2020 WAS A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

North Country Trail Association volunteers in all eight states faced restrictions on travel, events, group projects and trail construction. With extra time on their hands, resilient Chapters and Affiliates still managed to get out on the NCT in record numbers. We saw a shift to individual trail maintainers and Adopters, families working together on the Trail and small groups doing socially distant projects. We may have hosted fewer group hikes this year; but we painted thousands of blue blazes, attended hundreds of virtual meetings and events and stayed connected to the North Country Trail.

WE DID IT TOGETHER!

NCTA Chapters and Affiliates had 71 meetings with agency partners; including the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, State DNR offices, and county and local land managers.

IN 2020, NCTA CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES HELPED TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION WITH THESE EFFORTS:

DEVELOP
• Installed 3,247 feet of boardwalk and puncheon
• Built 40 new bridges
• Installed 38 new signs and kiosks

MAINTAIN
• Maintained 3,171* miles of NCT
• Blazed 275 miles of NCT
• Repaired 19 bridges

PROTECT
• Secured 17 new permanent easements
• Connected with over 100 private landowners who host the NCT on their property

PROMOTE
• Hosted 135 events, hikes and meetings virtually to remain connected while socially distancing
• Over 2,500 participants finished the 2020 Hike 100 Challenge

*Includes maintenance on some of the same mileage more than once, and some blazing on roadwalk sections

The mission of the North Country Trail Association is to develop, maintain, protect and promote the North Country National Scenic Trail as the premier hiking path across the northern United States.
STATE HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH DAKOTA
• The newly designated Central Flyway Chapter brought NCTA to 29 total Chapters. The Chapter will maintain approximately 135 miles of the NCT, between the Western Terminus within Lake Sakakawea State Park, and the east end of the Lonetree Wildlife Management Area.

MINNESOTA
• Partnered with Pheasants Forever and Carlton County, MN to acquire a 242-acre property on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border, permanently protecting one mile of NCNST on the MN/WI border.
• Worked with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to begin public outreach efforts to designate potential routes for the NCT in the newly designated Arrowhead reroute area.

WISCONSIN
• The WI Rovers crew and Heritage Chapter continued work on the Wren West segment in Iron County, utilizing the new Bill Thomas bridge to cross Tyler Forks River. The crew constructed 72 feet of puncheon, a 20-foot bridge and a new campsite.

MICHIGAN
• Constructed over three miles of new Trail and 775 feet of boardwalk within the Manistee NF to eliminate a dangerous 3/4-mile road walk and move the NCT to a permanently protected location.

OHIO
• The Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association formed a NCT Committee, who hosted their inaugural project; reblazing six miles of Trail and reopening 15 miles of Trail in Maumee State Forest that had been abandoned from lack of maintenance.
• Volunteers built 10 new and unique bridges along this segment of Trail.

PENNSYLVANIA
• 2.5 miles of new Trail was constructed in the Enon Valley area, eliminating a critical road walk. Volunteers built 10 new and unique bridges along this segment of Trail.
• 75 of the 97 miles of NCT in the Allegheny National Forest were maintained with the DR mower or brush cutter, making future years of maintenance easier by reducing the seedlings growing in the Trail corridor.

NEW YORK
• Finalized a Trail Access Easement in Oak Mountain Ski and Recreation Area and began to flag, establish trail and mark a one-mile new section of NCT. This key parcel completes a four-mile new Trail section, connecting two other wilderness areas (West Canada Lakes and Siamese Ponds).
• Built over 100 feet of puncheon in five different locations on the 42 miles of off-road Trail in Central New York.

VERMONT
• Added official North Country Trail signage to the 16 miles of shared NCT/Trail around Middlebury (TAM).

CURRENT TRAIL MILES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Off-Road GIS Miles</th>
<th>On-Road GIS Miles</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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