

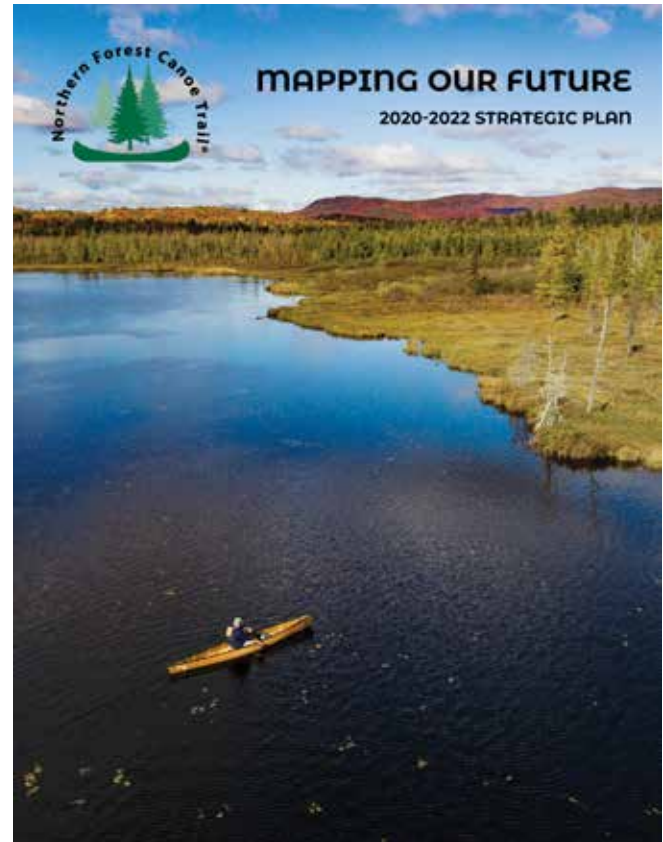
NFCT unveils new strategic plan

In 2019, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, business and corporate partners and other stakeholders worked together to plan our future.

The 2020-2022 Strategic Plan is our first step. It sets the organization on a path for sustained management of our trail and growth of waterway access in the Northern Forest region. We will continue to add value for the people and communities we serve and the landscapes and natural resources we steward.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to sharing the wonders of the Northern Forest with paddlers by stewarding and promoting the NFCT. We also rise to the challenge of fulfilling our founders' aspiration that our trail act as the thread linking watersheds and communities of the region.

Learn more: bit.ly/NFCTStratPlan



AWA, NFCT working together toward transfer of events, activities



NFCT and the Adirondack Watershed Alliance (AWA) are working towards a transfer of AWA events and activities, including the Adirondack Canoe Classic, to NFCT's care by the launch of the 2021 paddling season.

AWA, managed by Brian and Grace McDonnell for over two decades, currently coordinates the 'Round the Mountain Canoe and Kayak Race and the Celebrate Paddling Invitational in Saranac Lake, the Long Lake Long Boat Regatta and the Adirondack Canoe Classic, known more commonly as the 90-Miler.

NFCT will continue to fundraise throughout 2020 to complete the AWA acquisition. A generous matching gift of \$20,000 from John and Deanna Sammon of Raquette Lake kicked off our efforts, accounting for 20 percent of the total anticipated costs. John and Deanna challenge others who, like them, value the contributions of the 90-Miler and the NFCT to the Adirondacks and its communities to help match their donation. To make a gift, or for more information, contact Karrie Thomas at karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org, or visit bit.ly/GiveNFCT — tell us your gift is for the AWA acquisition in the “special notes” field.

Important notice on 2020 events

Our spring newsletter shares news and information about the NFCT's 2020 slate of events and activities. In light of the spread of coronavirus and related health concerns, we decided to postpone our film festivals. We are working diligently to reschedule as many of these events as possible. Our website will have updates as soon as they are available. At present, all other events and activities highlighted in this newsletter will continue as planned. We also encourage you to get outside — responsibly — and find some peace and solitude.



We thank you for your patience and understanding. These are somewhat unprecedented times and we will continue to do our best to track the news and adjust our programming accordingly. Visit our website for updates: northernforestcanoetrail.org.



2020 Waterway Work Trips

We invite you to explore a section of the NFCT, meet people with similar interests and help complete meaningful stewardship work this summer.

Join our staff, interns and other volunteers for a weekend of field work. A small fee covers all meals, including Friday dinner, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast. Trips begin Friday evening and wrap up after lunch on Sunday. We always make time for paddling, exploration and relaxation. Advanced registration is required.

2020 dates: Deerland Carry, July 3-5; Saranac River Campsite and Carries, July 10-12; Upper Ammonoosuc Carries, July 17-19; North Branch Dead River, July 24-26; Grand Falls Campsite, Carry and River Access, July 31 to Aug. 2.

To reserve your space, and for more information, visit bit.ly/2020WWT.

Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal

The 2020 Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal is set for Saturday, June 20, in Richford, Vermont.

This family-friendly event combines 6.5 miles of paddling down a Wild and Scenic section of the Missisquoi River and 5 miles of cycling on the adjacent Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail.

The Paddle-Pedal is part of the Richford Riverfest, which features live music, kids activities, workshops and lunch.

Information on race routes, ticket prices, lodging and more can be found on our website. Visit bit.ly/PaddlePedal2020 to learn more.

Want to participate but not paddle or pedal? We need volunteers to make this event happen. Sign up to help with race timing, registration and staffing road crossings. To get involved, email noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org for more info.



What else is happening?

You may have figured out that the team here at NFCT has a whole lot going on this year. Don't put away your calendar just yet.

The **Northern Forest Explorers** program brings kids ages 9-15 on overnight adventures across the Northern Forest region. Kids learn paddling, camping, and outdoor and leadership skills. This year's dates include: June 28 to July 3, Connecticut River Canoe Camp; July 13-17, Fulton Chain of Lakes to Long Lake; July 27-31, Heart of the Adirondacks; and the Missisquoi, Aug. 3-7. More info: bit.ly/ExploreNFCT2020.

For the upcoming season, our volunteers are once again leading **Community Paddles** — fun ways to paddle a section of the NFCT and other nearby waters. NFCT handles registration, provides insurance and promotes the paddles. Currently, the following dates are set for 2020: May 10, Upper Nulhegan; June 28, Lower Missisquoi; July 18-19, Seboomook section of Upper West Branch Penobscot; Aug. 16, Missisquoi Delta; and Sept. 27, the Quebec section of the Missisquoi. More dates will be added — to register, visit bit.ly/CommunityPaddles2020. If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Karrie Thomas at karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org.

Finally, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we encourage everyone to **share their photos and experiences** along the canoe trail. Post your photos and videos to social media, tag our accounts, and use the hashtag **#nfct20** — we can't wait to see your adventures.



2020 raffles

Our friends at Northstar have donated two canoes to kick off our 20th anniversary raffle series: a Northstar Polaris and a Northstar Trillium. Drawing is May 4. Your raffle ticket purchase supports NFCT stewardship, trip planning support and programming. Tickets: bit.ly/NorthstarRaffle2020

Stay tuned for more raffles — our friends at Wenonah and Placid Boatworks have generously donated boats to this year's raffle.





New suggested trips, Trip Planner updates and more are live!

Paddling season has arrived, and it's time to plan your adventures along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

In early 2020, NFCT Stewardship Director Noah Pollock and 2019 GIS interns Ben Abramson, Josie Myers and Emma Henderson completed mapping, detailing and planning several Maine paddling adventures. Each trip is connected to the NFCT, but will take you somewhat far afield of the main route. The team also worked to update big sections of our Trip Planner to include new access points, campsites, portage trails, rapids and dams for these waterways, as well as the Lamoille, Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers. The Trip Planner now has river miles for all campsites and access points for the NFCT, too, and better beta on the Lower Richardson Lake campsites, thanks to a scouting mission by our interns.



The NFCT Shop also has a new Downloadable Maps section — these maps are free for members, but we are asking a nominal fee for others. This will help us keep the maps up to date.

We thank our funding partners for supporting this work: the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Maine High Peaks Initiative and the Onion Foundation — and a thank you to Colby College's Environmental Studies program, which provided stipends for two of our interns.

Check out the updates: northernforestcanoetrail.org.