The Centennial Trail begins from the Kekekabic Trail trailhead 40 miles north of Grand Marais off the Gunflint Trail (County 12).

- From MN 61, turn north on County Road 12 (Gunflint Trail) at Grand Marais.
- Follow Co 12 about 47 miles north.
- Parking is located on the left side of the road shortly after you pass Gunflint Lake on the right.
- An interpretive sign is located at the trailhead.

Features

- 3.3 mile interpretive loop trail follows a historic railroad bed.
- Historic mine pits and scenic views.
- A free interpretive guide to the 14 stops is available at Forest Service offices or at the trailhead.
- Guide, along with GPS version of trail and stops, available online.
- Moderate difficulty: Uneven surface with one steep section.
- The Centennial Trail is outside the BWCAW so no permit is needed. If you continue on the Kekekabic Trail, you may need a permit.
Description

The Centennial Trail was developed to honor the Superior National Forest’s 100th anniversary in 2009. It explores one small story in the Forest’s history, that of the Port Arthur, Duluth, and Western Railroad and the ill-fated Paulsen Mine. Hikers will be able to see the original mine test pits from the 1890’s and walk the rock cuts and rock trestles created for the railroad. A large wooden trestle no longer stands in a deep gorge, but the view from the location of the trestle is still breathtaking. Trailside ‘station stops’ and a guide booklet will help you discover the history of the area. Markers as waypoints and the trail path are available in downloadable GPS format for those who want to explore the 19th century with 21st century technology.

Wear sturdy footwear: the trail surface is rocky and uneven. There are no water sources, outhouses, or other facilities at the trailhead.

Help preserve this area for generations to come by leaving no trace: take only pictures, leave only footprints. Remember, artifacts and historic sites are protected by federal laws making collection of artifacts or damage to sites possible felonies, so enjoy with care.