





Townsend Park Segment



5m → Asphalt Path, Concrete Sidewalk

4m → Asphalt Path, Asphalt Road, Gravel Road

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.



[Townsend Park](#) consists of 144 acres; it began with a 20-acre parcel acquired by Kent County Parks in 1924 making it one of the oldest parks in the county. [Bear Creek](#) is just south of here; on the south side of Six Mile Rd., a large picnic area and shelter are near the creek.

To the North 5m

For the next mile, the NCT follows a paved path through Townsend Park. After a few hundred yards, it passes a pine forest up the hill to the east. This pine forest was originally a plantation but is now being managed to improve habitat quality. The trail then joins the [Cannon Township Trail](#). The NCT here is a paved hiker-biker trail and passes through some heavily wooded and hilly terrain. In just over two miles the trail crosses a boardwalk over a marshy area at the south end of [Sunfish Lake](#). Frogs and turtles are commonly seen here; in the spring it is a great place to see [wood ducks](#) and other water birds. Shortly after the marsh, the trail comes to Belding Rd and turns west for roughly a mile then heads north on a sidewalk on the west side of Meyers Lake Rd.



Eastern White Pine

Wood Ducks (Female + Male)



To the South 4m

The trail stays in Townsend Park for about a half mile until it comes to the town of Campionsburg. There is a gas station and a couple of restaurants here. The trail leaves Campionsburg on Honey Creek Ave, roughly a half mile road walk along a busy road. It then turns west and passes through the [Campionsburg State Game Area](#).

