Directions to the KLT's Steve Farm Nature Area

From Houghton/Hancock:

1. Head north on M-26, following signs for Lake Linden
2. Follow M-26 for about 3 miles
3. Turn Right onto Main Street in Dollar Bay (by Quincy's Restaurant)
4. Turn Left onto Hellman Avenue, following signs for Point Mills
5. The road soon turns into Upper Point Mills Road. Follow this to the Left up the hill for another 1.6 miles
6. Turn Right to stay on Upper Point Mills Road for about 0.4 miles
7. At the fork, keep Right. Look for a hanging road sign after 0.3 miles.

Please park on the shoulder and hike in to the trailhead, located just beyond the sign. The road is plowed in winter but may be narrower -- use caution when crossing.

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

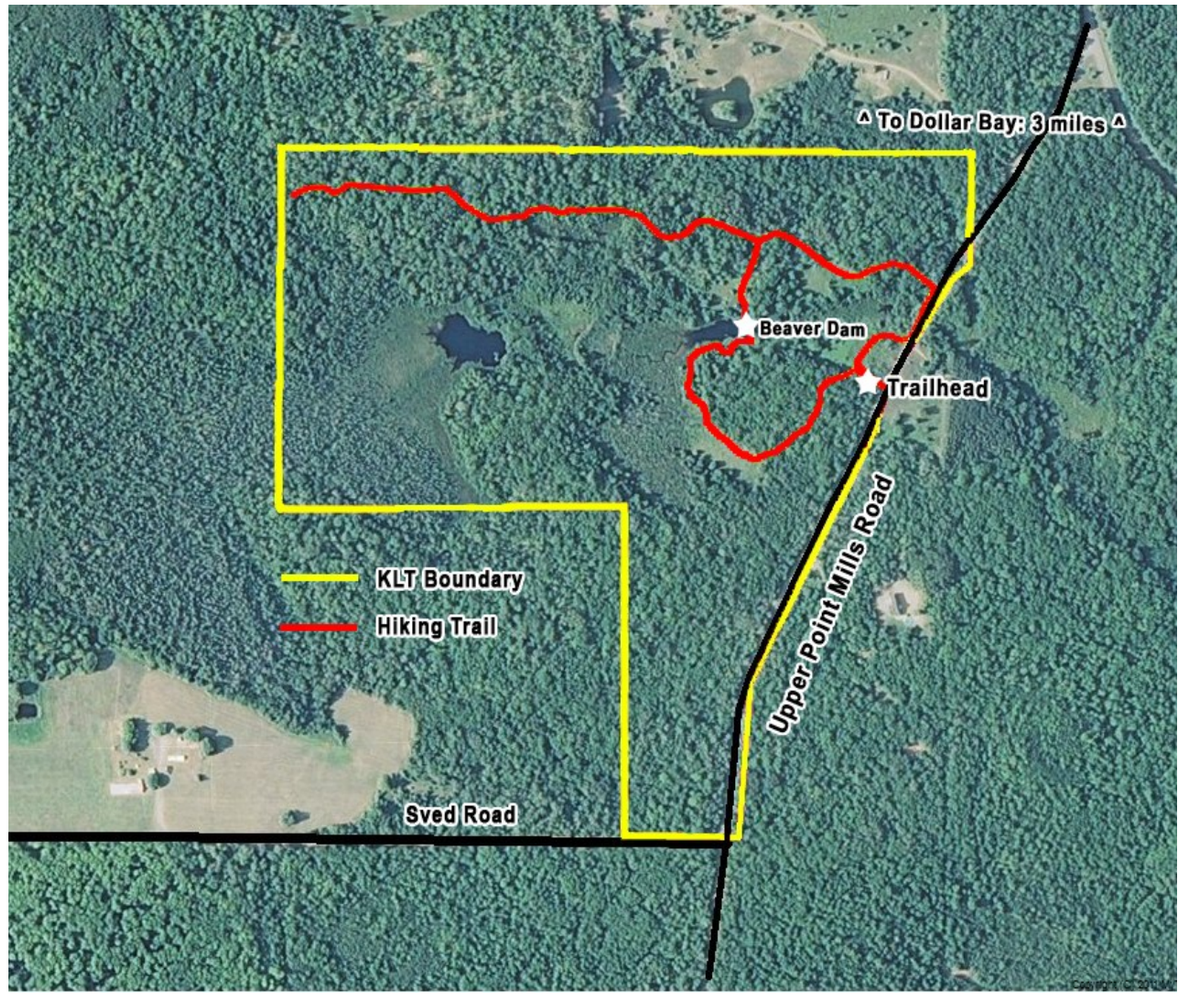
Steve Farm Nature Area at Lovell Creek



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Steve Farm Nature Area Trail Map



Note: The KLT's Steve Farm Nature Area at Lovell Creek is outlined in yellow above. Hiking trails on the property are marked in red. All other land in this area is private. Please respect our neighbors by not trespassing on their property! All trails on KLT land are suitable for non-motorized use only. Total hiking distance on all of the trails is roughly 1.5 miles. During low water, the wetlands can be crossed carefully at the beaver dam. This route has no hand holds, cross at your own risk! Crossing Lovell Creek along Upper Point Mills Road is recommended; a sign will direct you to the trail on the north side of the nature area.

From gladiola farm to nature area...

The Steve Farm Nature Area at Lovell Creek has a long and storied history, dating back over 100 year. In the late 1800s, John Steve immigrated to the Keweenaw from his home in Finland to work at the copper smelting works and sawmill in Dollar Bay. He married his wife Josefina in 1905 and built a home in the growing town. One of his 8 children, John E., founded Steve's Glad Garden on the family's plot of land near Point Mills. After the elder John Steve's passing in 1934, the land stayed in the family for several generations - used not only for gladiola farming, but a place to grow food, pick berries, swim, hike, and relax.



The late John Steve at his farm on Point Mills. Members of his family ride in the horse cart.

The grandchildren of John Steve approached the Keweenaw Land Trust in 2013 about protecting their family's land for the benefit of the public. Their low-impact land use ethic fit perfectly with KLT's mission, and soon the Steve Farm Nature Area at Lovell Creek was established. By generously donating their land to the KLT, the Steve family has created a beautiful and lasting nature area that will be enjoyed far and wide throughout our community.

Containing the headwaters of Lovell Creek, the Steve Farm Nature Area's central feature is an extensive beaver complex. These industrious creatures helped shape the landscape and have created large ponds and wetlands over much of the 96-acre property. Little remains of John E. Steve's gladiola farm after decades of natural forces reclaimed the land. The forests have grown up over much of the surrounding terrain, while open meadows are home to numerous grasses, sedges, ferns, and other sun-loving plants. Swampy cedar forests ringing the marshy areas provide additional habitat for a plethora of birds, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Steve Farm Nature Area is open for low-impact, non-motorized recreation year round. A kiosk stands at the trailhead just off of Upper Point Mills Road. A network of old woods roads crisscross the northern portion of the property, while a gentle hiking trail traverses the uplands south of the pond. We invite you to explore this rugged and enchanting place with your friends and family.



Please respect the environment and others during your visit!

Our volunteers and visitors work hard to keep the Steve Farm Nature Area clean and inviting for visitors of all ages. We ask you to please follow these simple Leave No Trace ethics to ensure the land is left better than you found it for others to appreciate and enjoy.

- Pack out your trash. Pick up any you see along the trail!
- Respect plants and wildlife
- Leave what you find for others
- Manage your pets - please clean up after your dogs!
- Protect private property and stay on KLT lands during your visit
- Travel on durable surfaces
- Plan ahead and prepare
- Be considerate of other visitors. Please do not litter or leave fire remains.