



## Current trail conditions on the Kekekabic Trail

As of 6/22/2022

The trail is in very good hiking condition! The Kekekabic Trail Chapter of the North Country Trail Association annually organizes a number of clearing trips on various sections of the trail. Seven clearing trips were completed in 2021, despite COVID-19 and trail closures due to forest fires. Several clearing trips scheduled for May of this year were canceled due to the late Spring (snow and ice) and then due high water, these trips are in the process of being rescheduled for September. Work will be focused on the Gabimichigami Lake, Howard Lake, and Thomas Lake sections of the trail. Details on trail conditions are noted below.

1. *The Kek is currently open **for both day and overnight use.***
2. *Permits are required year round for all overnight use.*
3. *The season switches from quota to self-issued permits on 10/1. Find all the rules and regulations at [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5127832.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5127832.pdf).*
4. *The Forest Service reduced the number of permits available at many BWCA entry points for 2022, the number of permits available for the Kek from the Snowbank and Gunflint Trail trailheads remained unchanged.*
5. *Hikers should check for the latest updates at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/superior/>.*

Find more valuable information about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the - [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd611535.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd611535.pdf).

### Current conditions:

Overall, the Kekekabic Trail / NCT is in good hiking condition, it should provide you with a great wilderness hike and experience. The Kekekabic Trail Club Chapter received numerous reports from hikers and runners from the early hiking season, this report is the most up to date information available and will be helpful as you plan your hike for 2022.

Here are things that hikers of the Kek are likely to experience trail:

- 1) Random blowdowns in places – trees are always falling.
- 2) Moderate to medium brush that obscures the tread in places
- 3) Beaver dam crossings – there are several spots where the Kek crosses atop beaver dams. Pay special attention to the trail and flagging in these areas.
- 4) Small wet spots in the trail – including the potential for beavers flooding longer stretches of the trail – e.g. by the Bingshick-Fay portage and Seahorse Lake sections.



- 5) The trail has worn tread and the trail corridor is almost always discernable. Blue flagging has been posted in areas where there might be a question on trail direction.
- 6) During the summer you will find ferns on the trail, the tread though should still be visible.
- 7) The water levels after the snow melt and rain from the Spring of 2022 has returned to near normal levels for this time of year.
- 8) Trail conditions change as you enter various sections of the trail depending on the last time a crew was working in that particular area.

Starting from the Snowbank trailhead the trail is in good condition all the way to the Gunflint trailhead (39 miles).

Sections that have known brush problems:

- 1) Moderate brush from Agamok Bridge east to Seahorse Lake, crews will be clearing this area in September.

*Specific questions on trail conditions????* Send an email to the Chapter at [kek@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:kek@northcountrytrail.org).

#### How can you help?

- 1) If you do hike the Kekekabic Trail, please take note of particular problem areas (with GPS coordinates, brief descriptions, and photos if possible) and send them to us at [kek@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:kek@northcountrytrail.org) or share your photos on our Facebook group - [facebook.com/groups/kekekabic/](https://facebook.com/groups/kekekabic/). *Note: If you are using the Avenza app with the NCTA-produced maps you can drop a Placemark at problem area and attach photos to the Placemark. Learn more at [youtube.com/watch?v=QCDY9IcOPyE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=QCDY9IcOPyE).*
- 2) Volunteer on one of the Fall clearing trips (September 2022). Send an email to: [www.kek.org](http://www.kek.org) for more information.



**Enjoy the trail!**

**Donate/join the Kekekabic Trail Club Chapter and support our work!** You can do so at <https://northcountrytrail.org/donate-join/>.