

Directions to the KLT's Boston Pond Nature Area

From Houghton/Hancock:

1. Head north on US-41, following signs for Calumet
2. About 3.6 miles north of the Quincy Mine shaft house, look for a Boston Pond Nature Area sign on your left
3. Pull into either side of the looped driveway to the parking area

If you reach the access road for the airport, you have gone too far and should turn around. There is handicap accessible parking on the west side of the parking area closest to the trailhead. The parking area is not plowed in winter. Parking on the shoulder of US-41 should be done as safely as possible. To avoid the worst of the traffic, we recommend winter parking along the shoulder of Shortcut Road just to the north. Be careful when crossing US-41 if you choose this option!

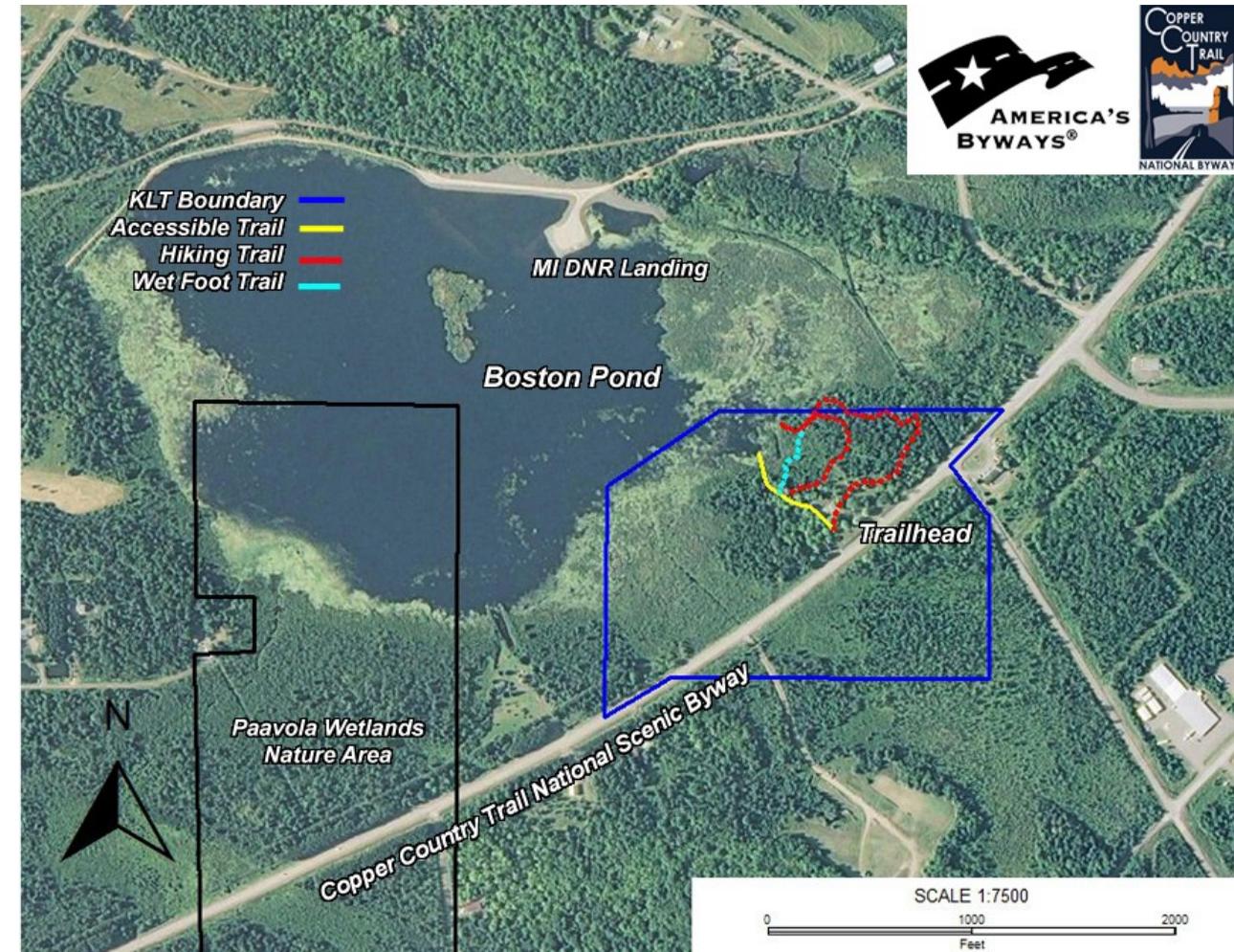
Please help support the Keweenaw Land Trust as we work to protect special places in the Copper Country! Learn more by calling (906) 482-0820 or by visiting www.KeweenawLandTrust.org

Keweenaw Land Trust Boston Pond Nature Area



www.KeweenawLandTrust.org

Boston Pond Nature Area Trail Map



Note: The KLT's Boston Pond Nature Area boundary is marked in blue. The Paavola Wetlands Nature Area is marked in black. Michigan Department of Natural Resources land extends over much of the northern shore of Boston Pond. Please respect our neighbors and steer clear of private property. The nature area's accessible parking pad is suitable for many vehicles but is not plowed in winter. The Wet Foot Trail (marked in light blue) may be wet for much of the year - wear waterproof shoes or stick with the main trails. Please do not drive up to the boardwalk and viewing platform! The trails at Boston Pond are suitable for non-motorized use only. Hunting is not permitted at the Boston Pond Nature Area. The pavilion is open year-round for use by the public on a first-come basis. The pit toilet is available for nature area visitors only.



Please respect the environment and others during your visit!

The trails and amenities at the Boston Pond Nature Area are kept up by a dedicated group of community volunteers and KLT staff. We ask you to please follow these simple Leave No Trace ethics to ensure the land is left in the same or better condition than you found it for others to enjoy.

- Pack out your trash. Pick up any you see along the trail. DO NOT throw trash in the toilet!
- Respect plants and wildlife
- Leave what you find for others
- Manage your pets while on the trails - please clean up after your dogs!
- Pavilion use is free and open to the public
- Respect private property and stay on KLT lands or marked trails during your visit
- Travel on durable surfaces and existing trails
- No motorized vehicles past the parking area!
- Be considerate of other visitors. Please do not litter or damage the trails.
- Paddle on Boston Pond at your own risk



Much like the beavers at Paavola Wetlands, man has played a significant role in creating the body of water we now call Boston Pond. In the late 1800s, Boston Creek was dammed and the water used for mining purposes in the stamp mill that once stood on its shores. After not finding much success, the mines near Boston quickly closed and the landscape found new life as a local agricultural hub. The water stored in Boston Pond was used to irrigate fields in and around the Boston area, allowing farmers to boost crop yields and earn a decent living.

Potatoes especially were grown well into the 20th century, peaking in the 1940s as war-time demand increased. Evidence of the region's potato prowess can still be found by a careful observer today. A number of storage barns, once used to hold potatoes before shipment, continue to stand and have been adapted for other uses. Their story lives on, while the agricultural way of life that built them has long since departed. Today the remnants of Boston's mining days are buried in earth, and its fields overgrown with wetlands and forests. However, it is not devoid of people who care about the land...

Today the story of Boston Pond centers on that of recreation. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns much of the northern shore of the pond, while KLT purchased land on the southeastern shore in 2008 to create the Boston Pond Nature Area. The nature area was expanded in 2016 to 50 acres, protecting artesian springs and natural scenic views on the opposite side of highway US-41. Boston Pond is a popular fishing destination and caters to both boaters and paddlers. Remnants of mining heritage on the north shore are slowly being returned to a more natural state like the marshes and wetlands ringing most of the pond.

With help from a bequest from the late Marilyn Mason and the America's Scenic Byways program, KLT constructed an accessible trail, boardwalk, floating viewing platform, pit toilet, and pavilion at the Boston Pond Nature Area in 2014. These amenities allow us to better accommodate visitors traveling along the Copper Country Trail as they learn about the history of the Keweenaw Peninsula, its natural resources, and its people.