MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IN 2019 WE:

• Officially added new miles (and an 8th state!) and strengthened relationships with partners in Minnesota and Vermont; thanks to the passing of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
• Completed our Technical Series maps, creating 445 free, downloadable trail maps for the NCT.
• Trained new NCT Crew Leaders in three states, totaling over 100 new Crew Leaders since 2018.
• Hosted the inaugural “Next Generation Summit” in Michigan and grew the Next Gen Coalition to over 50 members.
• Celebrated the fourth year of the Hike 100 program, encouraging hikers to log 100 miles of hiking in the calendar year.
• Revised and updated the NCTA Trail Protection Handbook and Options for Landowners brochure, providing volunteers with valuable resources to permanently protect the NCT’s corridor.
• Welcomed paid and volunteer Youth Corps crews for 21 weeks of building and maintaining the Trail.

Most importantly, we supported the work of NCTA’s dedicated volunteers, Partners, Chapters and Affiliates who were instrumental in carrying out the mission “to develop, maintain, protect and promote the North Country National Scenic Trail as the premier hiking path across the northern United States.”

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

• 3,147 miles of off-road Trail

We funded more than $550,000 in trail projects, equipment and volunteer training, a 161% increase over 2018.

CARRYING OUT OUR MISSION

DEVELOP

• 71.4 miles of new Trail constructed
• 5,768 linear feet of puncheon, boardwalk and turnpike installed
• Seven new campsites built
• 18 new bridges installed

MAINTAIN

• 3,307 miles of Trail maintained by Chapters and Affiliates
• 291 kiosks and signs updated
• 7,358 feet of puncheon and boardwalk repaired
• Hundreds of trees and miles of overgrown Trail cleared

PROTECT

• 14 new easements and agreements put in place with private landowners
• Strengthened relationships with current and future private landowners across the Trail

PROMOTE

• 155 Chapter and Affiliate-led hikes on the North Country Trail
• 170 events hosted and attended to promote the Trail
NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
2019 PROGRESS REPORT

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH DAKOTA
- Completed a multi-Chapter effort to produce a state brochure advertising the NCT in North Dakota
- Added 7.4 miles of new off-road Trail
- Continued Trail Protection efforts, including three Trail Easements and Agreements

MINNESOTA
- Supported five Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew trips, engaging 26 volunteers, 11 of whom were first-time participants
- Worked on eight bridge construction and improvement projects across the state

WISCONSIN
- Completed trail improvements at O Kun de Kun Falls, including 575 feet of boardwalk and five bridges
- Hosted over 70 public Chapter-led hikes on the North Country Trail

MICHIGAN
- Supported five Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew trips, engaging 26 volunteers, 11 of whom were first-time participants
- Flagged 15 miles of potential new NCT
- Completed five Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew trips, engaging 26 volunteers, 11 of whom were first-time participants
- Hosted over 70 public Chapter-led hikes on the North Country Trail
- Worked on eight bridge construction and improvement projects across the state

OHIO
- Opened 16 new miles of certified NCT/Buckeye Trail next to Shawnee State Forest in the Edge of Appalachia Preserve
- Extended the Wampum Chapter’s Western boundary to Zoar, Ohio and increased Chapter hikes and maintenance activities in Eastern Ohio
- Formed an official North Country Trail subcommittee within Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association (NORTA)

PENNSYLVANIA
- Completed the “Closing the Gaps” project, identifying 26 major gaps in protected trail and strategizing permanent protection for the Trail’s gaps in Pennsylvania
- Hosted over 25 events to promote the North Country Trail in New York
- Continued progress on a rerouted segment of NCT in the Adirondacks, partnering with Adirondack Mountain Club and hosting a volunteer work week

VERMONT
- Officially added Vermont to the NCT, adding a potential 71 miles of new Trail
- Certified a 16 mile segment of NCT on the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM)

CURRENT TRAIL MILES

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<th>State</th>
<th>Off-Road GIS Miles</th>
<th>On-Road GIS Miles</th>
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28 Chapters and eight Affiliates support the mission of the North Country Trail Association

Photo: Tina Toole