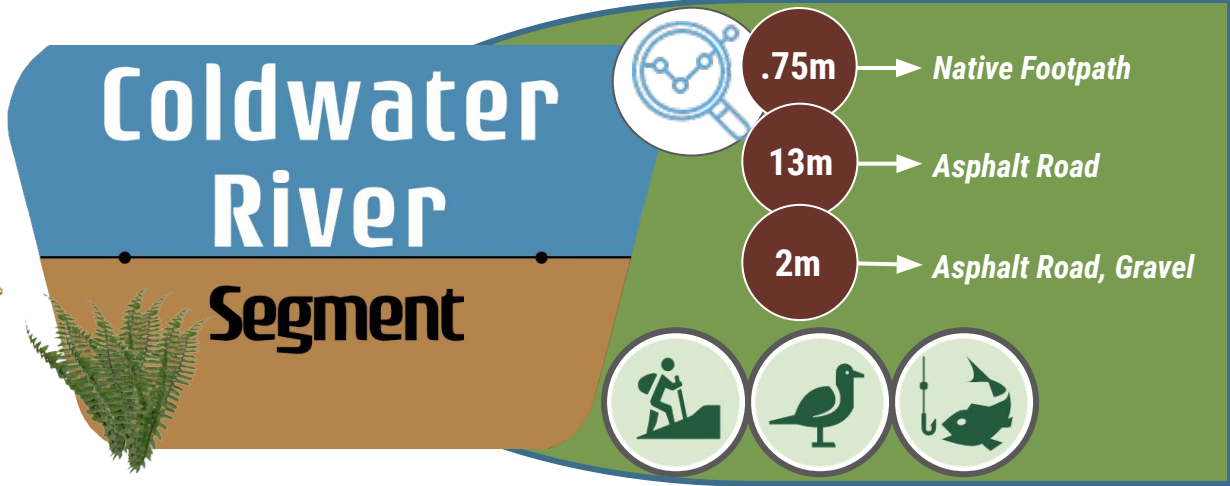



Coldwater River Segment



- .75m → Native Footpath
- 13m → Asphalt Road
- 2m → Asphalt Road, Gravel



The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) is a long-distance hiking trail similar to the Appalachian Trail that stretches across eight states from Vermont to central North Dakota. Part of the National Trails System, the NCT links scenic, natural, historic, and cultural areas allowing visitors to experience a variety of northern landscapes. When completed, the trail will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. The total projected length of the North Country Trail is 4,800 miles, of which more than 3,100 have already been completed. In Michigan, the NCT also serves as the hiking route of the DNR's Iron Belle Trail. In Kent County (the most populous county on the trail), the trail includes roughly 37.1 miles off-road and 38.67 miles of road walk.

The NCT section to the east from here is an out-and-back hike. It provides a pleasant walk along the [Coldwater River](#) through the [Michigan Nature Association's Dolan Nature Sanctuary](#) and terminates at [Bear Creek](#). Hikers often see [trout](#) fisherman in the river. The Coldwater River is home to 32 species of fish, including [brown](#), [rainbow](#) and [brook trout](#).

.75m



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To the North 13m

From here, the trail is a road walk to the city of [Lowell](#); most of the route is farmland. After twelve miles, it crosses the [Grand River](#) into Lowell, the [National Headquarters of the NCTA](#). The office is on the northwest corner of Main St. (M21) and N. Monroe.



To the South 2m

The trail proceeds on Baker Ave for a half mile, then turns west on 108th St. for roughly 1.5 miles. The [Grand Rapids Audubon Club's Maher Sanctuary](#) is on the south side of the road. While not part of the NCT, it has some delightful hiking paths. It is highly rated by botanists for its plant diversity and supports a large variety of wild birds and a substantial deer herd.