

Rogue River State Game Area Segment



8m

Native Footpath

15m

Asphalt Road,
Crushed Stone Road,
Paved Road, Asphalt,
Developed Path



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 [Rogue River Game Area](#) covers 6135 acres in Kent County. 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 7 miles long; it's the longest unbroken section of wilderness trail in Kent County. Although this section of the NCT 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.



To the West

8m

From here, the trail travels generally west for about 2.5 miles, then turns north for 5.5 miles until it meets 22 Mile Rd. the northern border of Kent County. The land here is quite flat and wooded. About a mile east of here, the trail passes along a marsh that hosts [waterbirds](#) and an enormous number of [spring peepers](#) whose chorus is astonishing in the spring. After it turns north, it passes along the [Rogue River](#) and provides a number of attractive views of the river.

Spring Peepers



To the East

15m

The trail east from this point is a series of rural road walks until it approaches the city of [Cedar Springs](#). After about 5 miles, it joins White Creek Ave.; there is a campground at the intersection of White Creek Ave. and Wiersma. Traveling south along White Creek Ave, the trail passes under US 131 and then crosses some farmland before it comes to Cedar Springs. There are a number of pubs, restaurants, and shops in the city close to the trail. From Cedar Springs, the trail follows the [Fred Meijer White Pine Trail](#) south to the city of [Rockford](#).



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