

THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

AND

ROUTE DESCRIPTION



APRIL 1985

North Country National Scenic Trail  
c/o Midwest Regional Office  
National Park Service  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

## THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

In March 1980, Federal legislation (Public Law 96-199, 16 U.S.C. 1244(a) (8)) authorized the establishment of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) as a component of the National Trails System. When completed, the authorized trail will extend approximately 3,200 miles from the vicinity of Crown Point, New York, to Lake Sakakawea State Park on the Missouri River in North Dakota, the route of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The NCT will cross portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

The NCT is a truly special recreational resource. Although it will require many years to complete, it will become the longest continuous footpath in the United States. Meandering through seven northern states, it takes users through and to a fascinating diversity of landscapes and scenic, historic, cultural, and recreational features.

The diversity of the landscapes and features along the NCT is perhaps its most appealing quality. It beckons the potential user to come and sample a cross section of midwestern and northeastern America and captivates the mind of one on the trail with a kaleidoscope of scenes of a developing America and the wild, undeveloped resources from which it grew. The hiker will experience the grandeur of the Adirondack Mountains, the tranquillity of the rural farm countryside, the splendor of placid lakes and sparkling streams among forested hills, the boundlessness of the northern prairies, the merging of water and sky at the horizon of the Great Lakes, and the nostalgia of historic canals and abandoned logging and mining communities.

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

The National Park Service, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is responsible for overall administration of the NCT. However, the provisions of the National Trails System Act require that the development, management, and protection of the trail be a cooperative effort involving many agencies at all levels of Government and various private sector interests. Federal Agencies will develop and manage segments of the trail which lie within existing Federal areas (national forests, national park areas, etc.). State and local agencies are encouraged to develop and maintain segments which lie on lands they administer. Private volunteer trail organizations and individuals will have to accomplish most, if not all, of the work of developing and maintaining segments which cannot be located on public lands.

This approach to administering the NCT places much of the responsibility for establishing and managing the trail in the hands of State and local governments and private trail interests. Considered in this way, it can be seen that the NCT will ultimately become a linear collection of existing and new Federal, State, local, and private trails. One of the real benefits of the Federal designation of the NCT is the impetus it gives to the development of links between already existing trails to form long-distance hiking and other trail use opportunities.

The National Park Service has prepared a Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use of the trail to provide guidance on routing, developing, and managing the trail to the many cooperating public agencies and private trail interests. The plan provides only a framework for the development and management of the trail and its immediate environs. Most of the decisions regarding the specific route, development standards, permitted uses, and management policies are delegated to the managing authority responsible for a particular segment of the trail.

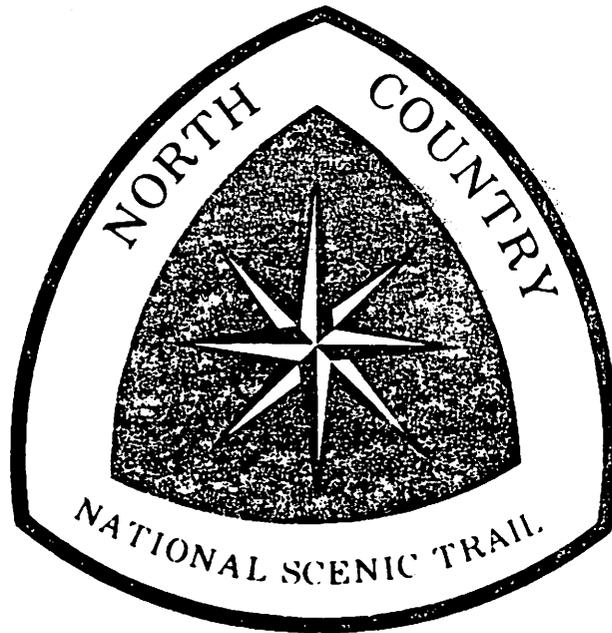
#### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TRAIL USERS

Because of the participation of many different public agencies and private interests in the development and management of the NCT, users must be mindful that the type and width of the trail tread, the support facilities available such as campgrounds, and rules and regulations governing use of the trail will vary from segment to segment. It is beyond the scope of this general information package to provide detailed information about each segment. Users desiring such information regarding a particular segment should write to the address accompanying the description of that segment in the next section.

Users of the NCT are urged to show their appreciation for the voluntary participation of public agencies and private organization in the development and management of the NCT by properly using the trail and related facilities and complying with the rules and regulations applicable to each segment. Users should be especially careful to respect the rights of private property owners, particularly those who have generously allowed the trail to cross their land.

The following additional information will be helpful to trail users:

Trail Marking - Although some features of the NCT may vary from segment to segment, the feature that will tie them together and identify them as official portions of the NCT is the use of the uniform marker shown on page 3.



The official NCT marker will be erected and maintained along all official or "certified" NCT segments. The marker is available in two standard sizes: a 9-inch size for use primarily at trail heads and a smaller 3 1/2-inch size for use as periodic route confirmation signs. Either size, as appropriate and according to the desire of the managing authority, may be used at trail intersections, campgrounds, and interpretive sites and displays. The markers will be erected in accordance with the standard trail marking practices of the managing authority responsible for the segment. Mounting on posts of various sizes and materials or other methods of placement may be used.

Since it is not desirable nor cost effective to use the official NCT marker as the sole marker along the trail, other types of markers and blazes will be used between points where the official NCT marker has been placed. A standard 2- by 6-inch vertical rectangular blaze or 5- by 7-inch elongated diamond blaze could be used. Managing authorities will be guided by their own existing trail marking standards and practices in deciding what type(s) of marking will be used to supplement the use of official NCT markers.

The National Park Service realizes that various public agencies and private organizations which manage trails being incorporated into the NCT route have established various methods of marking these trails. Blazes and other markers are of various shapes, sizes, and colors. At this point in time, there is no intention of trying to standardize marking other than to require posting of the official NCT marker at appropriate points such as trail heads, trail junctions, etc.

Trail Width - The width of land which is managed for the NCT is a matter determined by the local managing authority and reflects the resource management objectives and the unique environmental characteristics and opportunities associated with each portion of the route as well as the type of experience which the managing authority desires to provide for the trail user. The decision is influenced by the surrounding land uses, the terrain, the need for sight and sound buffers, and the ease or difficulty of securing or setting aside lands to be managed for the trail. The lands associated with and managed for the trail may therefore vary from a mere 2-foot tread to 1,000 feet or more. It is not intended that the NCT should completely isolate the user from land use practices surrounding the trail, but rather allow the traveler to enjoy the mosaic of resources and land uses through which the trail passes. Even resource management activities such as timber cutting are not out of harmony with management of the NCT.

Trail Location - Generally, the official route of the NCT will not be located on roads or on the shoulder of roads open to motorized use by the general public. The trail may be located within the public right-of-way of a road if the right-of-way is wide enough to permit the trail to be established safely beyond the shoulder and/or drainage ditch of the road. Location of the trail within public road rights-of-way or immediately adjacent to the right-of-way will be kept to a reasonable limit so that the trail user is not continuously exposed to the sights and sounds of motor vehicle traffic. The one exception to this prohibition of locating the NCT on roads is when it is necessary to route short segments (usually less than 1 mile) on roads and bridges in order to cross rivers, lakes, interstate highways, dams, etc.

Because it will be many years before the NCT is completed, and because it is desirable in the interim to identify other routes which link together official "certified" NCT segments, managing authorities may establish "North Country Trail Connectors"--other marked routes and trails which do not qualify for certification as the official NCT route due to current motorized multiple recreation use or location on roads. "Connectors" should be marked but may not be signed with the official NCT marker.

Use of the Trail - All segments of the NCT are open to travel by foot; i.e., hiking and backpacking. Other nonmotorized uses, including bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and jogging may be permitted on a given segment according to the desires and policies of the managing authority responsible for the segment.

It has been proposed that the National Trails System Act be amended to permit snowmobile use on some segments of the NCT when deemed appropriate by the managing authority responsible for the segment. The proposal would not open the entire NCT to snowmobiling--only those segments where the managing authority desires such use. Although the National Park Service supports the proposal, snowmobiling on the NCT cannot be legally allowed until Congress enacts the needed amendment.

Many public and private lands through which the NCT passes are legally open to hunting during the proper seasons. It is not intended that passage of the NCT through these lands should in any way lead to their closure to hunting nor that the trail should be closed to use during hunting seasons. Safety for hikers during hunting seasons can best be accomplished by wearing "hunter's orange." Hunters should avoid shooting near or across the trail. Regulations in some jurisdictions require hikers to wear "hunter's orange." During hunting season, NCT users should be sure to check for any applicable regulations.

Fees and Permits - Fees and/or permits for use of segments of the NCT or related support facilities (campsites) may be established by the managing authority responsible for the segment or facility. Fees and permits may be necessary to comply with existing laws or policies of the managing authority, to control or monitor levels of use, or to offset costs of maintaining the trail and facilities. Users should check with managing authorities in advance to determine if permits and/or fees are needed. Some permits are available in advance by mail; others may only be obtained in person at the site or segment.

Camping - Facilities for and policies regarding camping along the NCT vary greatly. Some managing authorities permit camping anywhere along the trail. Others permit camping only at designated sites. In some cases, the trail may already be open to use but designated camping sites have not yet been established. Along such segments, it may be difficult to find any place to camp legally. Users are urged to plan their trip in advance to assure themselves overnight accommodations. Patience is needed while the trail is being developed. Above all, avoid trespassing and violating private property rights.

Guidebooks and Detailed Maps - In addition to the information which may be obtained from the managing authorities whose addresses are given in the route description section, various guides to portions of the NCT are available:

Finger Lakes Trail (NY) Section Maps

Price: varies from 35¢ to 50¢ depending on quantity  
Available from: Finger Lakes Trail Conference  
P.O. Box 18048  
Rochester, New York 14618

"Pennsylvania Hiking Trails" (includes segments of the North Country Trail);  
1981; 175 pages

Price: unknown  
Available from: Keystone Trails Association  
P.O. Box 251  
Cogan Station, Pennsylvania 17728

"Fifty Hikes in Western Pennsylvania" (includes segments of the North Country Trail) by Tom Thwaites; 1983; 205 pages

Price: \$8.95  
Available from: Backcountry Publications, Inc.  
P.O. Box 175  
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Buckeye Trail Section Maps and Guidebooks

Price: \$1.50 per map  
Available from: Buckeye Trail Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 254  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

"Backpacking in Michigan" (includes segments of the North Country Trail) by Pat Allen and Gerald L. DeRuiter; 1982; 149 pages

Price: \$8.95  
Available from: Michigan Book Central  
Box 30034  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

"Pictured Rocks Lakeshore Trail: A North Country Trail Guide" by Olive M. Anderson; 1983; 55 pages

Price: \$4.95  
Available from: North Country Trail Association  
P.O. Box 311  
White Cloud, Michigan 49349

Access - Many points on or near the NCT are access by public transportation. A fairly complete listing can be found on the next page.

#### ROUTE AND SEGMENT DESCRIPTIONS

One of the primary objectives in preparing a Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use of the NCT was to select a route for the trail. To the extent possible, the selected route of the NCT follows existing trails. Approximately 1,000 miles of existing trails have been incorporated into the selected route. Of this, 51 trails and trail segments totaling 673 miles have been certified as official segments of the NCT.

An overall map and 74 section maps of the NCT prepared by the National Park Service accompany this information. The maps show the route of the trail using four different route symbols. Two of the symbols identify existing trails. The other two NCT route symbols identify high potential routes and general locations for future segments of the NCT where no trails currently exist. A fifth trail symbol identifies other existing marked routes and side trails. Three other symbols identify recreation sites, historic sites, and other significant cultural and scenic points of interest. Following is a more detailed explanation of each of these symbols.

Existing Trail - Certified as Official North Country NST Route is represented on the 74 section maps by a solid red line. These existing trails appear to be managed in accordance with the policies in the NCT plan and the responsible managing authority has granted permission to certify the trail as an official segment of the NCT. These trails are or shortly will be marked with the official NCT marker.

Existing Trail - Eligible for Certification as Official North Country NST Route is represented on the maps by a dashed or broken red line. These are existing trails which also appear to be managed in accordance with the policies in the NCT plan. For various reasons, these trails are not certified as official segments of the NCT at the present time.

High Potential Opportunity for North Country NST Route and Recommended Side Trails is represented by a dotted black line. These are known opportunities for establishing a segment of trail because of either a specific/special routing opportunity, such as an abandoned railroad right-of-way, or the existence of public lands. In the latter case, the line often does not follow the actual route that might eventually be selected by the agency managing the public lands, but instead was somewhat arbitrarily drawn simply to represent the routing opportunity afforded by the existing public lands. The dotted black line is also used to identify side trails which are recommended for development. These may also have been arbitrarily drawn across public lands. Trail users should be careful to remember that trail routes shown with this symbol do not yet exist.

Communities and Other Points On or Near the Route of the NCT  
Which are Accessible by Scheduled Common Carrier Service

\* = Bus                      + = Train                      # = Airplane

NEW YORK

Port Henry (near Crown Point) +  
 Schroon Lake \*  
 Boonville \*  
 Rome \*  
     + (Griffiss AFB)  
     # (Oneida Co. Airport)  
 Oneida \*  
 Fayetteville \* (via side trail)  
 Syracuse \* + # (via side trail)  
 Canastota \*  
 Cazenovia \*  
 Tully \*  
 Cortland \*  
 Dryden \*  
 Richford \*  
 Ithaca \* #  
 Bath \*  
 Hornell \*  
 Almond \*  
 Portageville \*  
 Rossburg \*  
 Fillmore \*  
 Franklinville \*  
 Ellicottville \*  
 Elkdale \*  
 Salamanca \*

PENNSYLVANIA

Bradford Regional Airport #  
 Ludlow \*  
 Sheffield \*  
 Clarion \*  
 Parker \*  
 Stone House \*  
 Portersville \*  
 Ellwood City \*

OHIO

East Liverpool \*  
 Lisbon \*  
 Minerva \*  
 Malvern \*  
 Waynesburg \*  
 Canton \* + #  
 Dennison \*  
 Cambridge \*  
 Caldwell \* (via side trail)  
 Marietta \*  
 Wood Co., WV, Airport #  
     (Parkersburg)  
 Burr Oak \*  
 Logan \*

OHIO (cont)

Waverly \*  
 Portsmouth \*  
 West Union \*  
 Russellville \*  
 Georgetown \*  
 Milford \*  
 Loveland +  
 Cincinnati \* + #  
 Xenia \*  
 Springfield \*  
 Enon \*  
 Dayton \* # (via side trail)  
 Troy \*  
 Piqua \*  
 Lima \* +  
 Delphos \*  
 Defiance \*  
 Napoleon \*  
 Wauseon \*  
 Toledo Express Airport #

MICHIGAN

Jonesville \*  
 Homer \*  
 Albion \* +  
 Marshall \*  
 Bellevue \*  
 Battle Creek \* + #  
 Middleville \*  
 Lowell \*  
 Grand Rapids \* #  
 Ada \*  
 Gratton \*  
 Rockford \*  
 Cedar Springs \*  
 Newaygo \*  
 White Cloud \*  
 Brohman \*  
 Lilley \*  
 Baldwin \*  
 Walhalla \*  
 Manistee \* #  
 Mesick \*  
 Interlochen Music Camp \*  
 Traverse City \* #  
 Kalkaska \*  
 Mancelona \*  
 Elmira \*  
 Boyne Falls \*  
 Petoskey \*  
 Bay View \*

MICHIGAN (cont)

Emmet Co. Airport #  
     (Pellston)  
 Mackinaw City \*  
 St. Ignace \*  
 Chippewa Co. Arpt. #  
     (Sault Ste. Marie)  
 Munising \*  
 Forest Lake \*  
 Chatham \*  
 Harvey \*  
 Marquette \* #  
 Nestoria \*  
 Ironwood \* #

WISCONSIN

Hurley \*  
 Mellen \*  
 Drummond \*  
 Iron River \*  
 Brule \*  
 Solon Springs \*  
 Gordon \*

MINNESOTA

Nickerson Corner \*  
 Holyoke Corner \*  
 Wrenshall Corner \*  
 Carlton \*  
 Cloquet \*  
 Duluth \* + #  
 Junction SR-33 and US-2 \*  
 Floodwood \*  
 Jacobson \*  
 Hill City \*  
 Ten Mile Lake \*  
 Walker \*  
 Cass Lake \* (via side trail)  
 Park Rapids \* (via side trail)  
 Detroit Lakes \* +  
 Frazee \*  
 Fergus Falls \*  
 Breckenridge \*

NORTH DAKOTA

Wahpeton \*  
 Valley City \*  
 Devils Lake \* + #  
 New Rockford \*  
 Fessenden \*  
 Harvey \*  
 Coleharbor \*

General Location of Future North Country NST Route is represented by a 3/8-inch wide dot screen line. This symbol indicates only a general route location because no specific routing opportunity is known. It is most often used where the NCT route must traverse areas of private ownership. No specific route has been identified across these areas because landownership and development can change greatly before a trail is actually planned and developed sometime in the future. Trail users should not attempt to follow these routes. The trail does not yet exist in these locations and following the routes would cause users to be trespassing on private lands. Users who wish to hike or ride through these areas should consult appropriate road maps and carefully follow low volume roads.

Other Marked Alternative Routes and Side Trails is represented by a line of small black circles or open dots. These are existing routes which hikers may wish to follow to vary their route or visit points of interest reached by such routes. Such routes are not necessarily managed in accordance with the NCT plan and are sometimes located on roads or the shoulders of roads.

A solid black triangle represents a Recreation Site where facilities such as parking, toilets, picnic tables, drinking water, and camping may be located. Camping facilities are not necessarily located at all recreation sites shown on the maps. Significant points of scenic or cultural interest are often located at recreation sites.

A solid black square represents a developed and established Historic Site. Most of the sites shown with this symbol are publicly administered.

A solid black circle or dot designates Other Significant Cultural or Scenic Points of Interest, both public and private.

#### The NCT Route in New York (Map Sheets 1-11)

The eastern trail head of the NCT in New York State is proposed to be located at the Crown Point State Historic Site and Crown Point State Campground near the bridge across Lake Champlain into Vermont. From this point, the NCT heads westward through the 6-million acre Adirondack Park. A general location for the NCT through the park has been identified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as a possible continuous route through the Adirondacks. West of Adirondack Park, the NCT reaches the community of Boonville and then turns southward, meandering along the Old Black River Canal toward Rome. The NCT route departs from the canal in several places to avoid traversing private property. Pixley Falls and Delta Lake State Parks and State Reforestation Lands in the vicinity of Buck Hill would be utilized by the trail. North of Rome, the NCT follows a portion of the canal towpath which has been developed as a bike trail. A potential route along the Mohawk River and through several city parks leads to the center of the city and Fort Stanwix National Monument, a reconstructed Revolutionary War fort.

Westward from Rome, the NCT follows the towpath trail through Old Erie Canal State Park, beginning near Erie Canal Village, a re-created 19th-century canal village. At Canastota, the NCT route departs from the canal to follow State-owned portions of an abandoned railroad right-of-way past Chittenango Falls State Park to Cazenovia.

From Cazenovia, a general route connects with the Onondaga portion of the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT). The FLT is an east-west footpath system across New York State developed and maintained by the FLT Conference. The route of the NCT would follow approximately 300 miles of existing and proposed segments of the FLT to the Pennsylvania State line. As the FLT meanders westward past Cortland toward Ithaca, it passes through numerous parcels of DEC-owned lands and Buttermilk Falls and Treman State Parks. At Watkins Glen, the NCT departs for a short distance from the FLT to follow a potential southward loop trail through Montour Falls and surrounding scenic sites. The NCT rejoins the FLT and follows it through or near Watkins Glen and Letchworth State Parks, with their scenic rocky canyons and glens, to Allegheny State Park at the Pennsylvania State line.

#### Certified Segments

There are presently no certified segments in New York.

#### "North Country Trail Connectors"

Old Erie Canal State Park: A hiking, bicycling, and snowmobiling trail follows the old Erie Canal towpath from Rome to Fayetteville (near Syracuse). The segment between Rome and Canastota is proposed as the route of the NCT. Information on the trail can be obtained by writing to Old Erie Canal State Park, Kirkeville, New York 13082.

Finger Lakes Trail: The Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) is an east-west footpath system across New York State from the Catskills in the east to the Allegheny Mountains in the west. It passes south of the Finger Lakes and has several branches extending north of the main east-west route. The trail passes through some of the most varied and beautiful country in the East--forests, lakes, glacially sculpted hills and valleys, secluded glens, and waterfalls. Approximately 300 miles of existing and future segments of the FLT are proposed for eventual inclusion in the NCT as certified segments.

Much of the trail is on private land. The continued existence of the trail depends on trail users respecting the rights of the public-spirited landowners who have given permission for people to walk through their property. Users must stay on the trail and not camp or build fires except in designated areas. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are also permitted on the trails.

All trails have been cleared for walking and are maintained. Some shelters and campsites have been completed. Others are being built as time and funds permit. The main trail is marked with white paint blazes. Side trails are marked with orange blazes.

One of the side trails that is especially scenic goes north through Letchworth State Park along the Genesee River Gorge. The trail is marked with yellow blazes. Information on Letchworth State Park can be obtained by writing to the park in Castile, New York 14427.

A free information brochure about the Finger Lakes Trail, containing a guide to maps of the trail which may be purchased, can be obtained by writing to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc., P.O. Box 18048, Rochester, New York 14618. Please include a stamped, self-addressed business size (#10) envelope with your request.

Watkins Glen State Park: Located in the Finger Lakes region near the southern end of Seneca Lake, this part contains a spectacular gorge. Three day-use hiking trails totaling 6 miles are located in the park. Camping facilities are located here, making it an ideal overnight location for users of the nearby Finger Lakes Trail. Information on the park can be obtained by writing to Watkins Glen State Park, Box 304, Watkins Glen, New York 14891.

Allegheny State Park: Located between the Allegheny River and the Pennsylvania State line in western New York, the park contains more than 50 miles of scenic hiking trails and a ski touring trail. The Conservation Trail/Finger Lakes Trail meanders through the park and connects at the Pennsylvania border with the existing 95-mile "North Country Trail" in the Allegheny National Forest. Overnight accommodations in the park include rental cabins and camping areas. For information on the park and its trails, write to Allegheny State Park, Salamanca, New York 14779.

#### The NCT Route in Pennsylvania (Map Sheets 11-15)

The initial 95 miles of the NCT in Pennsylvania follows an existing trail which meanders through the scenic rolling hills and stream valleys of the Allegheny National Forest. From the southern boundary of the national forest, the NCT follows the Baker Trail through State Game Lands #24, Clear Creek State Forest, and Cook Forest State Park to reach the Clarion River. From the southern boundary of the park, the NCT follows a short portion of the Baker Trail, which continues on to the vicinity of Pittsburgh, and then follows a high potential route along the Clarion River through State Game Lands. From the borough of Clarion, the NCT route would utilize the potential of State Game Lands #63 and #95 and an out-of-service railroad right-of-way to reach a complex of State Park lands beginning at Old Stone House, a State-owned historic site. The NCT continues into adjacent

Jennings Environmental Education Center, picking up the Glacier Ridge Trail, which the NCT then follows through Moraine State Park. Existing and potential routes in nearby McConnells Mill State Park form the next segments of the NCT. Two other parcels of State Game Lands and an abandoned railroad right-of-way provide potential routes for completing the NCT in Pennsylvania.

#### Certified Segments

Allegheny National Forest: A 95-mile segment of the NCT, marked with white paint blazes and routed wooden signs, meanders through the forested hills and valleys of this forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. Along the trail in many places throughout the forest, the hiker will see the remnants of early oil exploration and production that once flourished in these hills. An autumn trek on this portion of the NCT will richly reward the hiker with outstanding fall colors. This segment of the NCT connects at its northern end with the Conservation Trail in Allegany State Park, New York, and at its southern end with the Baker Trail. Seven national forest campgrounds are located along or a short distance off the trail. In addition, primitive camping is permitted anywhere within the national forest, but not within 1,500 feet of the shore of Allegheny Reservoir or within 1,500 feet of roads near the reservoir. Other excellent trails maintained by the Forest Service, including the Black Cherry and Tracy Ridge National Recreation Trails, connect with the NCT. For more information on the forest and its trails, write to the Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847, Warren, Pennsylvania 16365.

Clear Creek State Forest: A 1.5-mile segment of the Baker Trail, maintained by the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, serves as the NCT route through a small, isolated parcel of this State area. In addition to the official NCT marker, this segment is marked with yellow paint blazes and routed wooden signs. Single night backpacking is permitted along this trail segment. At its southern end the trail continues into adjacent Cook Forest State Park. For further information, write to District Forest Office, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Box 705, Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214.

Cook Forest State Park: The NCT and the Baker Trail follow approximately 8 miles of the park's 27-mile trail network. Camping is permitted only at the 226-site developed campground, which is open year-round, and at two group camp sites. A camping permit is required. Some of the sites may be reserved up to 1 month in advance during the Memorial Day to Labor Day season. Twenty-three rustic cabins are also available and can be reserved in advance. Many other facilities, including food service in summer, and points of interest can be found in the park. The trail is marked with the official NCT marker and routed wooden signs. For additional information, write to the Superintendent, Cook Forest State Park, P.O. Box 120, Cooksburg, Pennsylvania 16217.

Jennings Environmental Education Center: A 1-mile segment of the Glacier Ridge Trail forms the route of the NCT and part of the trail network at this site operated by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks. The trail extends for an additional 13 miles through adjacent Moraine State Park. It is marked with the NCT marker and blue paint blazes. For a brochure describing the features and activities of the center and showing the trail system, write to Jennings Environmental Education Center, R.D. 1, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania 16057.

Moraine State Park: The NCT follows approximately 13 miles of the Glacier Ridge Trail through this park. The trail is marked with the NCT marker and blue rectangular paint blazes. A wide variety of day-use facilities are found in the park, but there is no camping. Several private campgrounds are in the immediate vicinity of the park. A restaurant is located in the park at the marina. A brochure and map of the park as well as information on nearby private campgrounds can be obtained by writing to the Superintendent, Moraine State Park, R.D. #1, Portersville, Pennsylvania 16051.

McConnells Mill State Park: The NCT follows 1.4 miles of the Alpha Pass and Kildoo Trails along Slippery Rock Creek. Day-use facilities and outstanding points of interest await the hiker. The gorge of Slippery Rock Creek provides a scenic setting for the trail, which is marked with the NCT marker and routed wooden posts. Along the trail are a covered bridge and the restored McConnell's Grist Mill, a national historic landmark. For a map and brochure on the park and information on nearby private campgrounds, write to the Superintendent, McConnells Mill State Park, R.D. #1, Portersville, Pennsylvania 16051.

### "North Country Trail Connectors"

Baker Trail: Two presently uncertified segments of this trail form (1) a connection between the Allegheny National Forest and Clear Creek State Forest segments of the NCT and (2) an extension of the NCT route south and west of Cook Forest State Park. The Baker Trail is a 140-mile hiking trail established and maintained by American Youth Hostels, Inc., Pittsburgh Council, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232. It extends from Freeport (near Pittsburgh) to the southern end of the North Country Trail in Allegheny National Forest. Ten permanent campsites with "Adirondack" shelters are located on side trails a short distance from the main trail. As these are unmarked, hikers should obtain the "Baker Trail Guide Book". Other primitive campsites where tents may be pitched are located along the trail. The guide book and other information can be obtained by writing to the above address.

### The NCT Route in Ohio (Map Sheets 15-30)

Plans call for the NCT to enter Ohio following an abandoned railroad right-of-way and then intersect an existing trail through Beaver Creek State Park

along Little Beaver Creek, a State scenic river and State-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A general location for the trail westward from the park reflects the possible trail route potential of the old Sandy and Beaver Canal. This general location route leads westward to Zoar, a community with restored homes and shops that was the site of the first communal settlement in the United States. At Zoar, the NCT joins the Buckeye Trail and follows it throughout much of Ohio. Although not able to utilize portions of the Buckeye Trail presently routed on roads, the NCT follows its general route and makes use of off-road segments. The trail is developed, marked, and maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other public agencies.

Southward from Zoar, the route of the Buckeye Trail connects a chain of reservoirs and recreation areas operated by the Muskingham Conservancy District and passes through Salt Fork State Park. Near Seneca Lake, the NCT will leave the Buckeye Trail and pass through the eastern unit of the Wayne National Forest following a route proposed by the Forest Service. A general route from Marietta, Ohio, brings the NCT and Buckeye Trail together again near Stockport.

West of Stockport, the NCT follows major off-road portions of the Buckeye Trail through Burr Oak State Park, the middle unit of the Wayne National Forest, Lake Logan State Park, Hocking Hills State Park and Forest, Tar Hollow State Forest, Scioto Trail State Forest, and Pike State Forest. These segments of trail will treat NCT travelers to some of Ohio's most outstanding scenery. A general location route connecting three State memorials brings the NCT to Shawnee State Forest where the NCT follows a portion of Ohio's outstanding Shawnee Backpack Trail. Except for an existing trail segment in East Fork State Park, only a general location is identified for the NCT between Shawnee State Forest and the Cincinnati area.

Just before reaching Cincinnati, the NCT turns northward to follow the 44.8-mile State trail in Little Miami Scenic Park. The trail was developed on an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The trail parallels the Little Miami River, a State scenic river and State-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The potential NCT route continues on the abandoned railroad right-of-way northward from the State ownership to the vicinity of Springfield. Green County is in the process of purchasing much of this right-of-way. The village of Yellow Springs purchased several miles of the right-of-way and is developing the trail for public use. Side trails along this portion of the NCT route lead to Caesar Creek State Park, Glen Helen Nature Preserve, John Bryan State Park, and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. From the vicinity of Springfield, another abandoned railroad right-of-way provides a potential NCT route to Troy.

Until the route from the Greene County line (north of Yellow Springs) to Troy can be established along the abandoned railroad rights-of-way, users of the NCT can follow the Buckeye Trail which passes through Dayton as a major side trail to the NCT. Much of this route is located off-road. The trail passes by or through the Wright Brothers Memorial, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Air Force Museum, and several city and county parks. A segment of the trail in downtown Dayton follows a bikeway which is a National Recreation Trail.

The route of the NCT continues northward from Troy through Piqua and its historical area, and Lockington and its canal museum, making use of off-road portions of the Buckeye Trail. North of Fort Loramie, users of the NCT will begin a trek along the State's Miami and Erie Canal Trail which extends 40 miles northward to Delphos. Lake Loramie and Grand Lake St. Marys State Parks and Deep Cut Park are located along this segment. A general route northward from Delphos approximates the old canal route to the vicinity of Defiance. At nearby Independence Dam State Park, the NCT again follows a trail on the towpath of the Miami and Erie Canal along the Maumee River. A high potential route continues along the river to Napoleon and then turns northward to follow an abandoned railroad right-of-way across the State line into Michigan.

#### Certified Segments

Beaver Creek State Park: A trail along Little Beaver Creek forms a 6 1/4-mile segment of the NCT. Numerous points of historic interest are located in the park, including Gaston's Mill and other historic buildings near the park headquarters, a covered bridge, and several stone locks of the old Sandy and Beaver Canal. Little Beaver Creek, a national scenic river, provides outstanding canoeing opportunities. Camping facilities are located in the park. For additional opportunities, write Beaver Creek State Park, Route 1, Echo Dell Road, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920.

The Buckeye Trail: Throughout Ohio, the North Country National Scenic Trail is losely associated with the 1,200-mile Buckeye Trail, Ohio's official State trail. The trail has been planned, marked, and maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association, a non-profit corporation, in cooperation with many agencies and individuals, including the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Historical Society, U.S. Forest Service, Muskingham and Miami Conservancy Districts, several metropolitan park districts, other local units of government, industries, and many individual landowners. The Buckeye Trail is marked with 2- by 6-inch vertical rectangular light blue paint blazes.

Twenty-four (24) individual segments of the Buckeye Trail totaling approximately 267 miles located on both public and private lands have been certified as official segments of the NCT. These comprise most of the off-road segments of the Buckeye Trail that coincide with the NCT route. Some of these segments are discussed separately below.

Portions of the Buckeye Trail which are presently routed along roads cannot be certified as the NCT route because motorized use of a national scenic trail is prohibited by the National Trails System Act. As new off-road trails are developed by the Buckeye Trail Association to replace segments presently on roads, they will be certified as the official NCT route. In the meantime, hikers who wish to follow the route of the NCT through Ohio can make use of the marked portions of the Buckeye Trail that utilize roads.

Portions of the Buckeye Trail are usable for bicycling and horseback riding. Horseback riders may use the trail except where such use is prohibited by the private landowner or public agency managing the land, by local trail conditions, or by city and village ordinances. Where such limitations exist an effort has been made by the Buckeye Trail Association to provide a bypass.

Camping facilities are available at many locations along or near the trail, although they are not yet frequent enough to enable backpackers to camp beside the trail every night. With careful planning and some advanced research, the trail user can usually find facilities for overnight camping.

Maps and information about the trail, including location of campsites and sections of the trail open to horses, are available from the Buckeye Trail Association, Inc., P.O. Box 254, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

Salt Fork State Park: Approximately 7.8 miles of the NCT/Buckeye Trail traverse this park. Campgrounds and other facilities, including a lodge, restaurant, and cabins, are located in the park. Information on the park can be obtained by writing to Salt Fork State Park, Box 672, Cambridge, Ohio 43725.

Burr Oak State Park: The 29-mile Burr Oak Backpack Trail forms a scenic loop around Burr Oak Reservoir. Seventeen miles of it serve as the route of the NCT/Buckeye Trail. One developed and three primitive camping areas are located along the trail. The trail is closed during deer hunting season. For a brochure and map of the trail, write to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Fountain Square, Building C, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

Hocking State Forest/Hocking Hills State Park: Approximately 12 miles of the NCT/Buckeye Trail pass through this forest and State park complex which preserves for public enjoyment the outstanding scenery of this area, including multi-colored rock cliffs, gorges, and caves. There are a total of 16 miles of hiking trails and 15 miles of bridle trails in this State park/forest complex. Camping areas are located in the State park. Maps and information can be obtained by writing to Hocking State Forest, Route 1, Box 216, Rockbridge, Ohio 43149, or to Hocking Hills State Park, 20160 State Route 664, Logan, Ohio 43138.

Tar Hollow State Park and State Forest: The NCT/Buckeye Trail passes through these public recreation areas. The 16-mile Chief Logan Trail (Boy Scouts of America) and 10 miles of bridle trails are also located here. Camping facilities are located in the State park. Information can be obtained by writing to Tar Hollow State Park, 16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurelville, Ohio 43135, or to Tar Hollow State Forest, Route 1, Londonberry, Ohio 45647.

Pike State Forest/Pike Lake State Park: The NCT/Buckeye Trail passes through the northern portion of the State forest. Other hiking trails and 10 miles of bridle trails are located in these areas. Camping facilities are provided in the State park. Information can be obtained by writing to Pike State Forest, 334 Lappell Road, Latham, Ohio 45645, or to Pike Lake State Park, 1847 Pike Lake Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612.

Fort Hill State Memorial: The NCT/Buckeye Trail follows 3.6 miles of the Deer and Gorge Trails through this scenic and historic site. Fort Hill contains well-preserved prehistoric Hopewell Indian hilltop earthworks. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The memorial site is also noted for its outstanding geological and botanical features. Outcrops of sedimentary bedrock, excellent examples of glacial geology, and the presence of about 650 species of vascular plants, including uncommon species, has led to the designation of Fort Hill State Memorial as a National Natural Landmark. For additional information, write to the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

Shawnee State Park and State Forest: The NCT follows 14.5 miles of the 60-mile Shawnee Backpack Trail and side trails as it passes through these areas. The trail is marked with orange (main trail) and white (side trails) paint blazes. Two backpack campsites are located along this segment of the NCT and there is a developed campground in the State park near the trail. The park also has a 50-room lodge and 25 cabins. There are 70 miles of bridle trails and a horseman's campground in the State forest. Information and maps can be obtained by writing to Shawnee State Forest, Route 5, Box 151C, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662, or to Shawnee State Park, Star Route 68, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

East Fork State Park: The NCT/Buckeye Trail follows an 8.6-mile segment of the 37-mile East Fork Back-Country Trail for backpackers and horsemen. This trail is marked with green blazes as well as green and white signs depicting a backpacker and a horseshoe. A developed campground is located along the NCT segment. For a map and information, write to East Fork State Park, Box 119, Bethel, Ohio 45106.

Little Miami Scenic Park: This State park consists of a linear corridor in which a 44.8-mile hiking trail has been developed on an abandoned railroad right-of-way of the Little Miami Railroad acquired by the State with Federal assistance. The NCT follows this trail from Kroger Hills Park in Hamilton County to just north of the Warren-Greene County line, paralleling the Little Miami River, a National and State Scenic River. Development of the trail to make it usable for horseback riding and bicycling as well as hikers is progressing. (Greene County is in the process of purchasing additional portions of the right-of-way north of the State ownership to continue the NCT northward). For information on this trail, write to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Fountain Square, Building C, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

Miami and Erie Trail: This 42-mile segment of the NCT/Buckeye Trail follows the towpath of the old Miami and Erie Canal from Lake Loramie State Park north to Delphos. A side trail along a feeder canal takes hikers to Grand Lake St. Mary's State Park. Historic remnants of the canal are visible along the trail, including several well-preserved locks and an aquaduct transporting the canal over a creek. Camping facilities are located in Lake Loramie and Grand Lake St. Mary's State Parks. For a map of the trail, write to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Publications Center, Fountain Square, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

Independence Dam State Park: Seven additional miles of trail on the Miami and Erie Canal towpath form the NCT route through this park along the Maumee River, a designated State Scenic River. Camping facilities are located in the park. For information, write to Independence Dam State Park, Route 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

#### "North Country Trail Connectors"

The Buckeye Trail: A number of off-road segments of the Buckeye Trail are not yet officially certified as the NCT route but are useable by NCT hikers. See the entry above under "Certified Segments."

#### The NCT Route in Michigan (Map Sheets 30-51)

The NCT enters Michigan following the potential route of an abandoned railroad right-of-way. About 6 miles inside the State line, a general route

for the NCT begins to meander northwestward for many miles across southern Michigan farmlands, interrupted only by high potential routes through undeveloped Lake Hudson Recreation Area and Lost Nation State Game Area and an existing 5-mile bikeway paralleling State Route 99. Southeast of Grand Rapids, the NCT route follows potential and existing trails through Barry State Game Area and Yankee Springs State Recreation Area. The NCT passes near Grand Rapids, Michigan's second largest city, following a general location route and high potential routes through Lowell, Cannonsburg, and Rogue River State Game Areas and Wabasis County Park.

A high potential route begins at Croton Dam and intercepts the existing Manistee Trail which meanders northward through the southern portion of the Manistee National Forest. The USDA-Forest Service has identified a potential route to continue the NCT through to the northern boundary of the forest, passing by many campgrounds and scenic points of interest. A proposed side trail to the Forest Service campground on the shore of Lake Michigan would permit hikers to enjoy the shoreline and dunes there and at adjacent Ludington State Park. North of the Manistee National Forest, the NCT follows high potential routes through State forest lands and along an abandoned railroad right-of-way to connect with the existing Shore-to-Shore Riding-Hiking Trail. A side route to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore would utilize a potential route across State forest lands and another portion of the Shore-to-Shore Trail.

The main NCT route follows approximately 35 miles of the Shore-to-Shore Trail, taking the hiker through the scenic Boardman River Valley. East of Kalkaska, the NCT swings northward on potential routes through Pere Marquette and Mackinaw State Forests to the Jordan River valley. The existing Jordan River Pathway is already a National Recreation Trail component of the National Trails System. High potential routes and short stretches of existing State forest pathways continue northward through Mackinaw State Forest to Wilderness State Park. The park contains an excellent trail system utilizing footpaths and backcountry service roads. Waugoshance Point and Sturgeon Bay are noted for their excellent small mouth bass fishing.

High potential and general routes lead to the scenic Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge. Reconstructed Fort Michilimackinac at the foot of the bridge provides excellent historic interpretation of the pre-Revolutionary War and fur traders. A ferry ride to Mackinac Island would enable the hiker to visit Fort Mackinac and other historic and scenic sites on the island which in 1875 became the second national park in the United States, a status it enjoyed for 20 years before being transferred to Michigan as a State park.

In Michigan's upper peninsula, the NCT route begins at Father Marquette National Memorial, an affiliated area of the National Park System. Entering the Hiawatha National Forest, the NCT follows an existing trail to a complex of Federal and State campgrounds at Brevoort Lake. A potential route proposed by the Forest Service continues northward connecting with a completed section of trail which extends almost to Lake Superior. A potential route follows primarily public lands to the Rivermouth Campground at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The upper and lower falls, reached by side trails, will delight the hiker with their scenic beauty.

Beginning at the Rivermouth Campground, the route of the NCT follows Michigan's existing 80-mile "North Country Trail" through Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Lake Superior State Forest, Muskallonge Lake State Park, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Numerous campgrounds are located at convenient intervals along the trail as the hiker enjoys miles of scenic Lake Superior shoreline with its dunes and interesting rock formations. A side trail, Fox River Pathway, provides access to and from the community of Seney and nearby Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

Continuing westward from Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the NCT once again enters the Hiawatha National Forest (western unit) on a segment being developed by the Forest Service. A side trail, Bay De Noc - Grand Island National Recreation Trail, leads southward across the upper peninsula to Little Bay De Noc on Lake Michigan. The main NCT route continues to scenic Rock River Falls and Canyon and Laughing Whitefish Falls on its way to Marquette. A general route skirts west and north of the city to a planned new State recreation site along Lake Superior known as Little Presque Isle. From there the NCT follows general routes to and through the McCormick Tract of the Ottawa National Forest and a potential route through undeveloped Craig Lake State Park. An abandoned railroad right-of-way is a potential route to the main unit of the Ottawa National Forest, where significant portions of the NCT have been completed. Potential routes have been proposed by the Forest Service for all other portions of the NCT route in the Ottawa. For several miles, the potential route lies just inside the southern boundary of 58,000-acre Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, which contains its own outstanding trail system. Existing and potential routes continue through the Ottawa National Forest to Ironwood and the Wisconsin State Line.

#### Certified Segments

M-99 Bikeway: This 5-mile Class I bikeway parallels State Route 99 within its right-of-way between Hillsdale and Jonesville. Only bicyclists are permitted on the asphalt path; hikers should walk along side the bike path. For information, write to the Michigan Department of Transportation, 425 West Ottawa, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Shore-to-Shore Riding-Hiking Trail: This hiking and horseback riding trail stretches 213 miles from Empire on the Lake Michigan shore to Tawas City on the Lake Huron shore. Two major spurs go south to Cadillac and north toward Cheboygan. Its route across the northern lower peninsula traverses some of the most scenic areas in the State. Parts of the trail parallel the Boardman and the Au Sable Rivers, which are nationally known for their scenic beauty. In 1984, Congress designated a portion of the Au Sable River as a National Wild and Scenic River. Sixteen public trail camps, as well as private facilities and services, are available for users of the Shore-to-Shore Trail.

The NCT follows approximately 34 miles of this trail from the Boardman River south of Traverse City to just east of Kalkaska. Following the Shore-to-Shore Trail west of this segment will take the hiker or horseback rider to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Continuing eastward on the trail beyond this segment will take the user along the Au Sable River and through Huron National Forest.

Five State Forest campgrounds and two other camping areas are located along the segment of the Shore-to-Shore Trail utilized by the NCT. Side trails along this stretch of the NCT include the Muncie Lakes Pathway and the trail system of Sand Lakes Quiet Area, a 2,800-acre tract of State Forest lands set aside in 1973 within which motor vehicle use is prohibited. Camping is permitted anywhere within the Sand Lakes area, except within 100 feet of any lake.

The Shore-to-Shore Trail is marked with blue triangular plastic markers and routed wooden signs in addition to the official NCT marker. At road crossings and turns in the trail, there are square wooden posts with blue tops and a footprint and horseshoe symbol routed into its sides.

For a general brochure on the Shore-to-Shore Trail, write to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Jordan River Pathway: The NCT follows 9.25 miles of this outstanding 18-mile loop trail. The entire pathway is a component of the National Trails System, having been designated a National Recreation Trail in October 1980. In addition to the official NCT markers, the trail is marked with blue paint blazes, blue triangular plastic markers, and routed wooden signs. Points of scenic, biological, and historical interest are located along the trail. A hike-in campground is located along the segment utilized by the NCT. For a brochure and map of the pathway, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Warner Creek Pathway: Approximately 1.6 miles of this State Forest pathway is utilized by the NCT. The segment is marked with the NCT marker supplemented by blue paint blazes, blue triangular plastic markers, and routed wooden signs. The entire 3.8-mile loop trail is open to hiking and cross country skiing. There is a parking lot at the trail head. For a map of the pathway, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Spring Brook Pathway: The NCT follows 1.7 miles of this dual loop 5-mile trail. The pathway is open to cross country skiing in winter and there is a parking lot at the trail head. The NCT segment is marked with the official marker supplemented by blue paint blazes, blue triangular plastic markers, and routed wooden signs. For a map of the pathway, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Hiawatha National Forest: A 14.6-mile segment of the NCT has been completed in the eastern unit of this forest. Soldier Lake Campground is located at the approximate mid-point of this segment. In addition, camping is permitted anywhere along the trail. Other segments of the trail are under development in both the eastern and western units of the forest. In the western unit, an existing 46-mile north-south trail, the Bay DeNoc-Grand Island National Recreation Trail, provides hiking and horseback riding opportunities as a side trail to the east-west route being developed for the NCT. For information on the forest, its trails, and other recreation features, write to the Forest Supervisor, Hiawatha National Forest, Box 316, Escanaba, Michigan 49829.

Lake Superior State Forest: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has constructed approximately 63 miles of trail through this forest and two State parks to serve as the NCT. Only the portions on State Forest lands are presently certified (two segments totaling 42.7 miles). The trail extends northward from Tahquamenon Falls State Park through heavily forested lands to the shoreline of Lake Superior and then continues west for 26 miles along the scenic shoreline to the village of Grand Marais. There are six State Forest campgrounds along or near the certified sections of the trail. In addition, backcountry camping anywhere along the trail is permitted on State Forest lands. The trail is marked with the official NCT marker supplemented by blue paint blazes, blue triangular plastic markers, and routed wooden information signs. For a brochure and map of the trail, as well as information on rules and regulations pertaining to State Forest lands, write to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: The NCT follows the Lakeshore Trail for 42.8 miles through this national park area. It is marked with the NCT marker and routed wooden directional signs at all trail heads and trail intersections. Hikers' fingers will grow weary depressing the shutter buttons of their cameras as they try to capture the outstanding scenery of the Lake Superior shoreline - the massive Grand Sable Dunes, beautiful sandy beaches, and the magnificent Pictured Rocks. Historic sites such as the log slide and the Au Sable Point lighthouse will intrigue hikers. Two developed and 12 backcountry campgrounds are located along the trail. A free permit is required to camp overnight in the backcountry. Permits can be obtained at the park headquarters or at the visitor centers at either end of the trail in Grand Marais and Munising. For a brochure on the lakeshore and information regarding the Lakeshore Trail and backcountry camping, write to the Superintendent, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, P.O. Box 40, Munising, Michigan 49862.

Ottawa National Forest: Three segments of the NCT totaling approximately 40 miles have been constructed by the Forest Service in this forest. Planning for an additional 68 miles of trail to complete the NCT through the forest is well underway. Hikers will enjoy outstanding scenery along the trail including the series of waterfalls on the lower Black River. Only one developed Forest Service campground is located along the completed portions of the trail, but trailside camping is permitted. The completed portions are marked with the NCT marker at trail heads supplemented by blue diamond plastic markers along the trail and routed wooden signs. A side trail, known as the Gogebic Ridge Feeder Trail, connects the NCT with the north end of scenic Lake Gogebic. For information and a map of the forest, write to the Forest Supervisor, Ottawa National Forest, East U.S. 2, Ironwood, Michigan 49938.

Outstanding opportunities for side trips from this portion of the NCT are available in Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. This 58,000-acre park is one of the few remaining large wilderness areas in the Midwest. Towering stands of virgin timber, four secluded lakes, and miles of wild rivers and streams await hikers who venture into the "Porkies." The park contains 85 miles of backpacking trails which lead the hiker to spectacular overlooks and vistas. Backpackers must register at the park office before entering the interior of the park. Nine rustic cabins which must be reserved in advance and three Adirondack shelters available on a first-come basis are located along the trails. Trailside camping is permitted, but not within one-fourth mile of any cabin or shelter. In addition, there are modern, semi-modern, and rustic developed campgrounds within the park. A fee is charged for all camping, including trailside. For information on the park and its trail system, write to the Park Supervisor, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Star Route Box 314, Ontonagon, Michigan 49953.

## "North Country Trail Connectors"

Barry State Game Area/Yankee Springs Recreation Area: These adjacent State-owned recreation areas provide opportunities for both hiking and horseback riding. Yankee Springs has horseback riding and hiking trails which meander through wooded hills interspersed with lakes. Modern and rustic campgrounds and an organization camp are provided. Barry State Game Area has a 9-mile horse trail. Approximately 6.7 miles of the trail network in these areas could serve as the NCT route. For additional information, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Manistee National Forest: An existing 20-mile trail, known as the Manistee Trail, in the southern portion of this forest is the first segment of the NCT route that will eventually span the forest in a north-south direction. Eight Federal or State campgrounds are located along or near the existing and proposed routes. In addition, trailside camping is allowed on national forest lands. Hikers will enjoy pleasant walking through the forested plains of western Michigan. A proposed side trail will provide access to Lake Michigan at the USDA-Forest Service's Lake Michigan Recreation Area. Adjacent to the south is 4,156-acre Ludington State Park. The park is noted for its foot trail system, totaling 25 miles, which takes the hiker through woods and along lakes, streams, beaches, and dunes. For national forest information, write to the Forest Supervisor, Manistee National Forest, 421 South Mitchell Street, Cadillac, Michigan 49601. Information on Ludington State Park can be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Wilderness State Park: The route proposed for the NCT follows approximately 9 miles of existing trails and fire access roads through this 7,500-acre park. The entire trail network provides approximately 15 miles of outstanding hiking opportunities in this park that well deserves its name, "Wilderness." Two modern campgrounds provide overnight accommodations. In addition, there are five trailside cabins that may be rented with advance reservations. For information, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Mackinac Island State Park: Although not directly on the route of the North Country Trail, this island park provides an interesting side trip. Reached by ferry from Mackinaw City or St. Ignace, this scenic and historic park provides many miles of bicycling, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities. In fact, bicycles, your own feet, and horses are the only modes of transportation on the island; motor vehicles are not allowed. The trail system on the island has been designated a National Recreation Trail.

Bicycles and horses may be rented for touring the many scenic and historic features, including Arch Rock and old Fort Mackinac. These outstanding features were the basis of Mackinac Island's designation as our Nation's second national park in 1875, a status it retained until 1895 when the park was turned over to the State of Michigan. No camping facilities are available on the island, but many resort hotels and tourist rooms are located in the village. For information, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Hiawatha National Forest: The Forest Service has constructed a 12.6-mile trail from Forest Route 3104 in the vicinity of St. Ignace northwest to Brevoort Lake Campground. The trail is designed to be a segment of the NCT but official designation as part of the route is pending. Backcountry camping along the trail is permitted. Developed camping facilities are at Brevoort Lake. A short trail extends from the campground to two State Forest campgrounds on Little Brevoort Lake. For information on this trail segment, write to the Forest Supervisor, Hiawatha National Forest, 2727 Lincoln Road, P.O. Box 316, Escanaba, Michigan 49829.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park: This 21,000-acre park contains outstanding scenery, including the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi. A 17-mile segment of the NCT follows portions of the park's trail network. Official designation as part of the NCT is pending, however. Two campgrounds are located in the park - one near the Lower Falls and one near the mouth of the Tahquamenon River where it empties into Lake Superior. For information, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Muskallonge Lake State Park: A 1.5-mile segment of the NCT passes through this park, but official designation of the segment is pending. The park is located on a narrow strip of land separating Lake Superior and Muskallonge Lake. A developed campground is located in the park. For information on the park, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Information Services Center, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

#### The NCT Route in Wisconsin (Map Sheets 51-55)

As the NCT crosses into Wisconsin, it follows a high potential route and then existing trails developed on Iron County Forest lands. A general route continues to Copper Falls State Park where the NCT follows existing trails in the park. A short distance to the southwest, the NCT begins to follow the existing 60-mile "North Country Trail" in the Chequamegon National Forest. This trail helped give birth to the concept of the NCT in the 1960's and gave its name to the entire 3,200-mile route. A possible side trail could lead northward through the forest toward Apostle Islands National Lakeshore at the tip of the Bayfield Peninsula.

Leaving the national forest, the NCT passes through Bayfield County Forest lands and enters the Brule River State Forest where it follows an existing trail southward through the forest. A high potential route continues past Lucius Woods State Park and through a State wildlife area before reaching the upper end of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway. The NCT route parallels the St. Croix River for approximately 40 miles until it departs Wisconsin near Danbury. Camping and other recreation facilities are located at intervals along the river. The river also provides hikers the opportunity to change their mode of travel by canoeing a portion of the NCT route.

#### Certified Segments

Copper Falls State Park: The NCT meanders through this park for 7.8 miles taking the hiker through peaceful forests to a series of spectacular waterfalls: Copper Falls, Brownstone Falls, and Tyler's Fork Cascades. The park contains a wide variety of recreational facilities including two developed campgrounds, a group camp area, and two backpack campsites in the north end of the park on a side trail off the NCT. Advance reservations are necessary for the group camp and recommended for the backpack campsites. The trail through the park is marked with routed wooden signs, the official NCT marker, and diamond-shaped blue metal markers. For information on the park and its segment of the NCT, write to the Park Superintendent, Copper Falls State Park, Mellen, Wisconsin 54546.

Chequamegon National Forest: The "original" 60-mile segment of the NCT traverses the northern half of the forest. It begins 2 miles west of Mellen and ends 5 miles south of Iron River. The trail passes through the Rainbow Lake and Porcupine Lake Wilderness Areas. The segment is marked with the NCT marker attached to posts supplemented by yellow diamond plastic markers.

The trail is open to hiking/backpacking and horseback riding in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Four developed campgrounds with water, tables, fireplaces, and sanitation facilities are located along or very near to the trail. There are also three Adirondack shelters along the trail. Trailside camping at other locations is permitted, but camps must be kept 50 feet away from the trail or water's edge in order to protect natural features that presently exist.

For a map and additional information, write to the Forest Supervisor, Chequamegon National Forest, 157 North Fifth Avenue, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552.

### The NCT Route in Minnesota (Map Sheets 55-64)

The initial mileage of the NCT in Minnesota follows existing and proposed portions of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Trail northward through St. Croix and Nemadji State Forests to Jay Cooke State Park near Duluth. Several public and private camping areas are located along the trail. The Boundary Trail also extends southward along the St. Croix River as a side trail. St. Croix State Park, immediately inside Minnesota, can serve as a major trail head for the Minnesota segment of the NCT.

Westward from Jay Cooke State Park, general and high potential routes extend along the St. Louis River to Floodwood. The NCT then dips south to follow existing and potential routes through Savanna State Forest and Savanna Portage State Park. The park is located on the historic portage between the East and West Savanna Rivers which feed into the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, respectively. A potential route continues from Savanna State Forest through Hill River State Forest to the Chippewa National Forest.

Major portions of the NCT route in the Chippewa National Forest have been completed and the remaining portions are under development. Although few established campgrounds are located along the trail in the forest, dispersed camping anywhere along the trail is permitted. Near the western edge of the forest, the route intersects Minnesota's Heartland Trail. Established on an abandoned railroad right-of-way, the Heartland Trail and the U.S. 71 bikeway form an alternative bicycling route and side trail to Itasca State Park.

The NCT continues westward from the Chippewa National Forest along a high potential route through Paul Bunyan State Forest to Itasca State Park. Picturesque Lake Itasca is the source of the "Mighty Mississippi" and hikers can follow park trails to experience standing astride its humble beginnings. General and potential routes continue west from the park through White Earth State Forest to Little Elbow Lake State Park and then turn south toward Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

The NCT will follow existing and potential routes for 20 miles through the refuge. From its southern boundary, a general route extends to Maplewood State Park where existing and potential trail routes form a link in the NCT. A general route continues a short distance westward to intersect an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The right-of-way provides a possible route for the NCT into Fergus Falls. At Fergus Falls, the route turns due west toward North Dakota following railroad rights-of-way that have been abandoned or are scheduled for abandonment. The NCT exits Minnesota at Breckenridge.

### Certified Segments

Chippewa National Forest: Sixty-eight miles of the NCT will pass through the southern portion of the Chippewa. Presently, three segments totaling 43

miles have been completed and are certified as the official NCT. These segments are open to hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The segments are marked with the official NCT marker at trail heads and primary road crossings supplemented by grey aluminum diamond markers containing the letters "NCT".

Two camping areas have been developed along the completed portions of the trail. Facilities include tent pads, fire rings, and wilderness privies. In addition, camping is permitted anywhere along the trail unless an area is specifically posted "No Camping." No permit is required for such trailside camping.

Sixteen other hiking/cross-country skiing trails located in Chippewa National Forest provide opportunities for side trips. They vary in length from 1/4 mile to the 22 1/4-mile Cut Foot Sioux Trail. For additional information and maps of the trails, write to the Forest Supervisor, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633.

#### "North Country Trail Connectors"

Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Trail: One of 12 "corridor trails" administered by the Department of Natural Resources, this trail will eventually connect the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area with Duluth via the scenic St. Croix River Valley, a national scenic riverway. The trail is completed from where the NCT route would enter Minnesota, near Danbury, Wisconsin, north to Nickerson and south to the Snake River. Heading northward, about 23 miles of existing trail trace the NCT route passing through St. Croix and Nemadji State Forests. Each forest has its own trail network, providing side trip opportunities. Six campgrounds or trail shelters are located along this portion of the trail. The trail is open to hikers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers. For a map and information, write to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Trails and Waterways Unit, Box 52, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55146.

Jay Cooke State Park: The NCT route follows approximately 4 miles of the park's cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails. This 2,350-acre park has a modern camping area and three backcountry campsites. The entire 41-mile system of interconnected loop trails provides many side-trip opportunities amidst a hardwood forest environment featuring the St. Louis River, water-eroded gorges, steep valleys, and massive rock formations. For information, write to the Park Manager, Jay Cooke State Park, Carlton, Minnesota 55718.

Savanna State Forest/Savanna Portage State Park: This park and forest complex encompasses a historic voyageur portage route between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds. The NCT route utilizes approximately 10

miles of the trail network in these areas, including trails in the Remote Lake Solitude Area. One hike-in campground is located in the Solitude Area. In addition, there is a developed campground along the trail route in the State park. For more information, write to the Area Forest Supervisor, Hill City Area, Box 9, Hill City, Minnesota 55748, or to the Department of Natural Resources, Trails and Waterways Unit, Box 52, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55146.

Itasca State Park: This park, containing the headwaters of the Mississippi River, will be a highlight of a trip on the NCT through Minnesota. The NCT will utilize a portion of the park's extensive system of more than 60 miles of hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and bicycle trails. A major portion of the park is maintained as "backcountry" and many miles of trail and two walk-in campgrounds are located in this section. There are also two primitive group camps, two modern campgrounds, a lodge, and cabins located in the park. For more information, write to the Park Manager, Itasca State Park, Lake Itasca, Minnesota 56460.

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge: The NCT utilizes portions of the 50-mile network of trails and backwoods service roads within the refuge. Approximately 12 miles of the route are completed and open to public use but not yet officially designated as the NCT. Hikers wishing to use the Tamarac segments of the NCT must obtain a permit from the Refuge Manager. Camping is not permitted within the refuge. For information about the refuge and permission to use the trail, write to the Refuge Manager, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Rural Route, Rochert, Minnesota 56578.

Maplewood State Park: Approximately 4 miles of existing hiking, cross-country skiing, and/or horseback riding trails can serve as a portion of the NCT route through this 9,000-acre park. The park is noted for its scenic tree covered hills and small clear lakes nestled in deep valleys. A total of about 35 miles of trails provide access to the various features of the park, including two modern campgrounds and a primitive group camp site. For information and a map of the trail system, write to the Park Manager, Maplewood State Park, Route #3, Box 281, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota 56572.

#### The NCT Route in North Dakota (Map Sheets 64-74)

The NCT heads northward from Wahpeton, its point of entrance into North Dakota, along an abandoned railroad right-of-way to Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site. The fort was established in 1858 to protect the northwestern frontier and was one of a chain of forts along the route from St. Paul to the Montana gold fields. A general route continues westward across flat farmlands to the Sheyenne National Grassland, a 71,000-acre remnant of the tall grass prairies administered by the USDA-Forest Service. The Forest

Service has identified a route for a hiking/horseback riding segment of the NCT through the grassland.

Westward from the Sheyenne National Grassland, a general route follows the Sheyenne River valley with its scenic stands of bottom land forests of mixed hardwoods to Sheyenne State Forest. The NCT would follow existing and high potential trail routes from the forest past Fort Ransom State Historic Site to Fort Ransom State Park. A general route for the NCT continues north from the park along the Sheyenne River passing by Little Yellowstone Park, a scenic county park and natural area. At Kathryn, the NCT route joins the new Sheyenne Valley Trail being established by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

North of Valley City, the general route of the NCT continues along the Sheyenne River valley and Lake Ashtabula, a multiple-purpose reservoir built and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). Numerous public recreation sites, many with camping, are located along both sides of the reservoir. As the river makes its westward turn, the general route of the NCT departs from the river and continues north to Stump Lake Regional Park and then turns west, passing through Fort Totten Indian Reservation. Sully's Hill National Game Preserve and Fort Totten State Historic Site are two places of interest located near the route of the NCT.

As the route of the NCT leaves Fort Totten Indian Reservation, it turns south, briefly follows the Sheyenne River, and intersects the route of the Garrison Diversion Project. The diversion canal rights-of-way provide a high potential, and perhaps the only feasible, route across many miles of private farmlands. The western portion, or McCluskey Canal, has been completed and the NCT could be accommodated within the right-of-way. Portions of the canal are at grade level and appear as natural water bodies. Where the canal lies in cuts, the trail would probably parallel the canal on the adjacent high ground.

The canal route takes the hiker to Lakes Audubon and Sakakawea impounded by Garrison Dam. The NCT follows routes along and near the shores of these lakes to the dam, taking advantage of, to the extent possible, the potential of a continuous chain of public lands. As the NCT crosses Garrison Dam, it intersects the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, its western terminus. The western trail head would be Lake Sakakawea State Park located on the shore of the lake just west of the dam. Several COE-managed recreation sites and a national fish hatchery are located around the dam.

Downstream along the Missouri River, the route of Lewis and Clark, are several historic sites associated with the expedition's winter encampment of 1804-05. These include Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site,

the site of Fort Mandan (their winter camp), and a reconstructed replica of Fort Mandan at a nearby county park.

Certified Segments

Sheyenne State Forest: The NCT follows 1 mile of the Oak Ridge Hiking Trail in this forest. The trail offers outstanding scenic views overlooking the Sheyenne River valley. The trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. For more information, write to the District Forester, North Dakota Forest Service, Box 604, Lisbon, North Dakota 58054.