In 2021, volunteers and partners helped to carry out the mission with these efforts:

- 45.13 miles of roadwalk were eliminated.
- 6,048 linear feet of puncheon and boardwalk was built and maintained.
- 378.45 miles of Trail were freshly blazed.
- 16 new Trail Easements and Agreements were signed to protect the Trail corridor.
- 22 youth programs and corps crews assisted in building and maintaining the Trail.
- 12 Next Generation Coalition members joined the cohort and participated in advocacy, promotion, and trail maintenance events throughout the year.
- Grants were awarded in Michigan and Pennsylvania to support Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts on the NCT.
North Country National Scenic Trail
2021 Progress Report

State Highlights

**NORTH DAKOTA**
- The Central Flyway Chapter worked with partners to realign the NCNST to existing trails, eliminating a roadwalk and allowing the Trail to coincide with the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.
- The Dakota Prairie Chapter designed and installed eight new trailhead kiosks, introducing hikers to the NCNST and the history and culture of both the Trail and region.

**MINNESOTA**
- The Kekekabic Trail Chapter obtained easements on the only privately owned parcels crossed by the Kekekabic Trail and flagged the first 12 miles of a future NCNST segment in between the Kekekabic Trail and Ely, Minnesota.
- The Superior Hiking Trail Association made significant progress on their Gooseberry Gap reroute and started the much-needed enhancements on the Split Rock River Loop renewal project.

**MICHIGAN**
- The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter worked with Petoskey Parks and Recreation and North Central Michigan College to complete a significant bridge over the Bear River and open an adjacent three-mile new segment of Trail.
- The North Country Trail Hikers Chapter assisted the Michigan DNR with the replacement of two, 37-foot bridges in Craig Lake State Park.
- The Claron County Chapter advanced a 12-mile reroute project, working closely with the National Park Service on project planning and compliance.
- The Butler County Chapter replaced two major bridges and three smaller ones in State Gamelands 95.

**OHIO**
- The Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association’s NCNST crew worked to blaze a remote in Oak Openings Metropark and Maumee State Forest, and advanced a new route between Whitehouse and Waterville.
- The Wampum Chapter worked with partners to help designate Lisbon and Zear as North Country Trail Association Towns.

**NEW YORK**
- Confirmed the route of the NCNST through Crown Point State Historic Site.
- Moved forward on a project to reroute the Trail through Clark Hill State Forest in Central New York, which would eliminate six to eight miles of roadwalk once completed.
- Partners from NCTA, Green Mountain National Forest, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Green Mountain Club and Middlebury Area Land Trust met to move forward on finalizing the route to the new NCNST Eastern Terminus.

**VERMONT**
- The Appalachian Trail Chapter and Appalachian Trail Conservancy worked to complete the first two designated backcountry campsites on the NCNST within the Quecheumegon-Nicolet National Forest.
- The Heritage Chapter and Wisconsin Rovers crew made significant progress on the Wren West project connecting Wren Falls and Hwy 169.
- The Wampum Chapter worked with partners to help designate Lisbon and Zear as North Country Trail Association Towns.

**Pennsylvania**
- 134 participants joined the Allegheny 100 Challenge hiking event and completed the full 100-mile challenge.
- The Clarion County Chapter advanced a 12-mile reroute project, working closely with the National Park Service on project planning and compliance.
- The Butler County Chapter replaced two major bridges and three smaller ones in State Gamelands 95.

### Current Trail Miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Off-Road GIS Miles</th>
<th>On-Road GIS Miles</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH DAKOTA</td>
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<td>188</td>
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<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>3,188</td>
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<td>4,791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo: Caleb Basa

Photo: Deb Koepplin

Photo: Michael Carson

Photo: Kevin Steffens

Photo: Tom Walker

Photo: Ryan Bowles

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