



A Mission of People and Place

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740 mile inland paddling trail tracing historic travel routes across New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine. NFCT connects people to the Trail's natural environment, human heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding, promoting, and providing access to canoe and kayak experiences along this route.

Program Areas

1. ***Waterway Stewardship*** ~ Caring for and connecting to the Trail.
2. ***Community Economic Development*** ~ Partnering with communities to promote sustainable tourism.
3. ***People and Place*** ~ Celebrating and sharing the richness of the Trail through local projects and activities, with a focus on rural youth.

Guiding Principles

In our work to achieve our mission, we will:

- Work through partnerships and in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders;
- Engage local communities in Trail planning, design and stewardship;
- Promote low-impact use and enjoyment of the Trail;
- Conserve and enhance the interrelated human and natural heritage of the region;
- Expand awareness and understanding of the Northern Forest region's history, identity and potential;
- Honor Native American culture and traditions.

Strategic Approach

NFCT serves travelers and benefits neighboring communities by:

- Encouraging canoe and kayak travel and recreation;
- Promoting economic development by attracting a wide range of visitors to the region's communities;
- Improving local access to and providing stewardship of regional waterways – rivers, streams, and lakes;
- Enabling travelers to experience the Northern Forest's full range of diverse landscapes, from working cities and towns to farms, forests, and mountains;
- Supporting community-based services and local arts, education and environmental programs that educate and inspire residents and visitors alike;
- Enhancing quality of life by creating opportunities for people to reconnect with place.