

# 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.

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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.*

## Eleanor L. Campbell Preserve



## History

Located on either side of the Zeke's Point Road at the northern end of Vinalhaven, this 32-acre preserve comprises two distinctly different waterfront properties. On the east, hikers can walk or wade on Polly Cove's gravel and cobble beach, and enjoy vistas towards Isle au Haut and Mt. Desert from the half-mile long trail that rises to a scenic overlook. On the west, you can see a bit of Vinalhaven history at the Bathing Pool, a former place of resort for picnickers and rusticators.

Owing to the unsafe condition of the dam there, hiking on the Bathing Pool parcel is not permitted. For those who prefer a less challenging hike, this preserve offers an easy route to the seashore: just park in the pullout at the foot of the hill by the Bathing Pool, where a short (200 yards) and level trail will lead you to Polly Cove.

The preserve was given to VLT by Eleanor L. Campbell. She conveyed the 21-acre parcel at Polly Cove to Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 1993, which was subsequently transferred to VLT, and in 2001 she conveyed the 11-acre Bathing Pool parcel directly to VLT.

## Natural Resources

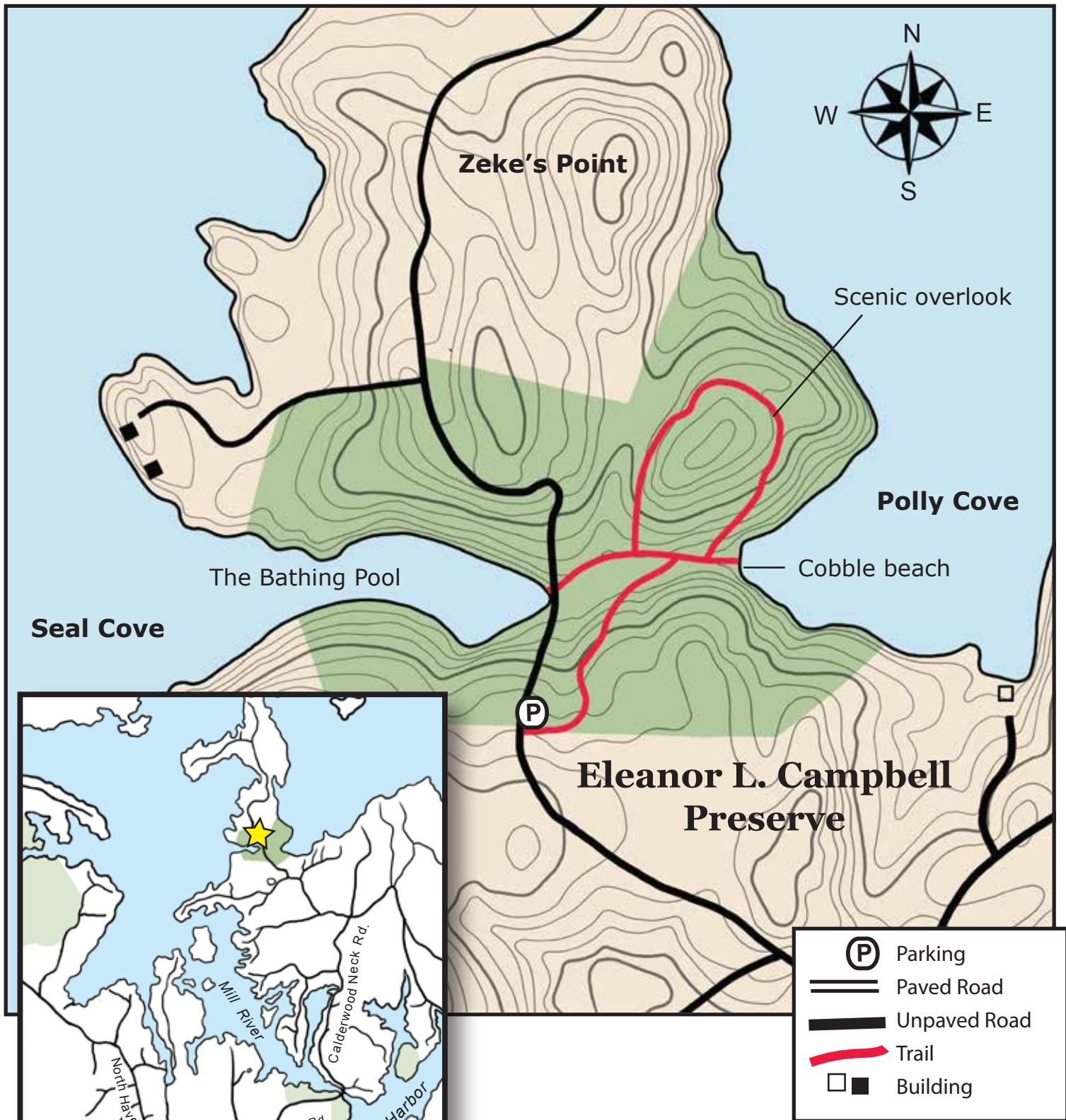
The forested trail at Polly Cove may be short, but it offers surprising diversity compared to most of the island, thanks to its distinctive Hardwood Seepage Forest Natural Community (listed as rare in Maine). Hardwoods like sugar, red, striped, and mountain maple, paper and yellow birch, and bigtooth aspen are in abundance, and the ample sun and ground water allows a full range of shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers as well; lady slippers and red baneberries can be found, for example. In all, there have been 160 different species of plants identified here.



Polyphemus moth just after emerging in June

You never know what you'll see at Polly Cove for wildlife, either: ospreys, eagles, kingfishers, sea birds, red squirrels, deer, mink, raccoons, and lots of migratory birds in the spring and fall are just some of the usual sightings.





**Size:** 32 acres

**Trails:** One trail; approximately 0.5 miles

**Features:** Short and easy walk to a seaside beach, scenic overlook and high biodiversity in a small area

**Be Aware:**

- Foot traffic only
- Stay on trails
- Watch for Poison Ivy
- View bathing pool from roadside only (no hiking to dam)

**Directions:** From ferry, go left on Sands Rd. for 0.4 mi., then right on Old Harbor Rd. for .3 mi., then bear left onto North Haven Rd. for 1.9 mi., then bear right onto Calderwood Neck Rd. After crossing the Carrying Place Bridge, drive about 1 mi., and just after cresting a curvy hill watch for the Zeke's Point Road on your left. The Campbell Preserve is another 8/10 mi. out this dirt road; parking is on the right.

