

WELCOME to the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT). Explore the 96.3 miles of North Country National Scenic Trail that meander through the historic lands of the Iroquois, the Allegheny plateau, the home of the most valuable black cherry in the world, landscapes rich in history, wildlife, and natural beauty.

A unique national resource, the NCT is part of a 4,600-mile National Scenic Trail that extends from Crown Point, NY, to Lake Sakakawea, ND. Once completed, it will be the longest continuous footpath in the US.

FINDING THE TRAIL — The NCT crosses many open public roads. From the New York border, the trail crosses these major routes: SR 346 near Willow Bay Recreation Area, SR 321 near Sugar Bay, SR 59 west of the Bradford Ranger Station, SR 321 near Red Bridge Recreation Area, US 6 east of Ludlow, SR 948 north of Brookston, SR 666 at Henrys Mills, and SR 666 at Kellettville.

REGULATIONS — This trail is for hiking. Motorized vehicles, ATV’s and snowmobiles are not allowed on the trail. Forest trails policy prohibits the use of saddle, pack or draft animals on hiking or cross-country ski trails. Camping is permitted anywhere on National Forest land with a few exceptions:

- Within 1500 feet of the timberline around the Allegheny Reservoir, except in areas designated for such use.
- Within Jakes Rocks and Rimrock or within 1500 feet of either side of the centerline of Allegheny Reservoir Scenic Drive (includes Longhouse National Scenic Drive and portions of SRs 59, 346 and 321).
- Within 1500 feet of either side of the main channel of Kinzua Creek from Red Bridge upstream to Mead Run.

SAFETY — The skill level of this trail is MORE DIFFICULT and you should be in good health to enjoy it. Hikers are encouraged to purchase the topographic maps for the areas they intend to hike. We encourage you to hike with at least one other person and to leave your itinerary with friends so they will know where to look if you do not return on time or need assistance.

Forest Visitors may encounter a variety of dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to inform yourself about these inherent risks and precautions.

This trail is open for winter hiking. Remember to dress in layers appropriate for the weather conditions. Be aware that hunters use this trail in the spring and fall. It is a good idea to wear bright fluorescent colored clothing during these periods. Practice NO TRACE ETHICS—PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT, and for sanitary disposal of wastes, dig a pit at least 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water. The pump water in the developed recreation areas is safe to drink. Water from other sources should be boiled before consumption.

EMERGENCY — Hospitals are located in Bradford, Warren, Kane and Ridgway. Please report any unsafe trail conditions such as downed trees and missing signs or trail markers directly to the Allegheny National Forest at (814) 723-5150. We appreciate your support.

VOLUNTEERS — If you, a friend, or your club is interested in volunteering to help maintain this trail area, please contact the Ranger District.

HIKING THE TRAIL:

NY BORDER TO SR 321 AT NELSE RUN

Mileage: **11.3**, Elevation Change: **460'**, Quadrangle: **Cornplanter Run**, Parking: **SR 346, SR 321 at Nelse Run**

In Allegany State Park (NY) the North Country Trail follows the Finger Lakes Trail. After passing through a beautiful hardwood forest, you reach SR 346; just west is Willow Bay Recreation Area (campsites, restrooms, water, boat launch, picnic area). The Tracy Ridge Recreation Area (campsites, restrooms, and water) is accessed via the Tracy Ridge or Johnnycake Trails. The Handsome Lake and Hopewell Campgrounds are boat-to or hiking access facilities with campsites, restrooms, and water. Access is via marked connector trails.

SR 321 AT NELSE RUN TO SR 59

Mileage: **6.0**, Elevation Change: **780'**, Quadrangles: **Cornplanter Run, Stickney, Westline**, Parking: **SR 321 at Nelse Run, FR 265**

A plaque near the mouth of Nelse Run commemorates the Allegheny Outdoor Club. Some say this is the most scenic part of the trail. Watch for maidenhair fern. After crossing FR 630, you will find a good campsite in Hammond Run. Spectacular scenery down the run; expect wet feet where Hammond Run intersects with Sugar Run. Note the large maples in this area.

SR 59 TO SR 321 AT CHAPPEL FORK

Mileage: **7.1**, Elevation Change: **700'**, Quadrangles:**Westline, Cornplanter Bridge, Parking: FR 265, SR 321 at Chappel Fork**

The dense mountain laurel near SR 59 is spectacular in mid-June. In the headwaters of hemlock Run, there are many good campsites and low bush blueberries. At Chappel Fork, note the large black cherry trees. The snags at

the confluence of Chappel Bay and Hemlock Run provide valuable food and cover for wildlife.

SR 321 AT CHAPPEL FORK TO RED BRIDGE RECREATION AREA

Mileage: **5.4**, Elevation Change: **640'**, Quadrangle: **Westline, Cornplanter Bridge**, Parking: **SR 321 at Chappel Fork, Red Bridge**

Red Bridge Recreation Area is 1000 feet north on SR 321, and is open mid-April to mid-December (water only available during that period). The wildlife opening near Root Run features grassy fields, shrubs and apple trees for wildlife cover and food.

RED BRIDGE RECREATION AREA TO US 6

Mileage: **6.0**, Elevation Change: **720'**, Quadrangle: **Cornplanter Bridge, Ludlow, Kane**, Parking: **Red Bridge, Longhouse Trailhead, US 6**, Services: **Blissville** – food/lodging, 1 mile NE on Gibbs Hill Rd, **Kane** – full service community, 7 miles east on US 6.

Where the NCT crosses the Longhouse Scenic Byway (FR 262), the Kiasutha Recreation Area is located one mile northwest and is open Memorial Day to Labor Day (water only available during that period). Kiasutha is the most developed campground on the Allegheny with showers, swimming and a boat launch available. Just south of FR 262, a plaque along the trail commemorates the Allegheny Outdoor Club. South of Gibbs Hill Road a vista offer hikers a sweeping view of the South Branch Kinzua Creek valley. The trail passes though many tranquil conifer plantations. Throughout this area, there are many traces of historic roads that kindle the imagination.

US 6 TO TIONESTA SCENIC AREA

Mileage: **6.5**, Elevation Change: **440'**, Quadrangle: **Ludlow**, Parking: **US 6, FR 149 at Fox’s Dam**, Services: **Kane** – full service community, 7 miles east on US 6.

Just north of FR 133, the trail passes through an interesting rock formation. The trail parallels East Branch of Tionesta Creek with many good views of the stream and surrounding woodlands. The East Branch of Tionesta Creek offers excellent trout fishing opportunities.

TIONESTA SCENIC AREA TO SR 666 AT HENRYS MILLS

Mileage: **9.0**, Elevation Change: **620'**, Quadrangles: **Ludlow, Sheffield**, Parking: **SR 666 at Henrys Mills**, parking is limited at Tionesta Scenic Area, **FR 148**.

The NCT follows a portion of the Tionesta Scenic Area Interpretive Trail (gray diamonds). The Scenic Area is a remnant of the vast forest that once covered this region hundreds of years ago. The old growth on the tract consists of 300-400 year old beech, hemlock and sugar maple. The NCT is the only trail that crosses the tornado swath, affording excellent views of the destruction. On the south side of the tornado swath, the Twin Lakes Trail begins. It connects the NCT with the Twin Lakes Recreation Area and is 16.6 miles long. Near the Twin Lakes Trail junction there is an interesting rock formation. There are many nice campsites along Cherry Run near SR 948.

SR 666 AT HENRYS MILLS TO MINISTER ROAD

Mileage: **10.4**, Elevation Change: **640'**, Quadrangle: **Sheffield, Cherry Grove**, Parking: **SR 666 at Henrys Mills**, limited roadside parking on Minister Road.

This section of trail parallels Messenger Run towards its headwaters, then crosses over into Pell Run. Evidence of early equipment used for oil pumping and transport are visible along this section of trail. Part of an old compressor rests along the trail near Messenger Run. Many miles of this section follow abandoned railroad grades that were used in the early 1900’s to transport timber to the sawmills. The remnants of this logging activity can also be seen near the headwaters of Pell Run, now designated a remote trout stream. Near Fools Creek, a plaque commemorating the Allegheny Outdoor Club is mounted on a large rock along the trail.

MINISTER ROAD TO FOREST ROAD 116 AT DUNHAM SIDING

Mileage: **5.5**, Elevation Change: **480'**, Quadrangle: **Cherry Grove**, Parking: **limited roadside parking on Minister Road, FR 116**

Shortly after the Minister Road, the NCT intersects with the Minister Trail, a very popular hiking trail that features many rock cities. There are also several good campsites in this area. The NCT follows the Minister Trail for a just over half a mile before it breaks away and follows the west branch Minister Creek to the northwest. Near the headwaters of the creek, the trail begins its ascent to Forest Road 419. Just west of Forest Road 419, the trail follows the edge of a large area hit by a tornado in 1985. Saplings now cover the area. As the NCT nears Dunham Siding, it follows an old railroad grade used to transport timber around the turn of the last century.

FOREST ROAD 116 AT DUNHAM SIDING TO FOREST ROAD 449

Mileage: **6.8**, Elevation Change: **280'**, Quadrangle: **Cherry Grove, Cobham, Kellettville**, Parking: **FR 116**

Near Dunham Siding, the trail intersects the Tanbark Trail, a trail that connects to the Hearts Content Campground and Scenic Area and ends at the Allegheny River. The Hearts Content Scenic Area contains a remnant of the virgin forest that once covered the region and is well worth a detour. The ghost town of Braceville has a level, grassy area, with oaks and large white pines, suitable for camping (south of Coalbed Run about 1/2 mile). The NCT drops into the scenic headwaters of Beaver Run next, and then follows a small tributary to the east. This section of the trail is lined with clusters of older hemlock, with the sounds of small streams bubbling. It also offers picturesque settings for camping and ends with a short, but steeper climb up to Forest Road 449.

FOREST ROAD 449 TO FOREST ROAD 127

Mileage: **7.9**, Elevation Change: **380'**, Quadrangles: **Kellettville, Mayburg**, Parking: **SR 666, FR 127**, Services: **Kellettville** – gas, food and lodging, 1 mile west on SR 666

This section of trail generally follows the headwaters of East Fork Run down into Fork Run. This trail crosses Fork Run several times, and can become muddy during wetter seasons of the year. Waterproofed hiking boots and gators are recommended. The trail leaves Fork Run just north of the village of Kellettville, climbing up a short hill to State Route 666. The trail follows several open public roads through Kellettville. At Tionesta Creek there is a small Corps of Engineers Campground. The trail leaves the road near FR 145.

FOREST ROAD 127 TO FOREST ROAD 145 AT AMSLER SPRINGS

Mileage: **11.2**, Elevation Change: **520'**, Quadrangles: **Mayburg, Marienville West**, Parking: **FR 127, Amsler Springs**, Services: **Marienville** – full service community, 4 miles east on Muzette Road.

Just north of FR 127 trail passes through the tornado swath of 1985. The saplings have grown tall creating a tunnel-like pathway. A rock city sits in the middle of the swath among some trees that escaped destruction. The trail parallels Fourmile Run, a wilderness trout stream, for several miles. North of Guiton Run, the trail passes through an active oil field where there are several good views of the Salmon Creek valley. The scenic Little Salmon Creek valley offers good campsites near a picturesque bridge. An Adirondack shelter is available at Amsler Springs as well as ample space for tents and parking.

FOREST ROAD 145 AT AMSLER SPRINGS TO FOREST BOUNDARY

Mileage: **3.2**, Elevation Change: **220'**, Quadrangles: **Marienville West**, Parking: **Amsler Springs, FR 540**, Services: **Marienville** – full service community, 4 miles east on Muzette Road.

The Coon Creek valley offers a scenic bridge crossing and beaver activity. For another 16.2 miles, the trail continues through State Game Lands #24, Kittanning State Forest and Cook Forest State Park, ending at the Gravel Lick Bridge over the Clarion River.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT! • Please reuse or recycle this brochure.

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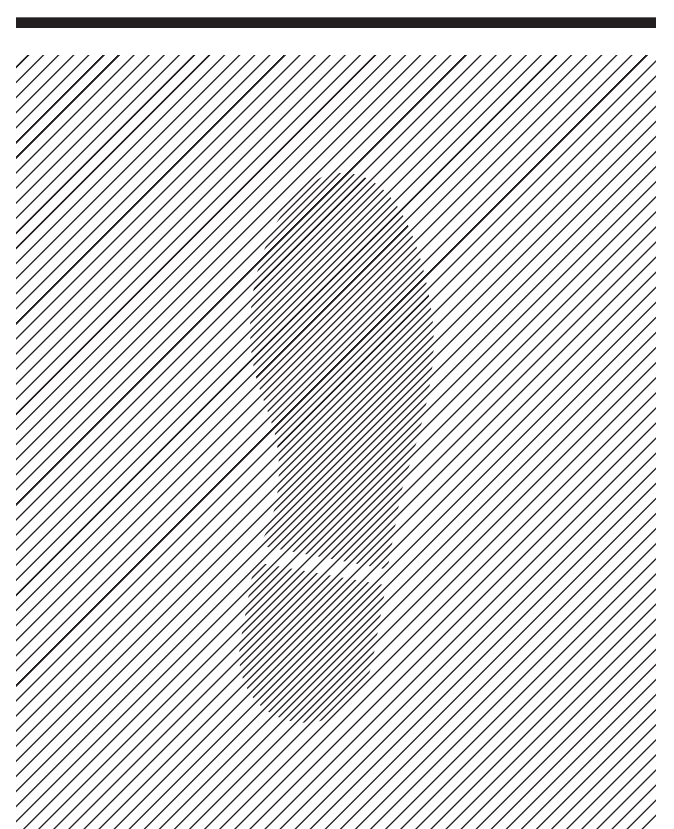


United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

North Country National Scenic Trail



Allegheny National Forest



North Country National Scenic Trail

Allegheny National Forest

Legend

- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Mileage Between Points
- Other Hiking Trail
- Trail Shelter
- Developed Campsite
- Dispersed Campsite
- Toilet Facilities
- Parking
- Gas and/or Services
- Food or Snacks
- Lodging
- Fishing
- Scenic View or Plaque
- Tornado Swath
- Highway
- Forest Service Road
- Large Boulders
- Stream

The **Allegheny Outdoor Club**, c/o Don and Brita Dorn, Star Rt., Box 476, Sheffield, PA 16347, is offering a cloth patch for people hiking all 96.3 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) on the Allegheny National Forest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on National Forest opportunities: To purchase Map Quadrangles listed in this brochure call, or send: check or money order to any of the addresses below. Each quadrangle is \$6.00 plus 6% sales tax (\$6.36). North Country Trail topographic map sets are also available at the 1:24,000 scale. Make check or money order payable to ENFIA (Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association).

Allegheny National Forest, 222 Liberty Street, P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-5150, TTY- (814) 726-2710, www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny

Bradford Ranger Station, 29 US Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 362-4613, TTY- (814) 368-8116

Marienville Ranger Station, HC 2, Box 130, Marienville, PA 16239, (814) 927-6628, TTY- (814) 927-8881

This map was cooperatively produced by the Allegheny National Forest, Allegheny Outdoor Club, North Country Trail Association, and many volunteers who spent hundreds of hours hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail for information.

To Warren

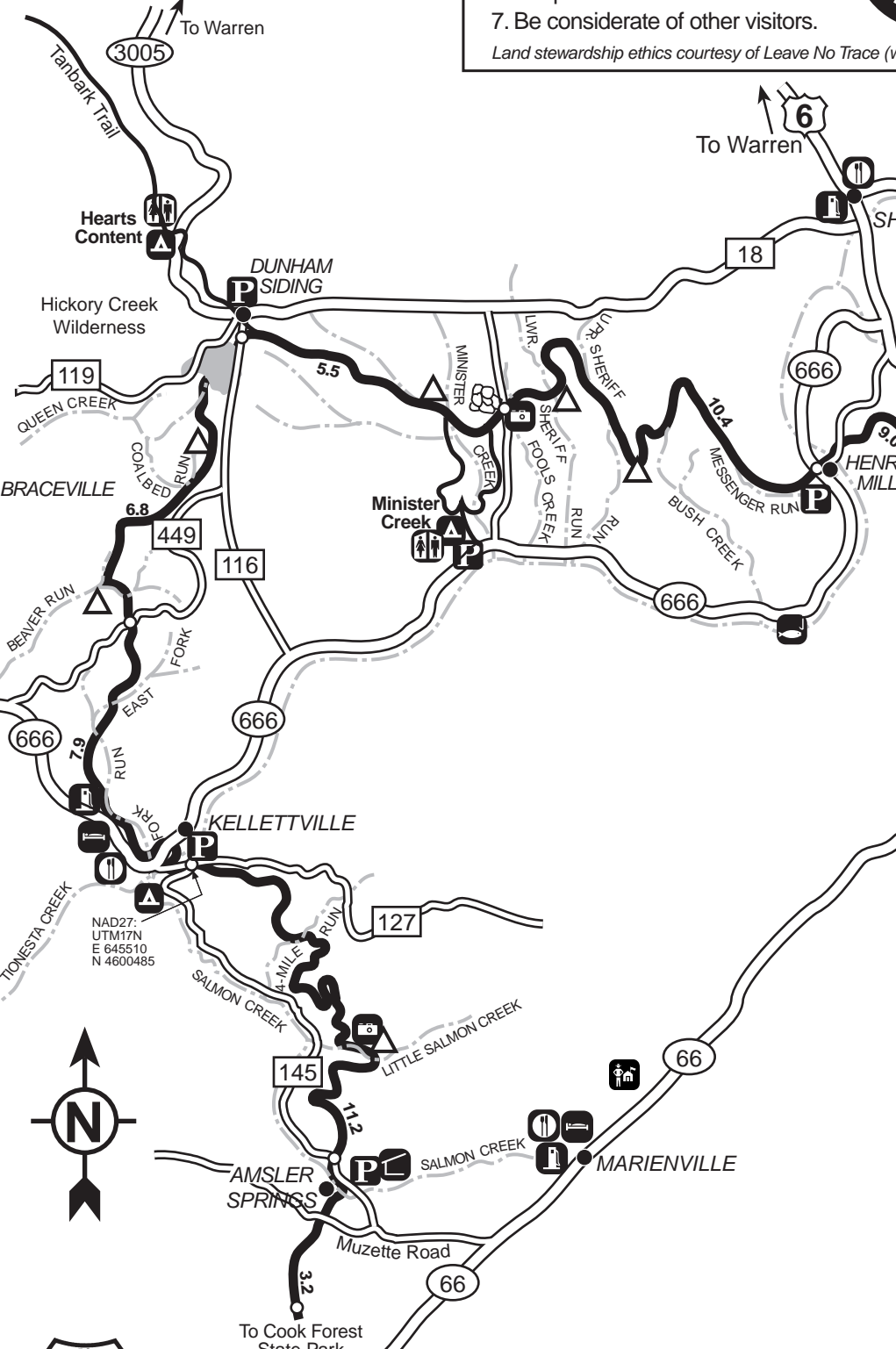
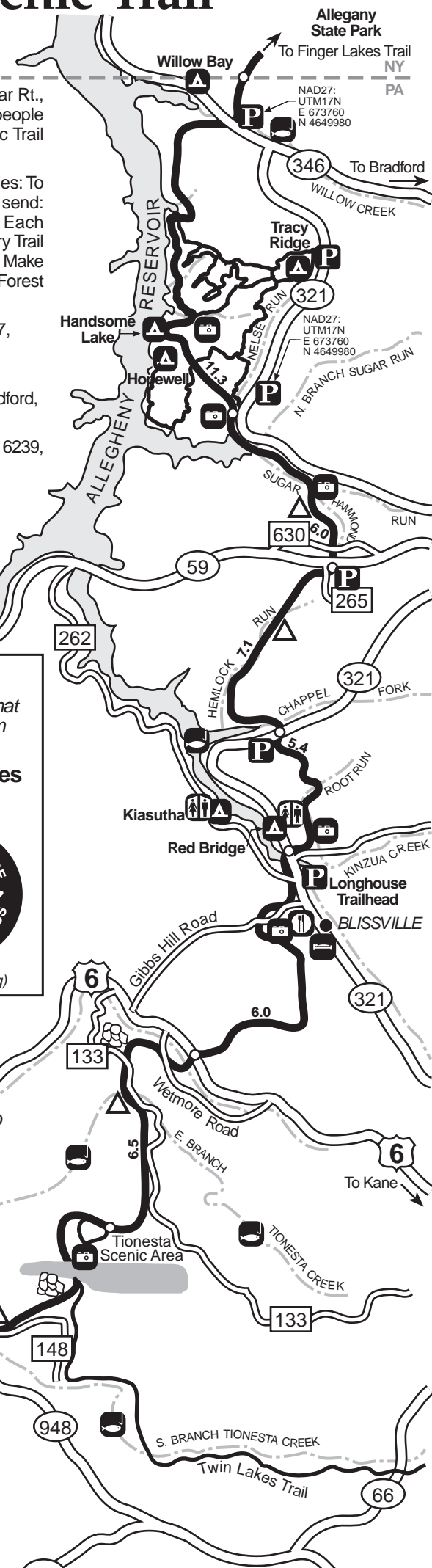
Leave No Trace!

Leave No Trace is a National non-profit organization that unites public and private partners to teach minimum impact skills and ethics to all outdoor enthusiasts.

7 Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Land stewardship ethics courtesy of Leave No Trace (www.LNT.org)



FOR MORE INFORMATION on the North Country National Scenic Trail, contact:

North Country Trail Association
229 East Main
Lowell, MI 49331
1-888-454-NCTA (6282)
www.northcountrytrail.org

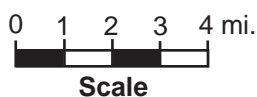
North Country Trail Association, Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 2968
Butler, PA 16003-2968

FOR MORE INFORMATION on lodging and food in area communities, contact:

Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau
80 E. Corydon St. • PO Box 371 • Bradford, PA 16701
(814) 368-9370 • (800) 624-7802
www.allegheny-vacation.com

Northern Alleghenies Vacation Region
2883 Pennsylvania Ave. West • Warren, PA 16365
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NW PA's Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau
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