

Department of Natural Resources

Continued Support for North Country Trail

The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

Continued support and assistance for development of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northern Wisconsin.

Background

The North Country National Scenic Trail marked 50 years of history in 2018. The vision of this hiking trail across the northern tier of US states began in Wisconsin in 1968. Since then, North Country Trail Association volunteers and partner organizations have worked with the National Park Service, Wisconsin DNR, and local agencies toward completion of the trail, while promoting its use as a unique recreation asset.

In 2019, we request the Wisconsin DNR to complete the Superior Coastal Plain Master Plan, incorporating the St. Louis River Streambank Protection Area, with approval of the North Country National Scenic Trail across the southwest corner of this area. Timely completion and DNR approval no later than March will permit trail construction by the NCTA Brule-St. Croix Chapter as planned in 2019, completing the link with existing trail in Minnesota.

We also request continued progress at DNR toward funding of the Tyler Forks River Bridge in Iron County, as previously agreed and planned. An update on this progress at our meeting will assist with plans for trail construction east of Wisconsin Highway 169 in 2019.

Continued real estate technical assistance with easement and property acquisition for the trail is needed, following the retirement of the DNR staff specialist previously assigned to this project. We request designation of a DNR real estate specialist to work on trail route opportunities as identified by NCTA volunteers.



NCT Hike by Eric Nordgren