

Saranac - Lowell State Game Area

Segment



4.2m

Native Footpath,
Gravel Road

1m

Gravel Road

3m

Asphalt Road,
Concrete Sidewalk,
Native Footpath



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 [Saranac-Lowell Game Area](#) covers 1863 acres in Kent and Ionia Counties. It is administered by the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) and is financed by a combination of tax dollars and hunting and fishing license fees. The section of the NCT in this game area is about 4.2 miles long. Although this section is open year round, it would be wise for hikers to wear orange blaze during hunting seasons. Small game season typically runs from mid-September to the end of March and deer seasons from mid-September to late December. The exact dates for any particular year can be found at michigan.gov/dnr.



4.2m

To the North

1m

Hiking north from here, the trail quickly ascends onto a gravel ridge. This is an esker, a geological formation left behind by the retreating glacier at the end of the last ice age, about 12,000 years ago. It descends from there into a marshy area and crosses a small stream. It then ascends to the top of another ridge from which there are beautiful views of the [Flat River](#). About a mile from here, it then joins Montcalm Avenue for a road walk to [Fallsburg Park](#). Part of this road walk is close to the river.

To the South

3m

The trail extends about 3 miles from here to N. Washington St. in the city of [Lowell](#). The land is somewhat hilly and includes a boardwalk across a stream and marshy area. An oak tree near the marsh has been dated to be over 250 years old. The trail includes about a ¼ mile walk on Grindle Dr.

White
Oak Leaf

