

History

A geologic fault crosses this 75-acre property, separating the granitic southern end of the island from the rhyolitic bedrock around Perry Creek.

In 1933, a dry winter and spring set the stage for a major forest fire in late May. Well-drained high lands like Middle Mountain and Fox Rocks were hit especially hard and lost all their trees. Since then, the land has regenerated and a young forest is now offering ideal habitat for a diverse population of songbirds.



Just north of the summit of Middle Mountain, a stone plaque memorializes the visit of an early missionary, Wilford Woodruff, who came here in 1837 to preach the Mormon faith on the Fox Islands. He supposedly spent a day here meditating and renewing his energy prior to preaching a series of sermons in the village.

Natural Resources



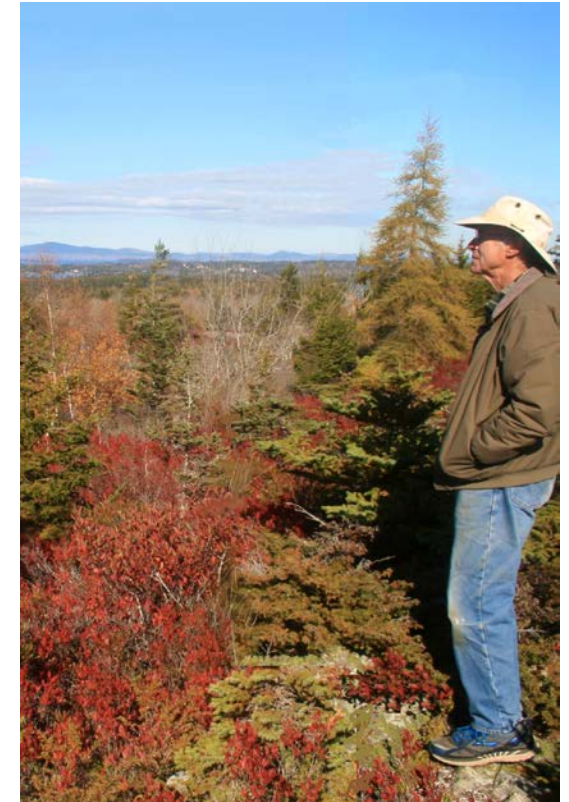
Showy goldenrod adds color in August

Energetic hikers will enjoy the steep trails and rocky ledges on the Long Cove Loop Trail, as well as the chance to step out at the head of Long Cove. Please enjoy the view at this spot quietly, as there are neighbors who also enjoy its serene beauty.

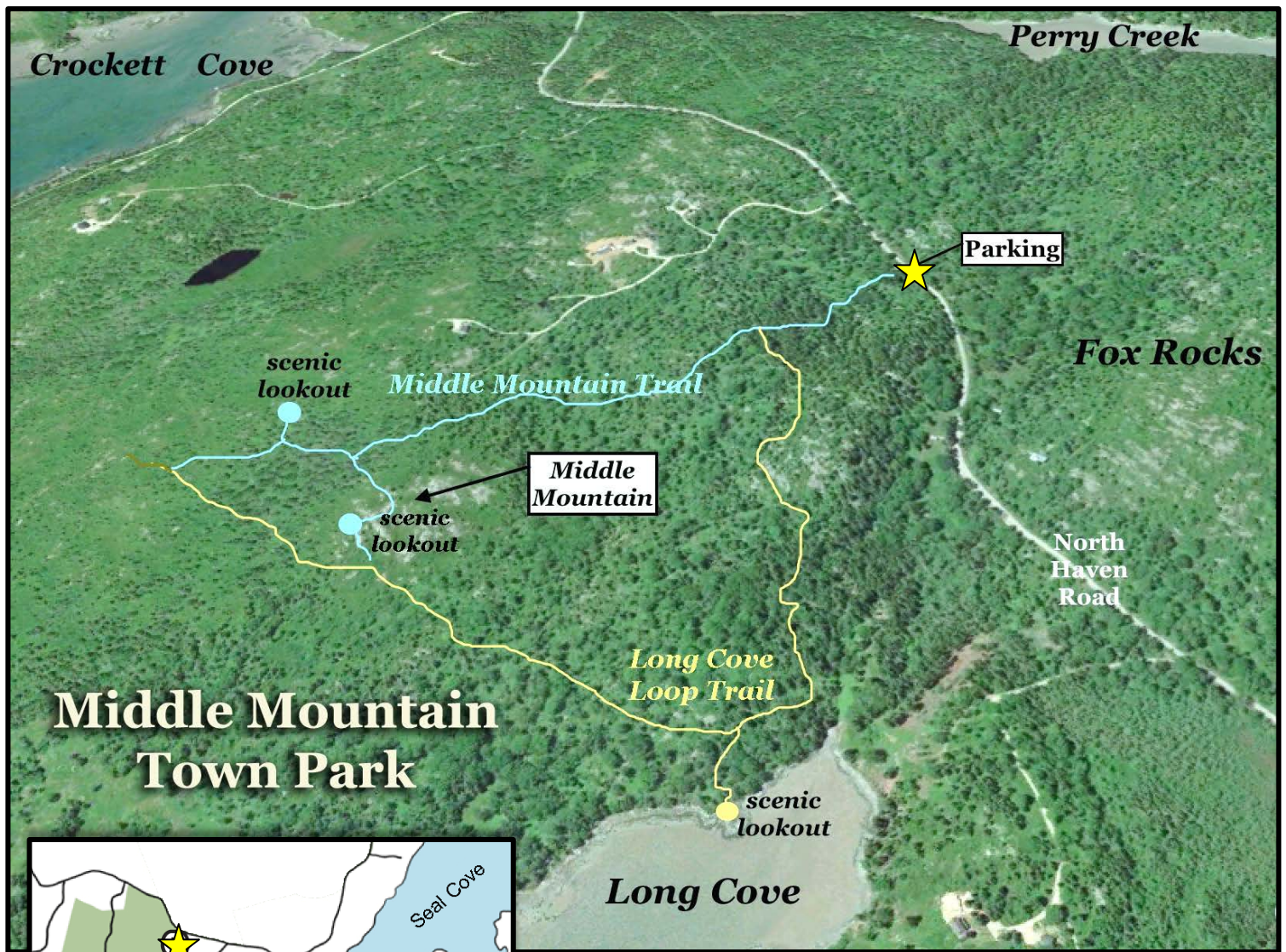
As you walk around Middle Mountain, keep an ear open for the many different bird songs you may hear – especially the flutelike calls of the hermit thrushes found here. While-tailed deer also enjoy the regenerating landscape of Middle Mountain, including the abundant wild huckleberries, and are commonly seen here by quiet hikers.

Autumn is an especially scenic time at this preserve. The cool nights of September and October bring spectacular color to the many birches, maples, wild viburnums, huckleberries, and blueberries on Middle Mountain. Additionally, the open summit offers a chance to view migrating raptors riding the thermal updrafts above these hills to gain elevation for their journey.

Middle Mountain Town Park



**Owned by
Town of Vinalhaven**



Directions: From ferry, go left on Sands Road for 0.4 miles, then right on Old Harbor Road for 0.3 miles, then bear slightly left on North Haven Road for about 5 miles. Look for a gravel parking lot on the left at the crest of a hill.

Size: 75 acres

Middle Mountain Trail: The trail runs approximately ½ mile from the parking lot to the summit of Middle Mountain, with easy grades and excellent cover for songbirds. Expect to hear hermit thrushes, white-throated sparrows, and warblers such as yellowthroats, black-throated greens, ovenbirds, and others as you walk.

Long Cove Loop Trail: This ¾ mile long trail begins with a left turn at the top of the first hill. After threading across some open ledges with vistas to the south and east, the trail descends steeply to the head of Long Cove, where a short spur allows a view from a tidal ledge. It then climbs gradually, bringing hikers within sight of the summit of Middle Mountain, and continues on to end near the vista of the Camden Hills.

Be Aware: The southeastern leg of the Long Cove Loop Trails is on private property, which the owners are graciously allowing the public to use. Please be especially courteous here, and leave no trash that might jeopardize this privilege. Thanks!