

## Vinalhaven Land Trust

Founded in 1986, Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) offers over 15 miles of well-maintained trails on our preserves. In 2011, we celebrated our 25th anniversary by gaining accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance; only the fourth land trust in Maine to be so recognized. 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.

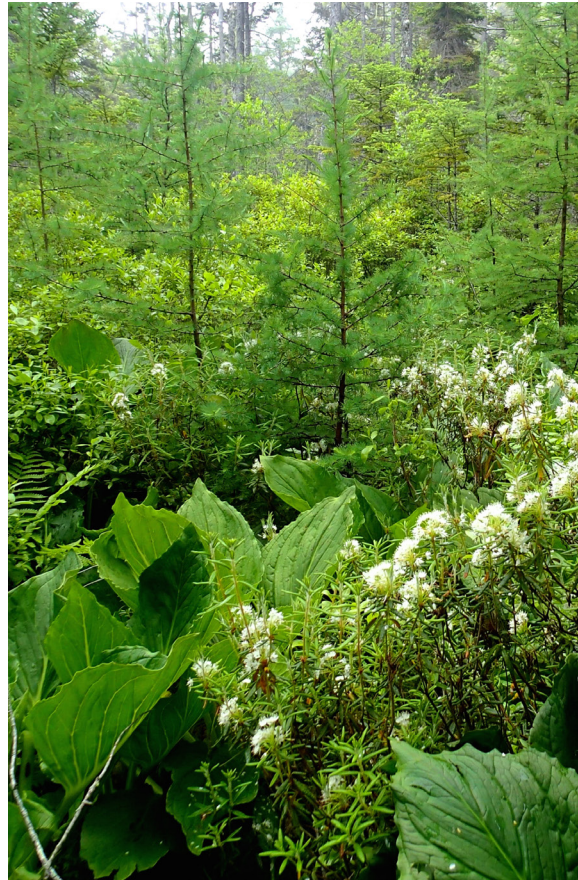
VLT's work relies on the generosity of our members. For more information on how to support our work, please contact us.

Skoog Park  
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Vinalhaven, ME 04863  
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*Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation and appreciation of our island's significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or traditionally valued spaces in order to preserve the character of the community for generations to come.*

## Marcuse Wetland Preserve



## History

In 2008, Drs. Donald and Julie Marcuse made a gift of this 45-acre parcel to Vinalhaven Land Trust. Trails and bridges were developed during the summer of 2017.

## Natural Resources

VLT is deeply indebted to our longtime friend and member Javier Peñalosa for his detailed 2010 report on the physical characteristics and plant communities of the Marcuse Wetland Preserve. From his work, we know that over 240 species of vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, and macrolichens can be found on this property. This high level of species diversity is due to the large freshwater wetland that occupies roughly a third of the preserve.

## Features

After an opening section of trail that showcases wet-loving flowers like wild violets, blue flag iris, dewberries, pink steeplebush, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit, visitors can walk on a long stretch of log bridging through a wooded freshwater wetland, surrounded by sheep laurel, cinnamon fern, skunk cabbage, black spruce, tamarack, and many varieties of sphagnum moss; with occasional cameos by flowering bog orchids and callas. This wetland forest has grown on top of a filled-in peatland, with peat depths of greater than six feet.

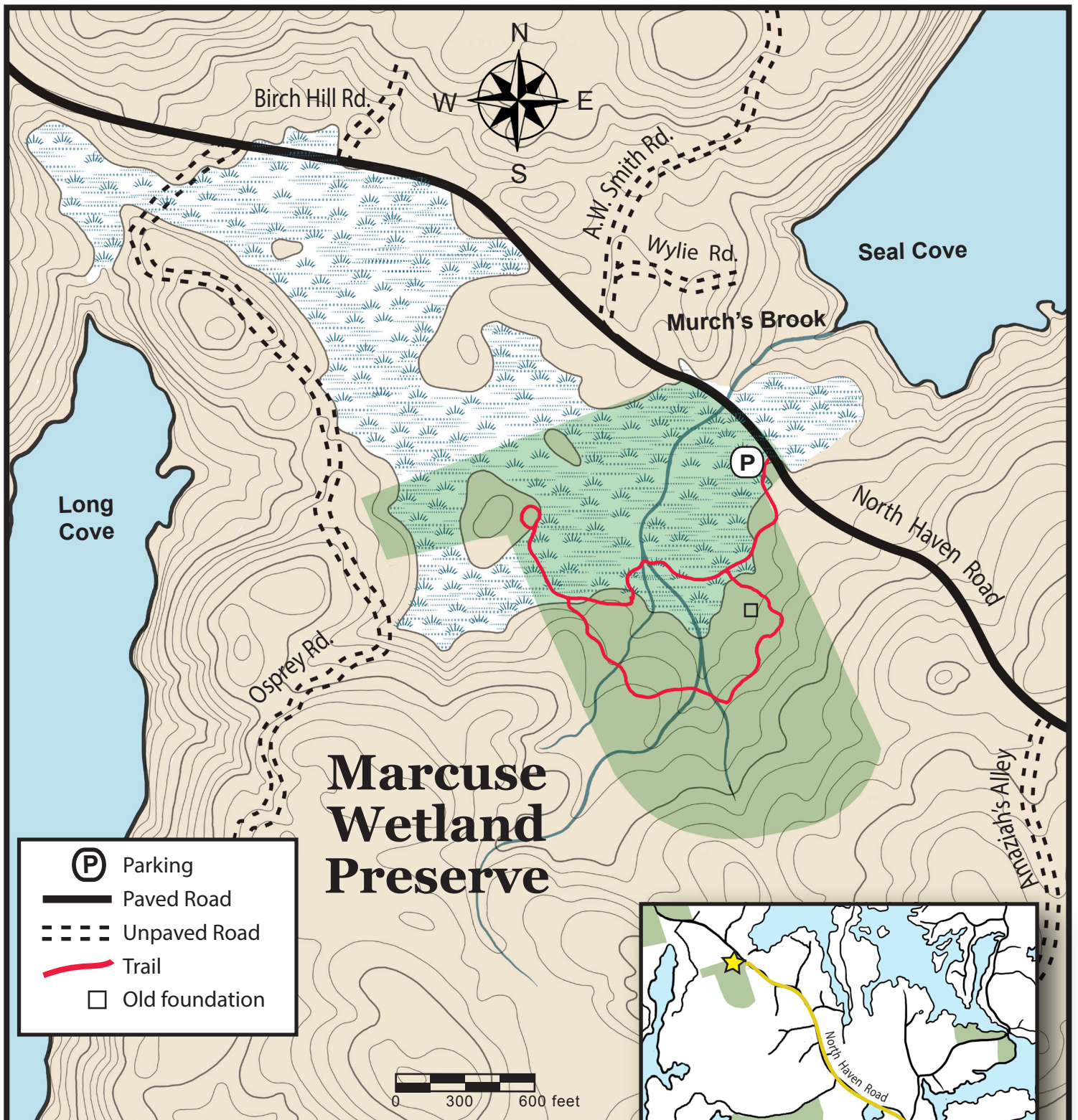


Two benches placed at panoramic viewpoints along the way offer pleasant spots to watch for birds and other wildlife—sit for a few minutes, and you may hear bullfrogs pumping away out in the wetland, and may be lucky enough to see herons or bitterns hunting them, or the waving flag of a white-tailed deer bounding into the safety of thickets of winterberry and mountain holly.



Leaving the lowest portion of the property, the trail climbs quickly up over bold granite ledges covered with diverse mosses and lichens, and then enters a spruce-fir forest, with larch, red pine, red maple, and both yellow and white birch mixed in. Another section of log bridging crosses a small wetland full of ferns, mosses, and skunk cabbage; then the remainder of the trail is through a series of regenerating clearings in the wake of a 1996 logging operation.

The trail also passes by a very old cellar-hole, which we hope to learn more about in the future. Sharp-eyed observers will spot the rusted remains of an old carriage and other farm equipment in the trailside forest here. Through the Preserve, you'll get occasional glimpses of the nearby wind turbines.



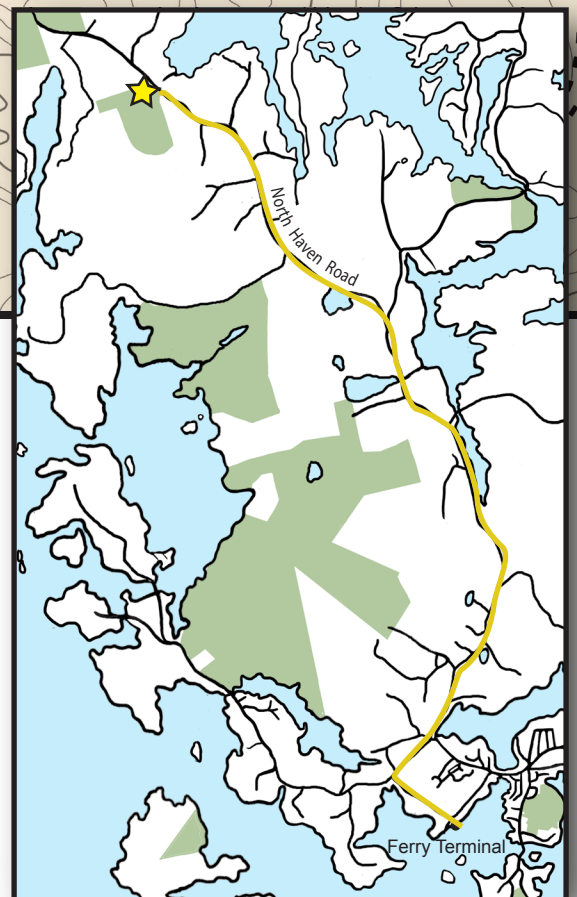
**Size:** 45 acres, approximately 15 acres of which is wetland

**Trails:** 0.6 mile Loop Trail, with 0.2 mile Spur across wetland

**Features:** Forested trails with benches at scenic overlooks of wetlands, timber bridging providing access to center of wetland, remnants of a very early homestead.

**Be Aware:** Foot traffic only  
 Poison ivy in Preserve, but none near trails  
 Hunters may be present during deer season.

**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. Bear left at the intersection with Calderwood Neck Rd., staying on N. Haven Rd. for another 1.8 miles. Parking for the Marcuse Wetland Preserve is on the left, at the foot of the steep hill just beyond the windmills.



When finished, please return this guide to the kiosk at the VLT office on Sands Road, two minutes walk from the ferry terminal. Thanks!