

## Vinalhaven Land Trust

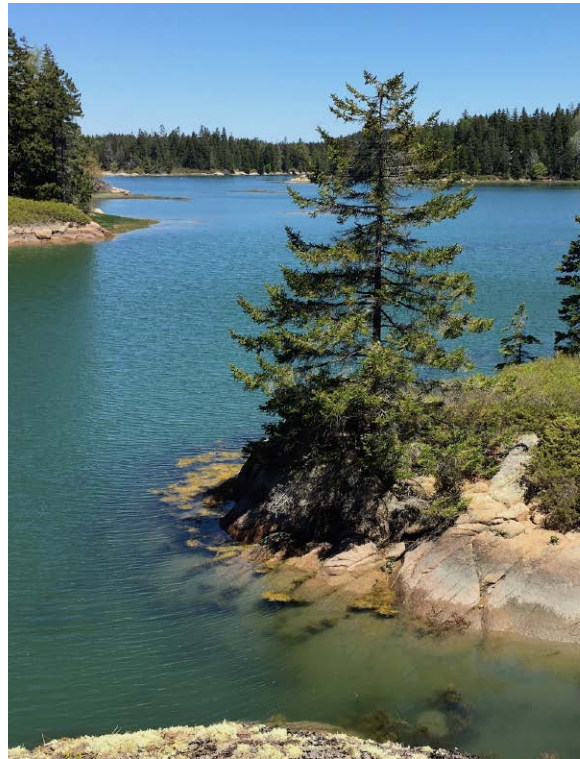
Founded in 1986, Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) offers over 17.5 miles of well maintained trails on our preserves. VLT has been accredited with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission since 2011. In addition to our role as stewards of these properties, we also offer educational programs and guided walks throughout the year. For more information, visit our kiosk to find maps, schedules of events, and detailed preserve brochures. It's located in Skoog Park, just 2/10 of a mile west of the ferry terminal along Sands Road. Feel free to enjoy our picnic table overlooking Sands Cove where you can relax with your lunch.

VLT's work relies on the generosity of our members. For more information on how to support our work, please contact us.

Skoog Park  
P.O. Box 268  
Vinalhaven, ME 04863  
207-863-2543  
[www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org)  
[info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org)

*Vinalhaven Land Trust conserves and stewards our island's important natural, recreational, and agricultural resources, including scenic and other traditionally valued places, for the benefit and enjoyment of the entire Vinalhaven community. Through education and engagement, VLT seeks to advance understanding and appreciation of the natural world.*

## Lower Mill River Preserve



2022



## History

In 2006, Vinalhaven Land Trust gratefully accepted Charles Sullivan's donation of a parcel of land to the northwest of the Carrying Place Bridge. Subsequently, VLT purchased two adjacent lots, including the "Fish Hook" peninsula. Together, these three properties preserve half a mile of shoreline, characterized by bold granite ledges and forested hillsides that descend dramatically to the mud flats and salt marshes of the Mill River.

In 2012, Charles and Caroline Pardoe executed a land protection agreement with VLT on a nearby 45-acre parcel, along with permission to create hiking trails across it that stretched from Round Pond to Vinal Cove.

In 2020 when Charles Sullivan gifted us yet another property—the 32-acre Overlook Preserve, which extended our holdings to over a mile of shoreline along Mill River. The last link in the chain came late in 2021, when Charles Pardoe granted VLT a trail easement across his land at the head of Vinal Cove, enabling us to create a continuous trail experience crossing eight parcels of land. The spruce forests, bold ledges, and scenic vistas of coves and saltmarshes make this a quintessential Vinalhaven experience for hikers.

## Natural Resources

All of these mid-island properties are characterized by mature forests; the trail to Fish Hook passes by one of the largest eastern hemlocks on the island, and just a few yards east of the Round Pond trail you

might catch a glimpse of a magnificent red spruce fully three feet in diameter, or another one nearly its equal that appears almost suspended on the side of a vertical ledge.

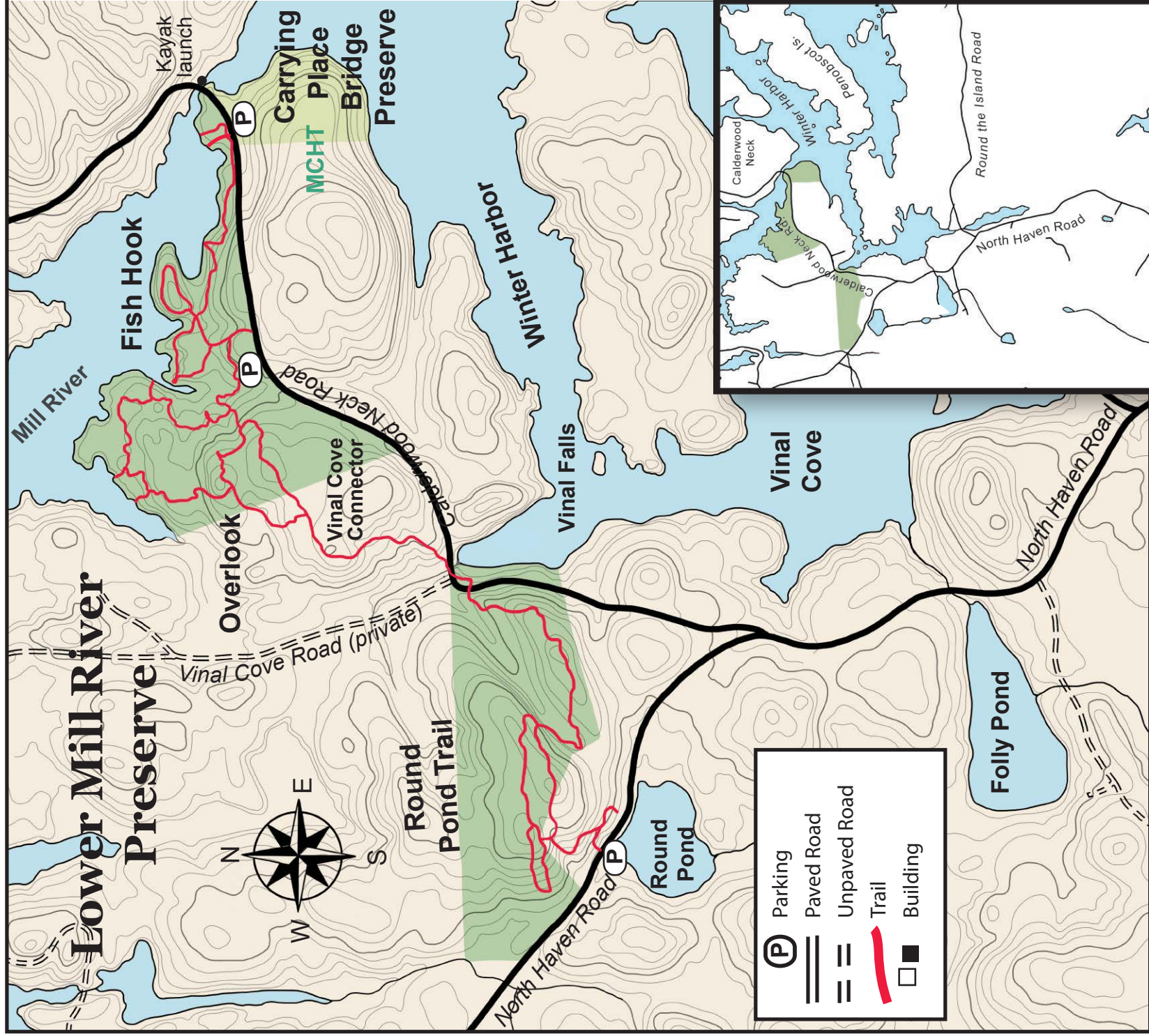
## Features

**Round Pond Trail:** Round Pond trails: Two forested loops offering more than a mile of dramatic lichen-covered granite ledges, pitch pine glades, and mature spruce forest. Be sure to enjoy the rustic bench perched on a wonderful aerial overlook of Round Pond.

**Fish Hook trails:** Two trails that roughly follow the shoreline up, over, and around this steep-sided tidal peninsula. Rustic benches offer two different scenic overlooks, providing a chance to see eagles, ospreys, loons, herons, ducks, and a variety of wading birds.

**Overlook trails:** Just west of Fish Hook, these trails traverse sunny domes of unquarried Vinalhaven granite, amid mature spruce forests. Hardwood seeps between the high spots hold red maples and yellow birches, and some of the largest red spruce trees on the island grow along the shore.

**Vinal Cove trail:** a 2022 addition that links Fish Hook and Overlook to Round Pond, allowing hikers to go more than 2.5 miles from Carrying Place Bridge to Round Pond, with parking facilities at either end.



**Size:** VLT Fish Hook Preserve 15 acres; MCHT Carrying Place Bridge Preserve 13 acres; Round Pond Trail crosses a 46-acre forested parcel.

### Trails:

Round Pond Trail (with loops) 1.2 miles, moderate difficulty;  
 Fish Hook - two trails; 0.7 mi. total length, moderate difficulty  
 Overlook - two trails; 1.0 mi. total length, moderate difficulty  
 Vinal Cove Trail; 0.4 miles, easy  
 Carrying Place Bridge trail to Winter Harbor shore, 0.3 miles round trip, easy

**Features:** Kayak access, shaded trails, varied terrain, tidal flats, sunset views

### Be Aware:

Foot traffic only  
 Stay on marked trails



**Directions:** From ferry, go left on Sands Rd. for .4 miles, then right on Old Harbor Rd. for .3 miles, then bearing slightly left onto North Haven Rd. for 2.5 miles, at which point you reach the junction of North Haven Road and Calderwood's Neck Road.

For Round Pond Trail, bear left at this intersection and park in gravel pullout 0.2 miles on the right;  
 For Fish Hook Preserve, bear right at intersection and park in gravel lot 0.6 miles on left;  
 For Carrying Place Bridge Preserve, go an additional 0.2 miles and park in gravel lot on right.