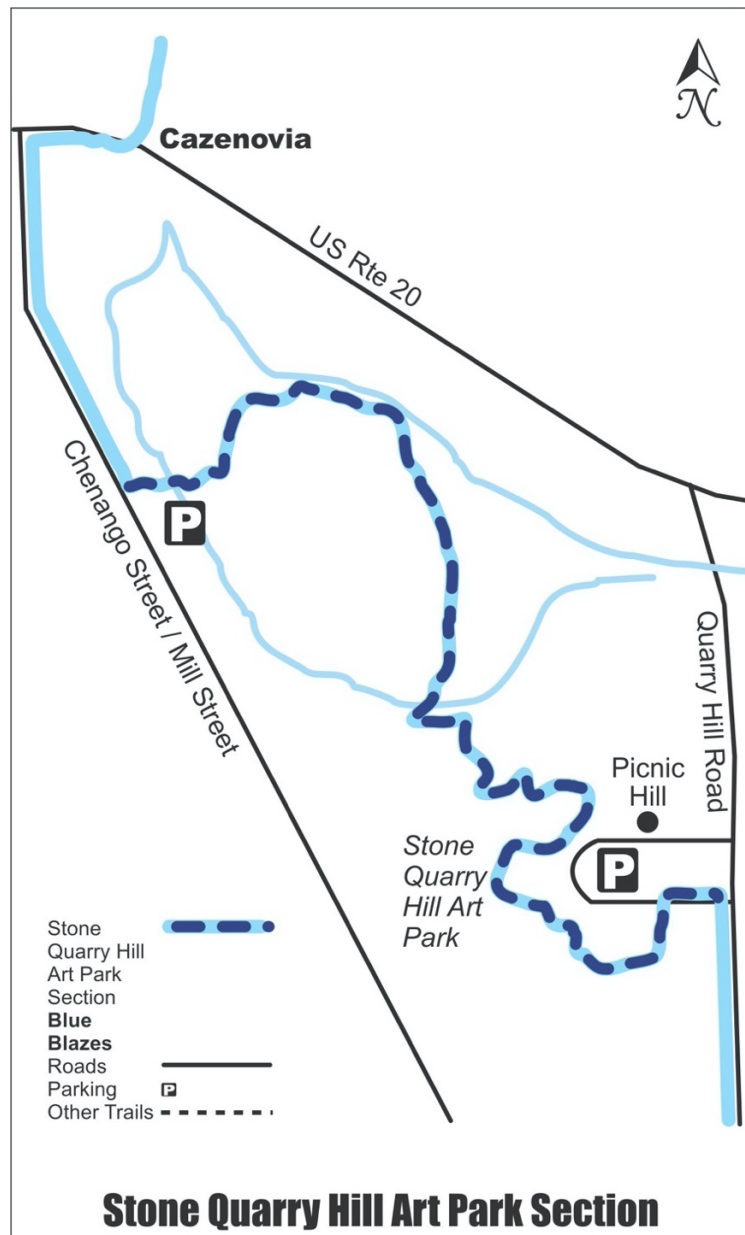
**Elevation Gain:** 560 ft. (1350-1920 ft.)

This is part of the NCNST/FLT Onondaga Branch section. Hike slightly uphill in a mature, mixed deciduous-coniferous forest as part of Morgan Hill State Forest and Labrador Hollow Unique Area. Follow the NCNST blue markers up to and along the ridge. From ridge drop down wooden stairs to the top of Tinker Falls. Take care crossing the stream and along the top.

Continue on the blue marked trail up above the falls crossing an old road several times until arriving at a spectacular view of the falls. Water drops ~ 50 feet and can be best viewed from the bottom. Labrador Pond 720 ft. below. This area is referred to as Hang Glider's Leap (~1920 ft.) and is very near the summit of Jones Hill. This kettle pond was formed by a chunk of ice left by the glacier that carved out the valley below.

At this point you have 3 choices all of which are mostly downhill. You can turn around and retrace your steps back to your car, 5.6 mi. RT total. If you parked another car on Route 91, Tinker Falls Trailhead parking, you could turn around and follow the orange marked access trail down to Rt 91 for a total of 3.5 mi. and a great view of the falls from below. A third and longer choice is a loop. Continue on by making a sharp U turn and hike to Spruce Pond (mile 4.1 ) you will pass a rubbing station for the FLT's Passport hiking program along the way. Continue to Shackham Road 1.5 mi. north of your car. After the road walk south you will have completed a 7.6 mi. loop.





## Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia

**Trailheads/Location:** Parking is available at both ends. The trailhead on Chenango Street (Mill Street) is easy to miss but is just 0.6 mi. south of Albany Street (Route 20), on the left, before you reach Old Farms Road. At the Art Park, if you drive up the entrance road and past the cluster of buildings, the parking lot is directly ahead. At the southwest corner of the parking lot, a gravel path heading roughly west for 30 yards takes you to the trail, marked by a 4 x 4 post. Continue straight ahead to hike north (towards Chenango Street), turn left to hike south. Both ends of this hike, and indeed the entire hike segment, show up very well on Google Maps' satellite view.

**Coordinates:** Chenango Street parking: N 42.92147° / W -75.84937°

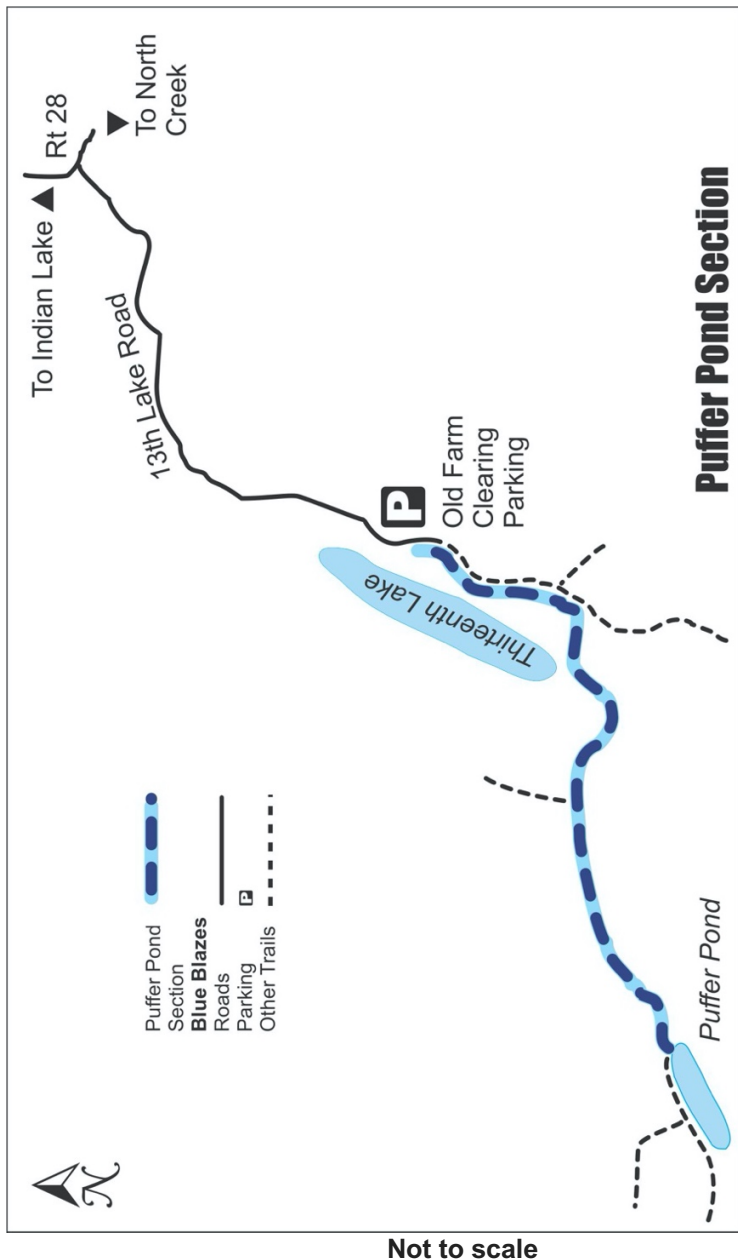
**2011 Delorme:** p. 61

**Hike Distance:** 4 miles round trip

**Elevation Gain:** 373 ft. (1227 to 1600 ft.), Chenango Street to SQH Art Park

Follow the North Country Trail blue blazes. From Chenango Street you hike through a wetland and grove of mixed hemlocks and hardwoods, along hedgerows, across two bridged streams, up through the woods and along the edge of the Art Park. Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, which has its own network of walking trails, boasts great views of the surrounding countryside as well as an eclectic collection of outdoor art pieces. A side hike through the Secret Garden and up to the top of Picnic Hill offers scenic views of Cazenovia and Oneida Lakes. If Art Park staff is present you may be able to obtain their brochure and map. The Art Park appreciates donations.





## Puffer Pond

**Trailhead/Location:** Central Adirondacks/Siamese Ponds Wilderness. From Route 28 in the hamlet of North River, New York, drive south on Thirteenth Lake Road about 5 miles to the Old Farm Clearing parking lot.

**Coordinates:** N 43.70066°/ W- 74.1168°

**2011 DeLorme p .37**

**Hike Distance:** 11 mles round trip

**Elevation Gain:** 500 ft. (1750-2250 ft.)

Plan an early start. Hike 1.5 miles south of the Old Farm Clearing parking lot to the NCNST junction.

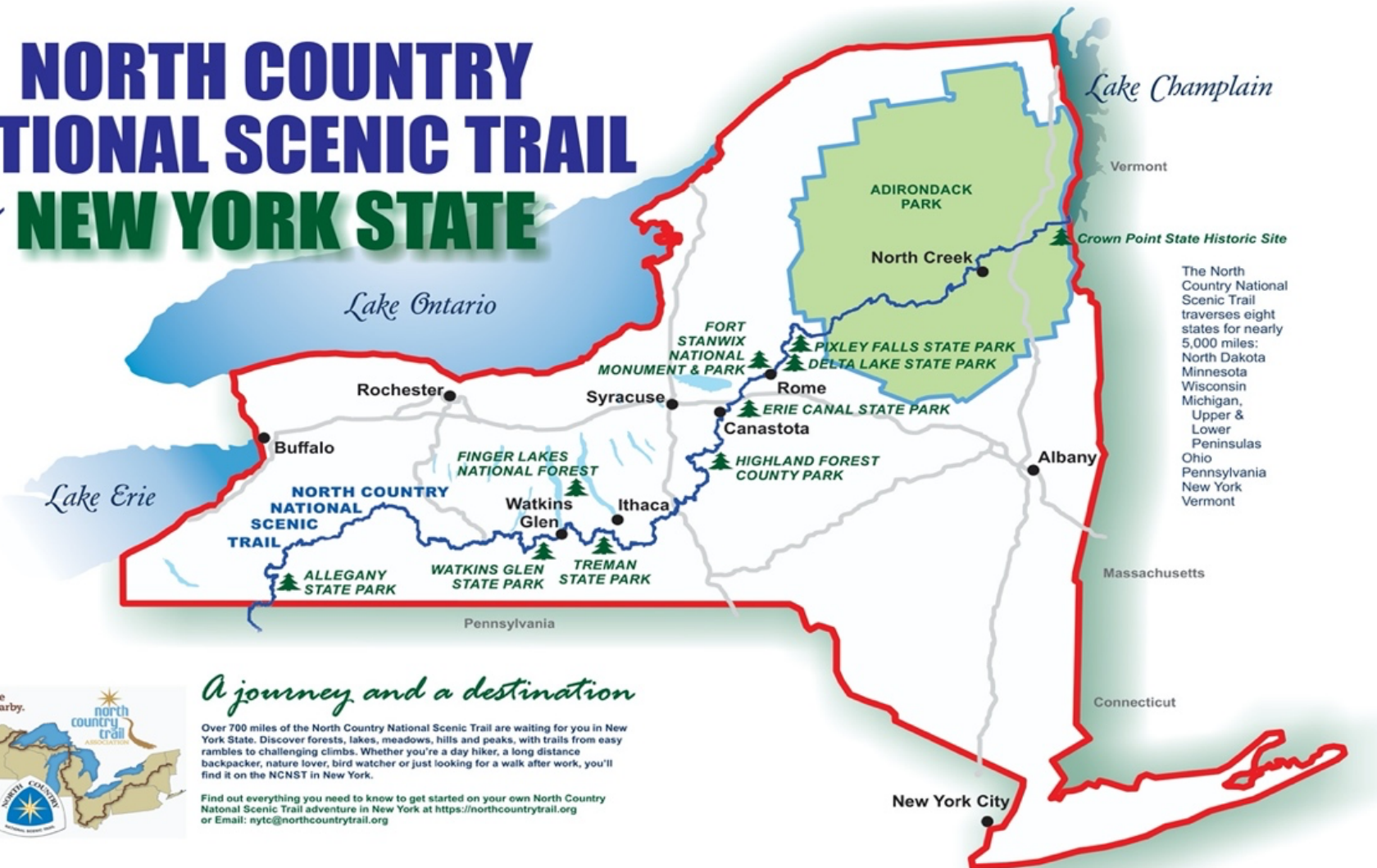
Look for the North Country Trail emblem (pregnant triangle) and bear right onto the Puffer Pond Trail Section. Note also blue DEC markers.

The trail crosses several bridged and unbridged streams, passing cascading waterfalls along rolling terrain with a gentle uphill grade to the pond. Pass the junction of the Hour Pond Trail. Take care to return to the trail after going around blowdowns or beaver activity. Have lunch at the first lean-to facing the Puffer Pond and enjoy the quiet Adirondack ambience. A bit further along the trail there is a second lean-to with an Adirondack outhouse (privy) and a chair cut from an old stump. Retrace the trail back to Old Farm Clearing parking lot.





# NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL *in* NEW YORK STATE



## *A journey and a destination*

Over 700 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail are waiting for you in New York State. Discover forests, lakes, meadows, hills and peaks, with trails from easy rambles to challenging climbs. Whether you're a day hiker, a long distance backpacker, nature lover, bird watcher or just looking for a walk after work, you'll find it on the NCNST in New York.

Find out everything you need to know to get started on your own North Country National Scenic Trail adventure in New York at <https://northcountrytrail.org> or Email: [nytc@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:nytc@northcountrytrail.org)



For more information, maps and guide books:

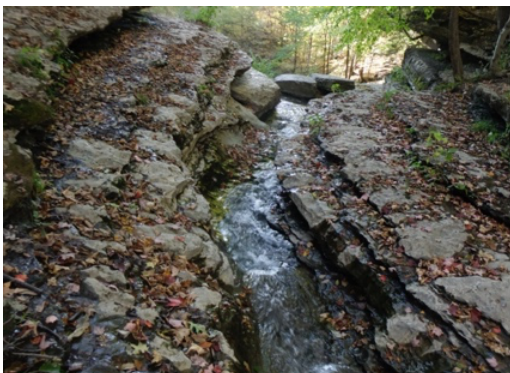
[NorthCountryTrail.org](http://NorthCountryTrail.org)

[FingerLakesTrail.org](http://FingerLakesTrail.org)

[ADK.org](http://ADK.org)

[Contact:](mailto:nytc@northcountrytrail.org)

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