

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.

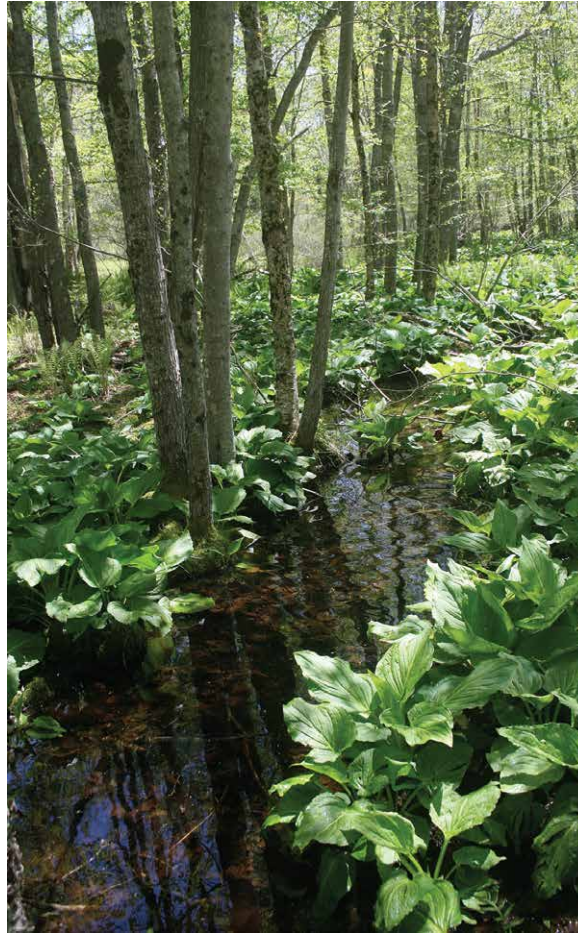
VLT's work relies on the generosity of our members. For more information on how to support our work, please contact us.

Skoog Park
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Vinalhaven, ME 04863
207-863-2543

www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org
info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org

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.

Perry Creek Conservation Area



History

The Perry Creek Conservation Area might well be called "the cradle of VLT," because the work of a few visionaries to conserve the wild lands surrounding this tidal creek almost thirty years ago is what helped lead to the formation of Vinalhaven Land Trust. Because of their efforts, and those of others like them, the entire north side of Perry Creek - five large properties, comprising well over 300 acres - has been preserved to offer visitors a pristine snapshot of the entire region's ecosystem. Their accomplishments were augmented in 1991, when VLT was granted a conservation easement and public access rights to over 290 acres of land on the south side of the creek, the Andrew W. Smith Preserve.



Natural Resources

The Perry Creek complex is a great place for serious hikers and birders to plan a half- or full-day outing. From the parking lot near the northern end of the North Haven Road, hikers can access seven different trails: Roy Dyer, Scenic Loop, Round-the-Rocks, Ridge, Mid-Creek, North Shore, and Orchard Cove

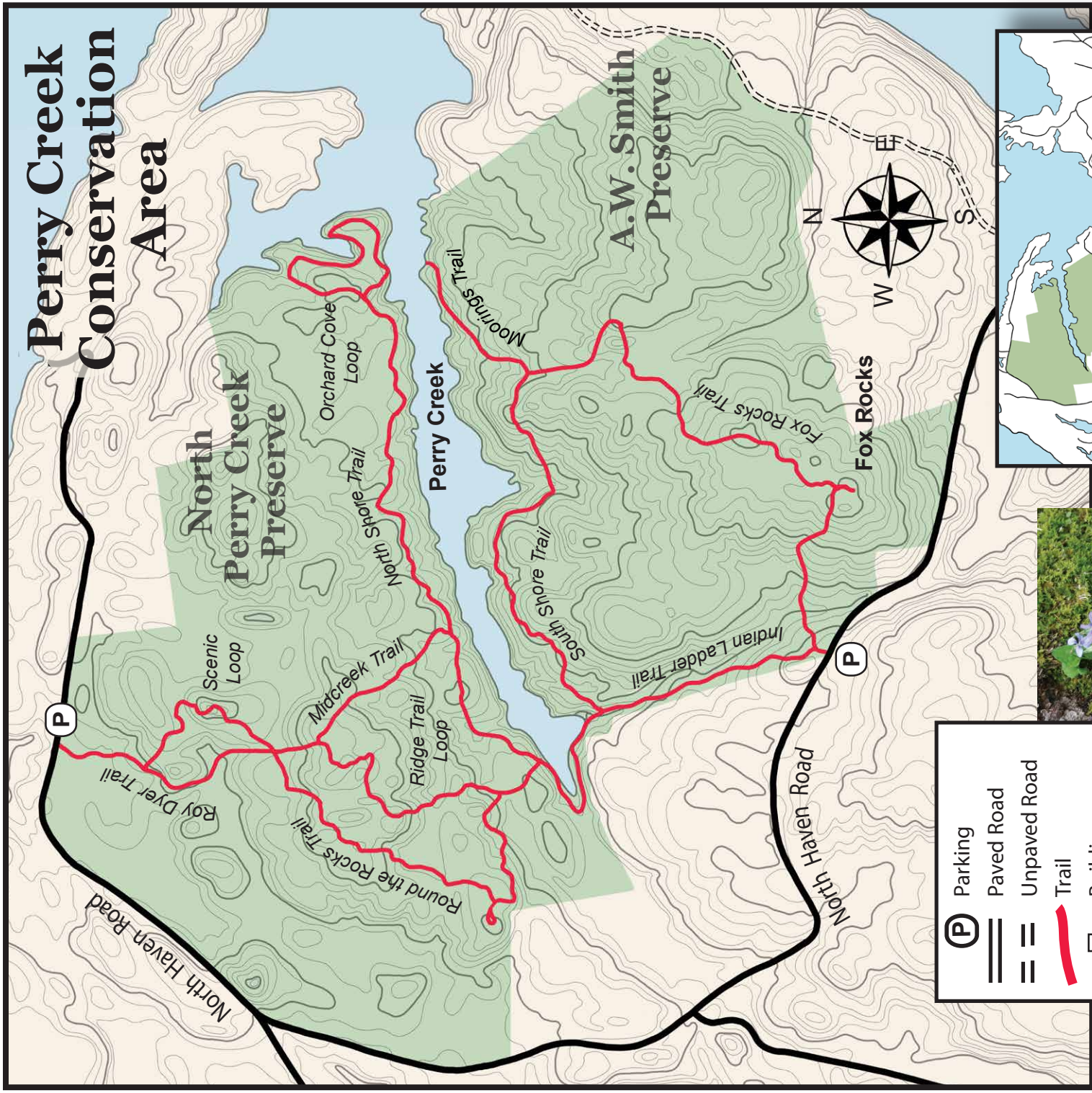
Loop - that collectively cover roughly three miles of diverse habitats. But there's more, because at the head of Perry Creek you can cross over into the Andrew W. Smith Preserve, or as some call it, "Fox Rocks." Here, another three miles of looped trails await you. For the truly inspired hiker, from the parking lot at the southwest end of these one can connect to the Middle Mountain Trail and hike to the scenic summit of this town-owned park.

Every season brings abundant opportunities for nature study here. In summer and fall, more than 285 species of native plants can be seen, including edible wild blueberries and huckleberries, with spectacular glades of hay-scented fern turning yellow and gold in October. Winter brings tracks of all kinds: deer, otter, mink, raccoon, snowshoe hare, squirrel, mice, and others. Nesting great horned owls and sea ducks, both resident and migrant, are seen as the season draws to a close. In spring, the woods come alive with vernal pools, wildflowers, and warblers, and the ospreys and eagles return to Perry Creek.

You don't need to be a naturalist to enjoy these preserves. Photographers, artists, and everyday sightseers will all enjoy the assorted vignettes and panoramas that unfold along the trails. As one visitor to the preserves wrote, "This island's commitment to preserving public space is... perhaps the greatest testimony to its uniqueness and wisdom."



Perry Creek Conservation Area



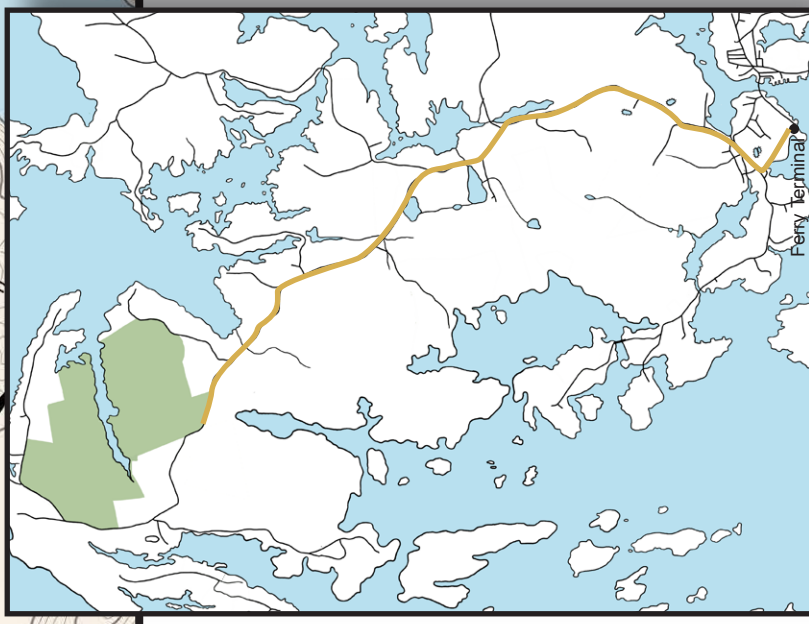
Size: roughly 600 acres

Trails: 11 trails totaling 6 miles

Features: Diverse landforms and habitats surrounding a mile-long tidal creek; elevated panoramic views; largest block of protected land on Vinalhaven; excellent opportunities to watch birds and other wildlife.

Be Aware: Foot traffic only. Stay on marked trails to minimize potential tick contact. Dogs are allowed, but please keep them leashed.

Directions: From downtown Vinalhaven, take High Street north 0.4 mile, bearing right at its junction with the North Haven Road. Drive just over five miles on North Haven Road; the parking lot for the Andrew W. Smith Preserve and the Middle Mountain Town Park will be on your left at the crest of a hill. Alternately, keep driving another two miles; the North Perry Creek parking lot will be on your right.



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