



Meander the hardwood and pine forests of Michigan's southern peninsula while seeing glacial carved topography up close on this 129-mile portion of the North Country trail. From **Marilla to Upper River Road** the trail follows the ridge high above the Manistee River, offering hikers scenic views of the river valley. As visitors head further south toward the **Udell Trailhead** they will traverse many glacier and river created hills. The trail between the **Udell** and **Freesoil Trailheads** will take visitors through the Udell Hills, a rolling topography of hardwood forest. At the Little Manistee River, the trail winds through wetlands and swamp areas. After visitors reach the **Timber Creek Trailhead** the trail travels along the Pere Marquette National Scenic River and into the **Bowman Lake Foot Travel Area**. As visitors continue south toward **76th Street**, they will catch glimpses of the Pere Marquette River. From **76th Street to Nichols Lake North**, visitors will find a heavily wooded red pine area and will travel through **Sterling Marsh** where several accessible boardwalks raise the trail above water level. Bring your binoculars for birding. From **Nichols Lake**, visitors will cross Bear Creek before heading through a marshy area that gradually shifts to hills. As the trail travels south, the marshy areas will give way to hills before visitors get closer to **M-20** where they will cross Cole Creek. Between **M-20** and **40th Street** visitors will enter savannas and prairies before winding out of the National Forest and through Coolbough Nature Preserve.

Recreation fees are required at most day-use sites and campgrounds. Check bulletin boards for fee information.



Recreation Fees

◊ Turn right and travel west on 40th St. for .75 miles.
◊ Travel south on M-37 for 5 miles.

40th Street

◊ Turn left and travel west on M-20 for 2.75 miles.
◊ Travel north on M-37 for 1 mile.

M-20

From White Cloud

◊ Turn right and travel west on Cleveland Dr. for 2.25 miles.

◊ Turn left and travel south on Bingham Rd. for 1 mile.

◊ Turn right and travel west on 14 Mile Rd. for 1 mile.

◊ Travel south on M-37 for 10 miles.

Nichols Lake North

◊ Turn right and travel west on 76th for 2.5 miles.

◊ Travel south on M-37 for 3 miles.

76th Street

◊ Travel west on 56th St. for 7 miles.

Bowman Lake

◊ Turn left and travel west on US-10 for 7.5 miles.

◊ Travel north on M-37 for 3 miles.

Timber Creek

From Baldwin

Directions to Trailheads



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

North Country



National Scenic Trail



Upper River Road Trailhead



Sterling Marsh



Snowshoeing

Huron-Manistee National Forests

A National Scenic Trail

Did you know that the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) passes through three National Parks, eight National Forests, and one National Grassland?

The NCNST is being constructed across federal, state, county and private lands. Upon completion the trail will extend from Crown Point, New York to Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota. It will be the longest, continuous hiking trail in the United States.

The 127-mile portion of the NCNST that goes through the Manistee portion of the National Forests includes 15 spur trails to other forest hiking and interpretive trails. The trail is marked with blue rectangle-shaped blazes. Connector trails are marked with white rectangle blazes on trees.

The NCNST is managed in partnership with the National Park Service, The North Country Trail Association (NCTA), and the Spirit of the Woods and Western Michigan Chapters of the NCTA, along with many local groups and individuals.



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Contact Information

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf

Email: r9_hmnf_website@fs.fed.us

Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263

Baldwin Ranger Station

Phone: 231-745-4631

TTY: 771

Manistee Ranger Station

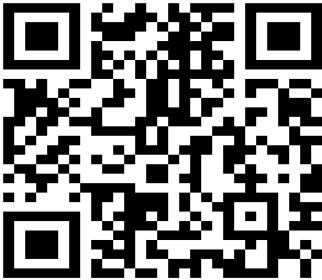
Phone: 231-723-2211

TTY: 711

Supervisor's Office

Phone: 231-775-2421

TTY: 711



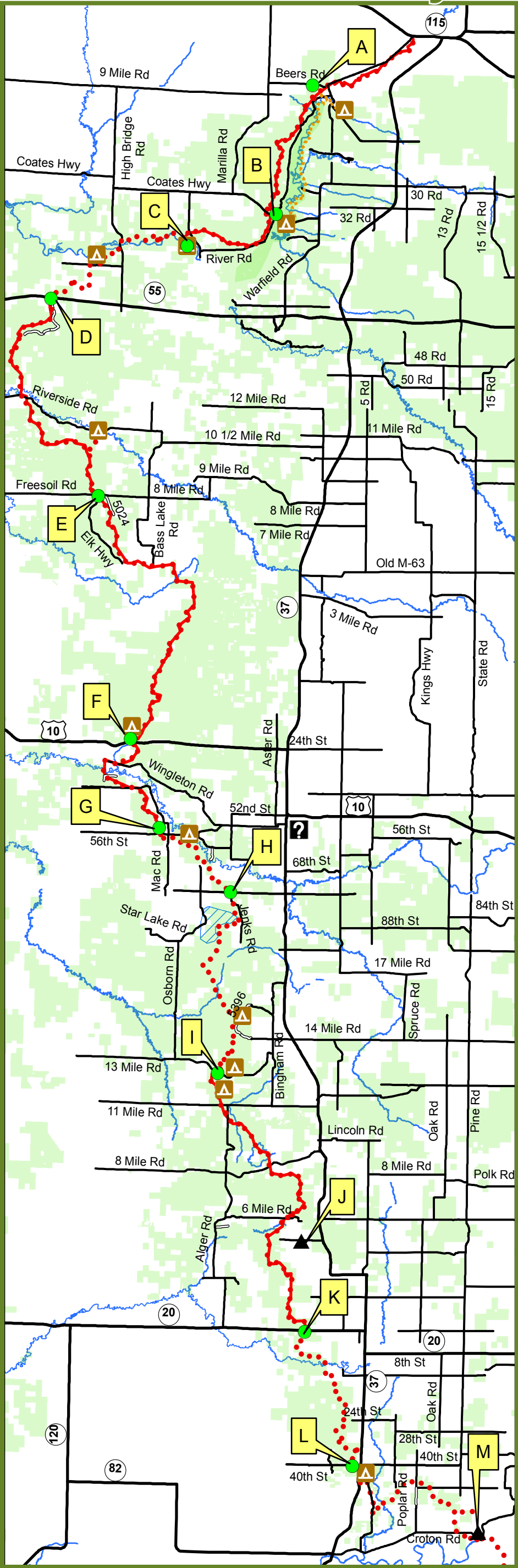
National Park Service

Website: www.nps.gov/noco/index.htm

Phone: 616-340-2004



North Country National Scenic Trail



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Trailheads

Trailheads listed north to south.

Site Number	Trailheads	Fee	Restroom	Picnic Tables	Water	Miles	Longitude	Latitude
A	Marilla to	♣	♣	♣		-	-85.8395	44.373474
B	Upper River Road					7.4	-85.871153	44.289745
C	Dilling Road					-	-	-
D	Udell to	♣	♣	♣	♣	17.4	-86.076379	44.232245
E	Freesoil to					14.8	-86.029419	44.10539
F	Timber Creek to	♣	♣	♣	♣	18.9	-85.995471	43.94837
G	Bowman Lake to			♣		8.1	-85.966555	43.891076
H	76th Street to					5.7	-85.901768	43.850864
I	Nichols Lake N. to	♣	♣	♣		12.9	-85.910094	43.733343
J	Schoolhouse					-		
K	M-20 to					19.8	-85.826547	43.567216
L	40th Street to					10.5	-85.781175	43.480777
M	Croton Dam					10.6	-	-

Conduct and Ethics

Plan Ahead and Prepare

◇ Bring water or a filtration system with you. Don't trust water from streams or ponds without treating.

Camp on hardened ground

◇ Campsites must be at least 200 feet from water and 100 feet from roads and trails.

Dispose of Waste Properly

◇ Create waste disposal areas at least 200 feet from water, campsites and trails.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

◇ Make sure ashes are cold to the touch before leaving.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

◇ Remove trash when you leave.
◇ Share the trail with other users.

Mountain Biking Allowed

Marilla to Dilling Road - 21 miles
M-55 to Bowman Lake - 41 miles
Nichols Lake N. to M-20 - 18 miles

Mountain Biking Not Allowed

Dilling Road to M-55 - 20 miles
Bowman Lake to Nichols Lake N. - 17 miles
M-20 to Croton Dam - 19 miles

Legend

- 📍 Baldwin Ranger Station
- Trailhead
- 📍 Campgrounds
- ▲ Non FS sites
- Hiking Only
- Open to bikes
- ManisteeRiverTrail
- National Forest System Lands
- ▨ Sterling Marsh

Campgrounds Along the Trail

Seaton Creek (Marilla)
Red Bridge (Upper River Rd.)
Sawdust Hole (Dilling Rd.)
Blacksmith Bayou (Udell)
Bear Track (Freesoil)
Timber Creek (Timber Creek)
Bowman Lake, Bowman Bridge (Bowman)
Highbank Lake (76th St.)
Nichols S., Walkup Lake (Nichols N.)
Twinwood Lake (40th St.)

