



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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North Country National Scenic Trail News Release

For Immediate Release

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National Park Service seeks public input on proposed section of North Country National Scenic Trail in Itasca County

Itasca County, Minnesota – The National Park Service (NPS) is asking for public review and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) in Itasca County, Minnesota. The EA's Proposed Action would connect to the existing NCT with approximately 18-miles of new hiking trail - from Tioga Beach park to Chippewa National Forest at Highway 6 - and eliminate approximately 12-miles of the current NCT roadwalk route along Highway 6.

The new section of trail would be a natural surface footpath that would include NCT signage, structures for passage over wet ground or water, gravel parking lots, and primitive backcountry campsites. The Proposed Action would meet the goals and purpose of the *North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act* (HR 1216), the NCT, and the National Trails System and provide for the enjoyment of outdoor areas and world-class walking and hiking experiences.

Public comments on the draft EA may be submitted through June 19, 2021 by one of the following methods:

1. Online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) site in the "Open For Comment" section: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NCTtiogabeach>
2. Submit hard copy by U.S. Mail or hand deliver to: Steph Liguori, National Park Service North Country National Scenic Trail, 318 East Main Street, Suite K, Lowell, MI 49331

There will be a public meeting on June 3, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM CST. There are two ways to attend the meeting:

1. in-person at Itasca Community College Johnson Hall, Rooms 112 and 113, Grand Rapids, MN (directions and map at <https://www.itascacc.edu/about/directions-to-campus>)
2. virtually via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3dxhu3G>, passcode: NCT).

The in-person meeting will adhere to current COVID-19 guidelines. Representatives from the NPS, North Country Trail Association (NCTA), and Itasca County will be available to answer questions. Opportunities to submit written comments will be available at the meeting.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

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