Any discussion of these high lands on Crockett Point has to begin with their turbulent geologic history. At least three different sequences of volcanic activity in the Devonian period (about 360 million years ago) caused multiple lava flows and earthquakes. In fact, the section that we call “the Gorge” is actually a fault line, where the earth’s crust obligingly parted just enough to fit today’s Tip Toe Mountain Road in the resulting gap.

In human history, the geology continued to play a part. Native Americans collected rock from the shore here to shape into projectile points, and the very name “Tip Toe Mountain” is said to refer to the Wabanaki people using the mountain as a place to keep a stealthy eye on colonial boat traffic in times of simmering tensions. Today the site is covered by a mature spruce/fir forest, but an 1858 map shows a mix of forest and pastureland here. The trail to the shore crosses the remnants of a stone-and-timber dam, probably built by Colonial-era farmers to create salt marsh pasture for their livestock.

When the so-called “Big Tip Toe” parcel came on the market, both Vinalhaven Land Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust took immediate notice. Ultimately it was decided that VLT would buy the land, with MCHT helping greatly with technical arrangements and fund raising. The Tip Toe acquisition became the centerpiece of VLT’s recent 25th Anniversary Campaign, and with the help of many generous supporters we were able to close on the property in September of 2013.
Size: 40 acres

Trails:
- **Middle Tip Toe Loop** – about 0.5 mi. total; mostly shady and with easy grades for all hiking abilities.
- **Shore Trail** – about 0.3 mi. from near the base of Big Tip Toe to the stone dam crossing at the head of Marsh Cove.
- **Big Tip Toe Mountain** – short, steep climb from the head of the Gorge.

Be Aware:
- Foot traffic only. Please do not hike on the right-of-way to the private residence (see map).
- Please stay on trails, especially at the summits. These all have near-vertical drop-offs, so please watch children closely.
- The existing traditional access to Big Tip Toe is a short, steep scramble up over bare ledges. This is very challenging terrain, especially when wet. Please use good judgment and caution before attempting this.
- The stone dam crossing on the shore trail is submerged for roughly an hour on either side of high tide; hikers should consult the tide charts posted on the trail to avoid getting stranded.

Directions: Turn left from the ferry terminal, go 0.4 mi., then right on Old Harbor Rd. for 0.3 mi. Bear left onto North Haven Road for about 6.5 mi. to where Tip Toe Mountain Road (gravel) will be a left turn. Drive about 1.2 miles down this road; the gravel parking lot at the base of Little Tip Toe Mountain Town Park will be on your left. A nearby kiosk marks the Middle Tip Toe Loop trailhead.

Parking: At Little Tip Toe Town Park (see map).

Features: Multiple panoramic views of islands and ocean, from northwest all the way around to the east, interesting bedrock geology; walkable shoreline; and very high biodiversity in a small area.