

Armbrust Hill Town Park, located in the heart of Vinalhaven village, is easily accessible from Downstreet parking and walkable from the ferry. No hunting. No fires. For your safety, please stay on trails.

## Points of Interest

- A Betty Roberts Plaque** This small garden pond, a 1963 project of the Vinalhaven Garden Club, is dedicated to Elizabeth Roberts who purchased much of Armbrust Hill in 1960 for a park and wildlife sanctuary.
- B Trolley Pond** is a by-product of quarrying. It is set off by the dramatic fifty-foot towering cliffs carved out above. This is a good place for a picnic.
- C Village Overlook** has sweeping views to the north and over the village below. Two paths leading to this site showcase the original rhododendrons and mountain laurels planted in the 1960s.
- D WWII Lookout Plaque** Site of WWII lookout tower where civilian volunteers protected American supply convoys by watching for enemy ships, planes and submarines. The old tower attachment bolts are still visible on the summit.
- E Blacksmith's Quarry** is a beautiful open slope of granite. Very climbable.
- F Children's Pond** Developed by the Vinalhaven Garden Club in the 1960s with help from island school children.
- G Indian Creek Viewpoint** provides a view to the east from the top of a massive slope of waste rock from the quarrying days.

## History

Armbrust Hill—formerly called Kittridge Hill—is named after James Armbrust, a civil war veteran and photographer, who ran the granite quarrying operation there in the late 1800s. In the late 19th century much of Vinalhaven was booming with the granite industry. Vinalhaven village could easily hear the quarrying work being done on Armbrust Hill. When the noise finally subsided in 1910, the hill was practically denuded, but offered sweeping views from Mt. Desert to the Camden Hills.

Armbrust was so well-used and loved that when much of it came up for sale in 1960, Betty Roberts bought it for the town. By then, the Hill was covered with local native plants such as low-bush blueberries, alders, winterberry, huckleberries, and trees such as mountain ash, spruce, fir and white birch.

Betty stipulated that the park be developed as a botanical preserve and a sanctuary for birds and wildlife. From 1960-1963, Betty enlisted the local garden club to help enhance her purchase with the introduction of other plant material. Although many of the smaller introduced plants didn't compete successfully, there are many larger rhododendrons, leucothoe, mountain laurel and azaleas that did. The garden club left a wonderful legacy in their accounts of this period which may be viewed at the Historical Society.

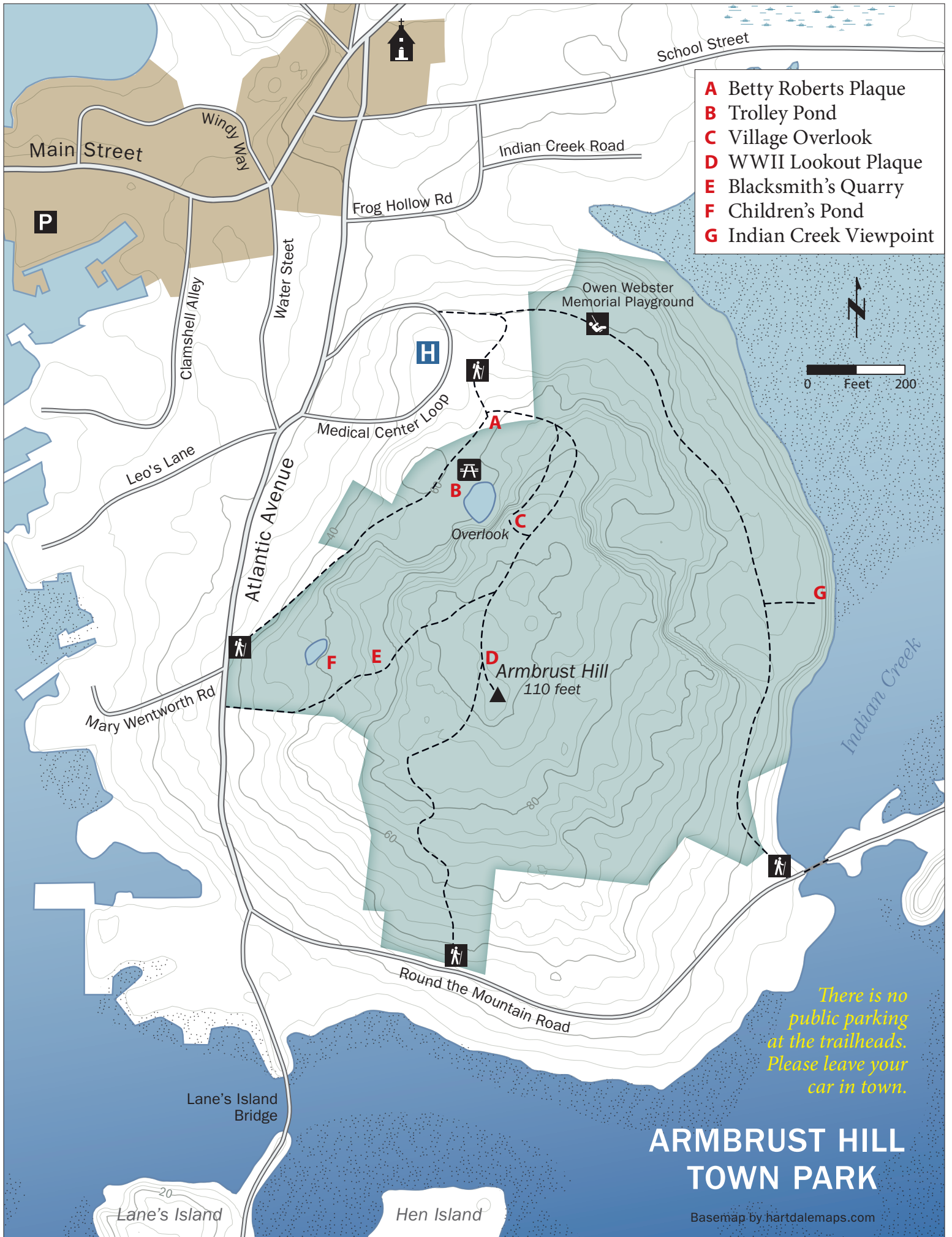
In 1987, 5.8 acres adjacent to the east side of the park along Indian Creek were threatened with development. Vinalhaven Land Trust purchased those acres and donated them to the town for the public to enjoy.

# Armbrust Hill Town Park

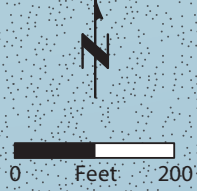


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Town of Vinalhaven





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- B** Trolley Pond
- C** Village Overlook
- D** WWII Lookout Plaque
- E** Blacksmith's Quarry
- F** Children's Pond
- G** Indian Creek Viewpoint



*There is no public parking at the trailheads. Please leave your car in town.*

# ARMBRUST HILL TOWN PARK

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