



Overview of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT)

The North Country National Scenic Trail (North Country Trail or just NCT for short) is the nation's longest footpath - stretching 4,800 miles from North Dakota to Vermont. It is one of just 11 National Scenic Trails that have been designated by Congress since 1968. Its famous sister trails include the Pacific Crest, Ice Age, and Appalachian Trails. Open only to foot traffic year round, the NCT features an 18-24" wide natural surface (dirt and rock) trail within a 4' x 8' cleared corridor.

Administered by the National Park Service, the NCT is built, maintained, promoted, and protected by the non-profit North Country Trail Association (NCTA) working through local volunteer groups. The Heritage Chapter (HTG) of the NCTA is the local volunteer group responsible for the NCT between Copper Falls State Park and the Michigan border.

The NCT in Iron County

The NCT is a great way to discover the outdoors, enjoy nature, and experience health benefits of hiking in the Iron County Forest. With over 30+ miles of existing NCT, the Iron County Forest is a hiking destination in Wisconsin's scenic Northwoods. Destinations along the NCT route include: Wren Falls, Foster Falls, Potato Falls, the Bill Thomas Memorial Bridge, Upton Overlook, Superior Falls, and Saxon Harbor. The NCT route includes numerous backcountry campsites that feature a water source (non-potable), fire ring, table/bench, and latrine.

Volunteer opportunities and ways to support the NCT

Volunteers from the **Heritage Chapter** build, maintain, and promote the NCT within Iron County. They host weekend trail maintenance and trail building work events from May-November and offer guided hikes throughout the year. There are meaningful tasks for every age and ability level.

Learn more about the Chapter

(<https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/wisconsin/htg/>) and support their work (<https://northcountrytrail.org/giving-membership/ways-to-give/>). If you are interested in volunteering on the NCT, visit our website (<https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteer/ways-to-volunteer/>) or contact them at htg@northcountrytrail.org.

For maps and more information

Find a map of the local NCT segment

(<https://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a&extent=-90.8567,46.3212,-89.9778,46.5857>)

Download the free Wisconsin hiking maps to print at home or use on your smartphone with the AvenzaMaps app (<https://northcountrytrail.org/the-trail/trail-maps/>)

Follow the NCT in Wisconsin Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/NCTinWI/>)

Join our Penokee Hikers Meetup group

(<https://www.meetup.com/PenokeeHikers/>)