

Northville-Placid Trail
Latest Known Trail Conditions
as reported at www.nptrail.org
Updated November 4, 2011

Introduction: These trail conditions are the latest known as reported by hikers, trail stewards, Adirondack Mt. Club Staff and Volunteers, DEC personnel and others. They are meant to be a guide. Trail conditions change by the hour. There is no guarantee that the trail conditions reported here will be what you encounter on the trail. Please help us keep these current by reporting trail conditions from your hike, including any photos of problem areas, at www.nptrail.org. This report is greatly abbreviated so that only the major problems are noted making it easier to print out and take with you. Greater detail is available on the website. These are noted from south to north. Thank you. Tom Wemett - webmaster

Upper Benson trailhead parking area to Route 8, Piseco, NY - 22.2 miles:

Upper Benson trailhead to Silver Lake lean-to - 7.5 miles

This section still has some blowdowns and muddy areas but no major issues that we know about. However, just a warning. Just beyond Rock Lake (at 5.6 miles from the Upper Benson trailhead) there is a crossing of the West Branch of the Sacandaga River. Normally, you can cross on dry stepping-stones. There are no bridges to get across here. But this crossing can be quite challenging and dangerous during high water.

Silver Lake lean-to to Mud Lake lean-to - 5.7 miles

Just north of the Silver Lake lean-to and before you get to Canary Pond you will be crossing a clearing that has a corduroy walkway. It often is covered with mud and water. There are gaps in the boards and a tilting log bridge at one point so use a stick or hiking poles to help stay on the walkway. It was reported in August, 2011 that it had dried up and wasn't a problem crossing at that time, however, hikers in September and October have reported wet conditions again.

Mud Lake lean-to to Whitehouse - 3.1 miles

There still is some blowdown in this section but you should be able to get over or around it easily.

Whitehouse to Hamilton Lake Stream lean-to - 2.2 miles

Trail was recently cleared and should be in great condition.

Hamilton Lake Stream lean-to to Route 8, Piseco, NY - 3.7 miles

Trail was recently cleared and should be in great condition.

Haskells Road trailhead, Piseco, to Wakely Dam, Cedar River Rd - 32.6 miles

Haskells Road trailhead to Spruce Lake lean-to #1 - 9.5 miles

Major issue in this section is many wet and muddy areas close to Spruce Lake. Several existing bog bridges need repair/replacement and other areas need new bog bridging. Lots of trail widening happening as people attempt to avoid the wet areas. Where existing bog bridging is in place the tread underneath has recovered nicely. There were some areas that were overgrown and some blow-downs needing removal but overall a relatively nice section of trail.

Spruce Lake lean-to #1 to Spruce Lake lean-to #3 - 1.3 miles

Expect some blowdowns and need for sidecutting in this section.

Spruce Lake lean-to #3 to Former Caretaker clearing, West Lake - 5.6 miles

Blowdown removal and bog bridging has taken place in this area this year but still expect some blowdowns and wet areas.

The bridge over West Canada Creek is gone. There is a rope tied between two trees where the bridge crossed to aid the hiker in crossing. It is very crossable either where the rope is or further downstream where the Creek widens and there are some rocks to hop across on.

Both approaches to the South Lake Outlet bridge are generally flooded year-round. Expect to get your boots wet getting on and off the bridge.

Some blowdown removal and sidecutting has taken place in this section, but parts are still difficult.

Former Caretaker clearing, West Lake to Beaver Pond lean-to - 5.8 miles

The permanent reroute around a beaver pond just north of West Lake is overgrown and wet and muddy and very frustrating to hike. It needs a lot of attention and caution is advised.

The bridge over Mud Creek was replaced in August, 2011 by the ADK Pro Crew under contract with the DEC.

Many blowdowns have been removed but more trail work needs to be done.

Beaver Pond lean-to to Carry lean-to (aka - Cedar River lean-to) - 6.1 miles

The trail immediately beyond the side trail to Beaver Pond lean-to and south of the Beaver Pond Bridge is very wet and muddy and has been every time I have traveled through here. Some boards have been placed in the middle but they are on the ground, muddy, slippery and dangerous. This section needs bog bridging as hikers are now walking around the area creating wide herd paths. Bog bridging is needed to allow the area to restore itself.

Unfortunately, the bridge over the beaver dam between Cedar Lakes and Beaver Pond that the ADK pro-crew worked on several years ago needs work again. It appears a stringer is bad on the Beaver Pond side. Caution is advised crossing this bridge.

The rest of the trail north has been cleared by an ADK volunteer crew in July as well as by the trail steward for the section from the Sucker Brook Trail to Moose River Recreation Area Main Road.

Carry lean-to to Wakely Dam - 4.3 miles

This area is mostly on old logging roads and partially on the dirt Moose River Recreational Area main road. No problems to report in this section.

Wakely Dam, Cedar River Road to Route 28/30, Blue Mountain Lake - 12.5 miles

Wakely Dam to Stephens Pond lean-to - 8.8 miles

This section is now relocated into the woods and has eliminated nearly 6 miles of a road walk on Cedar River Road and a crossing of private property at the former McCanes Resort. The section of trail through this private property has now been permanently closed. This new section is entered to the left .7 miles from Wakely Dam and .4 miles past the trail to Wakely Mountain.

The ADK pro-crew under contract with the New York State DEC did a great job installing 7.6 miles of new trail in 2009 including a very nice and sturdy bridge over Browns Brook. You will encounter several blowdowns that haven't been removed yet in this section as well as some extremely wet and muddy areas just south of Stephens Pond lean-to that need bog bridging.

Stephens Pond lean-to to Route 28/30, Blue Mountain Lake - 3.7 miles

This section was cleared of all blowdowns in August, 2011, but some wet and muddy sections still need bog bridging.

Route 28/30, Blue Mountain Lake to Route 28N, Long Lake, NY - 14.8 miles

Route 28/30 trailhead to Tirrell Pond lean-to - 4.7 miles

About 1 mile north of Route 28/30 the trail traverses a boardwalk. This 300+ feet of boardwalk/bog-bridging was replaced by a Student Conservation Association trail crew in August, 2011, and no longer poses a problem. There still are some blowdowns between the south end and north end of Tirrell Pond.

Tirrell Pond lean-to to height of land - shoulder of Blue Mountain - 5.7 miles

The section north of Tirrell Pond is often muddy and wet. Otherwise the trail is well maintained and clear of most blowdowns.

The major problem on this section is crossing the former lumber camp clearing and "Chick-a-dee Brook". Currently the stream is down and the broken bridge can be used to cross the Brook. In high water a bushwhack generally to the right is needed to get over this Brook and around the clearing. From the clearing north to the height of land the trail still needs some blowdown removal and sidecutting.

Height of land to Route 28N trailhead parking - 4.4 miles

From the height of land north, and down the northern section of the shoulder of Blue Mountain to the truck road, there is a lot of blow-down and brushed in areas. The new trail steward for this area has cleared some of this section but more needs to be done.

Tarbell Rd. trailhead, Long Lake, NY to Averyville Rd. trailhead, Lake Placid, NY - 35.8 miles

Tarbell Road trailhead to Catlin Bay lean-to - 1.1 miles

This section was cleared of blowdown in May and should be in good condition. There generally is a problem just before Catlin Bay lean-to. There is a side-trail marked with NPT trail markers that goes to the east (to the left if still headed north) of this wet area at the top of a hill before getting to this area. Should the bog bridges be under water backtrack to the top of the hill and take the side-trail that is now on your right that takes you past the beaver dam and across the outlet on large stones below the dam and back to the Catlin Bay lean-to and the trail north. If you are headed southbound, pass the Catlin Bay lean-to to your right and follow the markers in front of the lean-to and across the stones.

Catlin Bay lean-to to Kelly Point lean-tos - 3 miles

This area was cleared of blow-downs in May 2011. There are some areas that still need brushing-out however.

Kelly Point lean-tos to Plumley Point lean-tos - 3.5 miles

This area was cleared of blow-downs in May 2011. There are some wet areas but in general a pleasant hiking area.

Plumley Point lean-tos to Shattuck Clearing - 4.2 miles

This area also was cleared of blow-downs in May 2011. There are some wet areas but in general also a pleasant hiking area.

Shattuck Clearing to Ouluska Pass lean-to - 6.3 miles

Most blowdown has been removed but still expect the trail to be wet and muddy in places. The bridge over Ouluska Pass Brook was flooded off its foundations and it sits a few feet downstream. It has been cleared of debris and leveled.

Ouluska Pass lean-to to Duck Hole lean-tos - 5.7 miles

The Ouluska Pass lean-to was damaged during Hurricane Irene but is usable. This area will have some blowdowns, wet and muddy areas still.

Duck Hole lean-tos to Moose Pond lean-to - 3.9 miles

This section has been one of the most challenging for years. There is a new trail steward who has cleared some of the trail and more importantly installed new trail markers so the trail is easier to follow. You will still encounter lots of wet, muddy sections and some areas that aren't well marked as well as some remaining blowdowns.

Moose Pond lean-to to Wanika Falls - 1.6 miles

There is a lot of blowdowns in this section still as well as muddy and wet areas.

Wanika Falls to Averyville trailhead, Lake Placid, NY - 6.5 miles

The Chubb River is actually the outlet from the vly between Street and Nye Mountains. The trail crosses the Chubb River just north of Wanika Falls in a part of the River referred to as the "Flume". The bridge was badly deteriorated and dangerous to cross but was replaced in August, 2011 by the ADK Pro Trail Crew under contract with the DEC.

There is beaver activity north of the "Flume" bridge that may require a bushwhack. Also, expect some blowdowns and wet areas.