

Keweenaw Trails

The Keweenaw Peninsula boasts hundreds of miles of trails for skiing, running, mountain biking, and other outdoor uses.

You can read about the two largest trails systems in the area—Michigan Tech and Swedetown—elsewhere in this publication. But there are as many as a dozen area ski trails, with a wide variety of terrain and grooming. You can find trail maps and driving directions at www.keweenawtrails.com

The Chassell Classic trail, seven miles south of Houghton in Chassell, Michigan, offers a total of 10-km of classic-only skiing. The trail, which operates on private land and is groomed daily by one of the landowners, has gentle uphill and downhill in mostly wooded terrain. The last 1-km treats skiers to an exhilarating downhill ski, which ends with one final uphill to the trailhead.

Along with Michigan Tech and Swedetown, Chassell is part of a three-trail ski pass system, which helps defray the costs of grooming and trail improvements.

State Parks: The area boasts three state parks—McLain and Twin Lakes—which offer skiing through their campground areas. McLain State Park also features a trail offering vistas of Lake Superior and another that circles Bear Lake. Trails are not groomed daily. See the information below for Fort Wilkins State Park in Copper Harbor.

Maasto Hiihto, the City of Hancock's trail, includes approximately 7-km of skiing on the northern edge of town. There are two trail heads, one at the city's Driving Park and the other next to the DPW garage on Tomasi Road. The trail is groomed Monday through Friday.

Churning Rapids offers a back country skiing experience. Much of the land is part of a nature conservancy. The trailhead is at Christiansen Road, located about seven miles north of Hancock on M-203.

Copper Harbor Pathway: Up at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Copper Harbor offers more than 20-km of classic skiing that ranges from groomed trails to a back country trip to the Estivant Pines (where no motorized vehicles are allowed). Fort Wilkins State Park also grooms a trail around the campground and Civil War-era fort.

Eagle River and Eagle Harbor: The villages of Eagle River and Eagle Harbor, located in the northwestern portion of the Keweenaw, feature classic trails groomed by local landowners and volunteers.