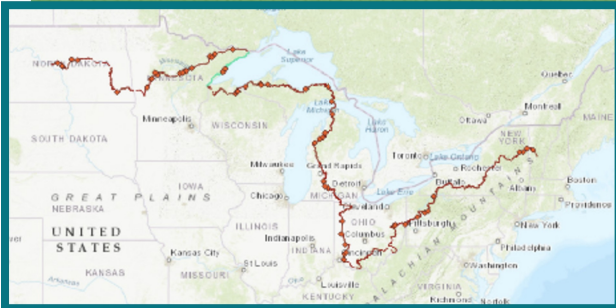


The North Country Trail is growing in Itasca County

By Amanda MacDonell

You may, or may not, be aware of the existence of North Country Trail that's coming to Itasca County. The North Country Trail is a hiking trail that spans 8 different states in the upper midwest, and is a federally recognized National Scenic Hiking Trail, just like the Appalachian Trail or the Pacific Crest Trail. Itasca County happens to be the home of over 50 miles of the trail, which seems like a tiny segment of the nearly-5,000 mile trail, but those 50 miles are beloved miles, and frequently used by those who live here!



Over the past year, crews have expanded and improved trail corridors, added new signage and kiosks, hosted monthly hikes, and partnered with local groups from Cohasset Recreation to the Chamber of Commerce.

With new campsites, fresh blazing, and ongoing work to connect communities, the North Country Trail is becoming an even stronger asset for residents and visitors who love exploring the Northwoods. Specifically, we are working on our future plans to route the North Country Trail off of the Mesabi Trail and into the woods, routing it across public and private lands (with permission), through historic sites such as the Joyce Estates and state parks like the McCarthy Beach State Park. Some flagging work has started to occur north of County Road 61 to County Road 60 in Itasca County, with plans to develop future trail in the beautiful backcountry of Itasca County.



We plan to share more details on the upcoming work that will be happening specifically in the area, but everyone is welcome to hike, volunteer, or simply enjoy the miles of quiet beauty right in our backyard. To find out more or become involved, visit northcountrytrail.org/arw, check us out on Facebook at NCTA Arrowhead Chapter, or send an email to arw@northcountrytrail.org.