Welcome to Vinalhaven’s Nature Preserves

Whether your family has lived or summered here for generations or you’re here on your first visit, we hope this map will help you find and enjoy some of the island’s hidden treasures, and that you’ll come back again to experience our preserves in different seasons.

All in all, hundreds of individuals and eight different organizations have worked over the years to preserve the unspoiled character of Vinalhaven and its surrounding islands. As of 2014, conservation protection has been extended to roughly 150 different properties, ranging in size from tiny islands to large woodlots. Many of these lands were protected specifically to ensure that islanders and visitors would always have refuges for hiking, observing nature, and enjoying spectacular scenery and settings.

This map shows the preserves currently open to the public that offer maintained hiking trails.

Vinalhaven Parks & Hiking Preserves

Guidelines to Preserve Use

Visitors to our preserves are invited to enjoy some of the traditional activities of Vinalhaven life, which include walking, snowshoeing, hunting (in season), wildlife observation, and plant study. Dogs are welcome in most preserves, as long as they are under their owners’ control and keep on the trail. The preserves are open dawn to dusk; no fires, please.

Vinalhaven soils are thin and fragile and are easily disturbed. Vehicles—motorized or non-motorized, including bicycles and horses are not allowed on any preserve. Should a trail or preserve have some degradation because of use or seasonal changes (think mud or runoff), we may temporarily re-route or close it to allow it to recover. That said, our trails are in great shape, and we hope you take advantage of them!

Please be aware that deer ticks are becoming an increasing problem all across mid-coast Maine. Simple measures like wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts, tucking your pants into your socks, and checking yourself carefully for ticks soon after your hike will all help you avoid a potential bout with a tick-borne disease.

Please stay on marked trails or in the open; many of these preserves are large enough to get lost on, and your cell phone may not be much help since reception remains spotty on much of the island.

Finally, please be considerate of others on the trail or those who live nearby (including wildlife), and do what you can to quietly appreciate these lovely settings. “Leave no trace” should be everyone’s mantra in these preserves.

If you have a particular interest—birding, beachcombing, photography, whatever—please visit our information kiosk at the Vinalhaven Land Trust office, where you will find maps, event information, and detailed preserve brochures, and feel free to enjoy our picnic table overlooking Sands Cove where you can relax with your lunch.

Enjoy your time on the island. If you need information or help, contact:

Vinalhaven Land Trust
207-863-2543
vinalhavenlandtrust.org

Maine Coast Heritage Trust
207-729-7366
mcht.org

The Nature Conservancy
207-729-5182
nature.org

Town of Vinalhaven
207-863-4471
townoffinalhaven.org
Most of these areas are maintained by volunteers who care a great deal about the quality of life we enjoy and intend to pass on to our children. Your thoughtful and caring use of our often fragile habitat is both necessary and appreciated.

Brochures for many of these preserves may be picked up from the Skoog Park kiosk or downloaded from the VLT website at: vinalhavenlandtrust.org