

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 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.

Starboard Rock Sanctuary



History

Welcome to one of the most dramatic promontories on the Maine coast! Starboard Rock offers 180-degree views over the islands and waters of Penobscot Bay, with the mountains of Acadia National Park looming to the northeast. This site, formerly home to a fire-spotting tower, has been enjoyed by islanders for many years. Its conservation history began in 1989, when landowner Edwin Hoyt first placed it under a conservation easement. Ed worked tirelessly over the next fifteen years convincing his neighbors to follow suit, and in 2004 he gifted the Rock outright to Vinalhaven Land Trust, with Maine Coast Heritage Trust holding a conservation easement on the 18-acre parcel. In 2012, a bench was placed at the summit and dedicated in his memory.

To preserve our neighbors' privacy, and to protect this spectacular site from overuse, access to Starboard Rock is strictly controlled. Water access is not allowed, and land access is only allowed via a VLT foot trail from our parking lot 3/4 of a mile north of the Rock.

Visitors are asked to come in small groups, and if the parking lot is full, please enjoy a different preserve nearby and return here another day.

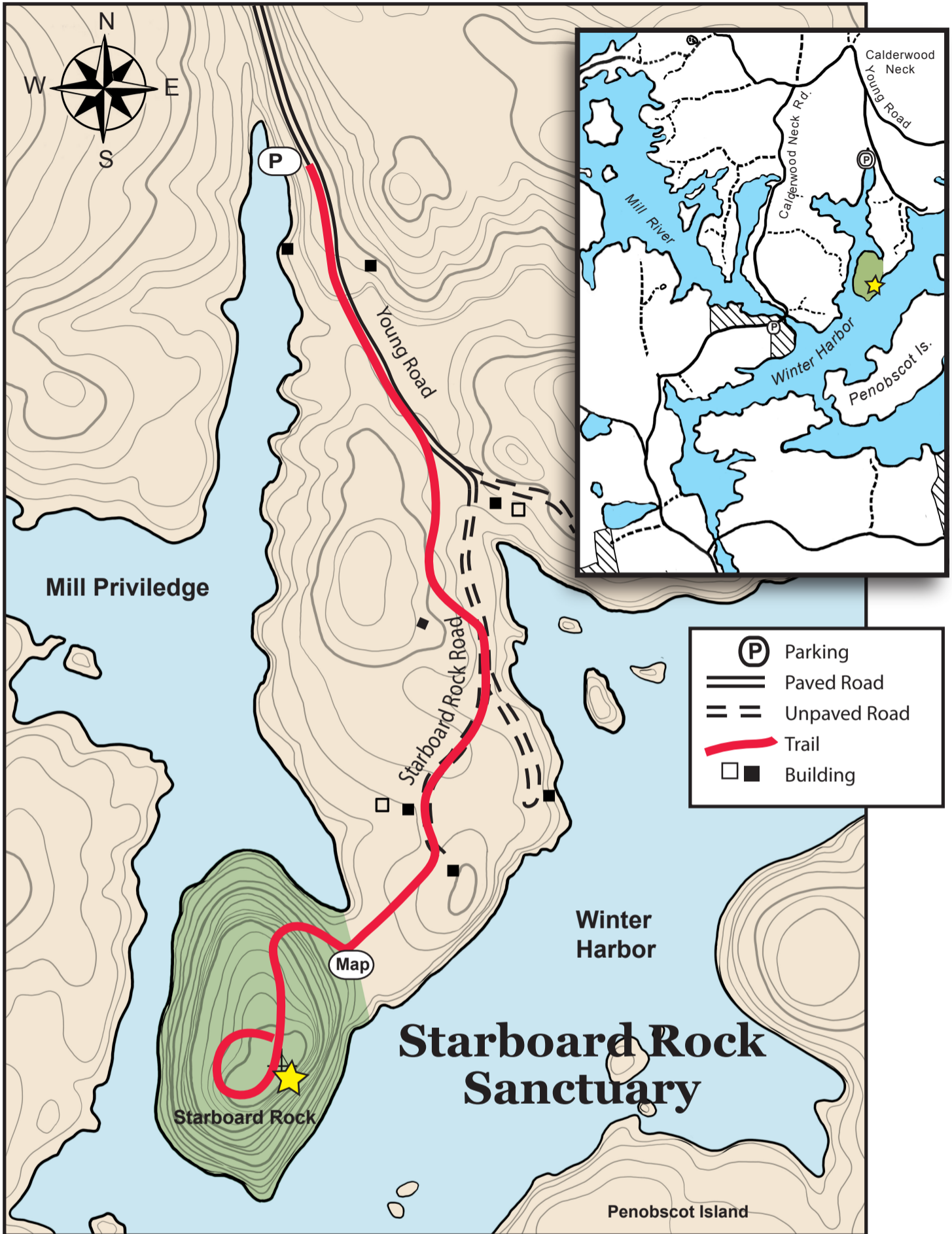
Pets are not allowed.

Natural Resources

In addition to its spectacular views, the Starboard Rock Sanctuary contains seven distinct plant communities in its 18 acres: Pitch Pine Woodland, Maritime Spruce/Fir, Spruce/ Fir/ Cinnamon Fern, Acidic Cliff Gorge, Spruce/Northern Hardwoods, Crowberry-Bayberry Headland, and Goose-Tongue Open Headland. This is one of the few places on Vinalhaven where Canada yew, a native evergreen shrub, can be found. Please stay on the marked loop trail at the summit, since the groundcovers there are extremely susceptible to being trampled.



Birdwatchers can count on seeing warblers and other songbirds, woodpeckers, sea birds, and birds of prey. Be sure to bring binoculars, and remember that the wildlife (and the neighbors) will be grateful if you keep your party on-trail, together, and quiet. Enjoy your visit!



Size: 18 acres

Trails: One trail; distance from parking lot to summit is 3/4 mile, with a short steep section over rocks and moss leading to the summit.

Features: Spectacular water and island views to the east and south from a bold cliff top; dramatic outcrops of granite; mature spruce/fir canopy with moss-covered understory.

Be Aware: Foot traffic only
 Small groups only
 No pets allowed
 Fragile plant communities at summit
 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 1.9 miles, then bear right onto Calderwood Neck Rd. for 3.7 miles (road turns to dirt, and its name becomes Young Rd.). Watch for VLT parking lot on right; if lot is full, please come back another day. Trail from parking lot follows road for several hundred yards, then makes a right into woods, left onto a driveway, right onto dirt road, right onto another driveway, then finally right into woods for the duration. Follow the red paint markings on telephone poles and trees.