

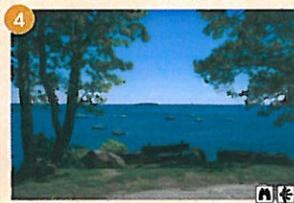
GUIDE TO CAMDEN PARKS



Village Green

Frederick Low Clunck Jr., one of America's most prominent landscape architects, who also designed Boston's Emerald Necklace and New York's Central Park, designed the Village Green. He wanted the design to be a simple, unadorned place, with a long sweeping lawn visible from downtown, along with fine plantings, gardens, and shrubs of varying heights to screen neighboring buildings. Clunck specified a simple border fence of smooth-cut granite posts and heavy iron chains. Years later, at citizens' request, he designed the Flagpole Memorial to World War I soldiers in the center of the park. In 2006, the Honor Roll, designed by Christopher Glass, was installed to commemorate Camden's sons and daughters who have given their lives in military service.

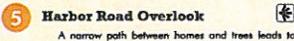
Getting there: The Village Green is located at the corner of US Route 1 (Main St.) and Chestnut St. in the heart of downtown. This one-acre park is across the street from the Camden Town Office and the U. S. Post Office.



Eaton Avenue Overlook

A park bench high above the water provides stunning views of Sherman's Cove and Penobscot Bay, especially at sunrise.

Getting there: From Village Green proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.4 miles to Eaton Ave., turn right and go 0.3 miles to end of street where you will find a viewing bench. Total miles 0.7.



Harbor Road Overlook

A narrow path between homes and trees leads to views of Sherman's Cove and the outer harbor.

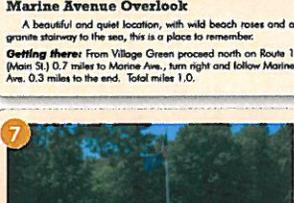
Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.5 miles to Harbor Rd., turn right and follow Harbor Rd. 0.3 miles to the end. Total miles 0.8.



Public Landing

The maritime history of Camden Harbor and the Public Landing is the history of the schooners, those commercial vessels that dominated the fishing and cargo trades of the Northeast coast for some 200 years. Nowhere is this heritage more alive than in Camden. Daily and weekly during the summer and fall seasons, passengers depart on schooners to sail and enjoy the waters of Penobscot Bay. Over Labor Day Weekend, most of the remaining vessels from the great schooner fleets gather at the Camden Public Landing, around the scenic inner harbor to celebrate the skills and traditions of their bygone era. The Public Landing is where many visiting vessels tie up each summer, and where local residents keep their dinghies and an assortment of other small boats. Get more area information from the Chamber of Commerce center, the Harbor Master's office, or boat departure kiosks.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) about 150 feet to Bay View St. on the right. The roadway leading to the Public Landing is located at the intersection of Bay View and Route 1.



Marine Avenue Overlook

A beautiful and quiet location, with wild beach roses and granite stairs to the sea, this is a place to remember.

Getting there: From Village Green proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.7 miles to Marine Ave., turn right and follow Marine Ave. 0.3 miles to the end. Total miles 1.0.



Camden Hills State Park

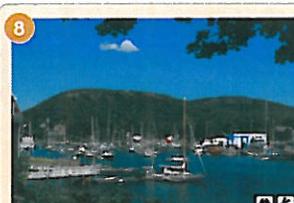
Located just north of downtown Camden on the shores of Penobscot Bay, this state park attracts thousands of hikers, campers, picnickers, and other outdoor enthusiasts year round. The park's 3,700 acres and 30-mile trail system encompasses several mountains, including Mount Battie with its auto road and panoramic views, and Mount Megunticook, the highest mainland mountain on the Atlantic Coast. From high cliffs and ledges to lush lowlands and rocky shores, the changing terrain of the park provides diverse habitat for a variety of plants and animals. These natural features, along with well-equipped camping and picnicking facilities, an extensive trail system, historic landmarks, and proximity to picturesque Camden, makes the park a popular day use area. The park is managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and charges a modest visitor's fee.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 north 1.8 miles. The main park entrance is on the left.

Route 52 Trailhead (7a)
The old Carriage Trail (0.5 miles) starting at Route 52 connects to the following hiking trails in Camden Hills State Park: Carriage Road Trail, Auto Road, Tablelands Trail, Jack Williams Trail and Mount Megunticook Trail. These trails vary from moderate to steep.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 north (Main St.) for 0.2 miles, bear left after passing the harbor. One can sit for hours and gaze at the quintessential New England village, the sailboats, the islands, and the white seaplane. You might just find like you are sitting inside a living painting. The park has hosted countless picnics, craft fairs, weddings, concerts, family strolls, festivals, theater productions, and graduations.

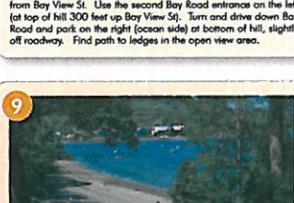
Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.2 mile to Atlantic Ave., turn right onto Atlantic Ave. Harbor Park is on the right, the Camden Library and the Amphitheatre are on the left.



Bay Road Overlook

Look for the open area between Bay Road and the ocean, and find the path that leads down to the large flat ledge, about six feet below the road level. Bring your camera, check out the marina across the harbor, and look for the tower on Mt. Battie. Observe a panoramic view of the inner and outer harbor while watching all the boat traffic.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 100 feet to Bay View St. Turn right onto Bay View and follow 0.3 miles to Bay Road. NOTE: Bay Road has two entrances from Bay View St. Use the second Bay Road entrance on the left (at top of hill 300 feet up Bay View St.). Turn and drive down Bay Road and park on the right (ocean side) at bottom of hill, slightly off roadway. Find path to ledges in the open view area.

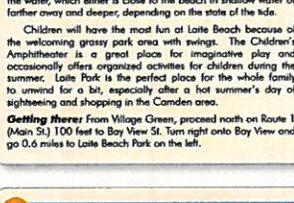


Laite Beach Park

Laite Beach is a hidden gem within the Camden community. It is a small, low-key and relaxing harbor front park with easy access to the waters of Camden Harbor. The park features a large grass embankment that slopes down to the water. At the base of the embankment is a pretty little pebble beach sweeping along the shoreline of Camden Harbor. There is a swim float in the water, which either is close to the beach in shallow water or farther away and deeper, depending on the state of the tide.

Children will have the most fun at Laite Beach because of the welcoming grassy park area with swings. The Children's Amphitheater is a great place for imaginative play and occasionally offers organized activities for children during the summer. Laite Park is the perfect place for the whole family to unwind for a bit, especially after a hot summer's day of sightseeing and shopping in the Camden area.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 100 feet to Bay View St. Turn right onto Bay View and go 0.6 miles to Laite Beach Park on the left.



Camden Bog

Camden Bog Park is a two-acre property located on Park Street just off Route 1. Park your car in one of the two spaces provided at the entrance. Follow the mowed grass path 150 feet to the Bog entrance. Find path on the west edge (right side) and enter the Bog. The Bog path is approximately 300 feet long. Look for redwing blackbirds perched on the tall grass.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed south on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.5 miles to Park St. Turn right on Park St. Camden Bog is approximately 300 feet on the left. Total miles 0.5.



Curtis Island Lighthouse Overlook

The Curtis Island Lighthouse Overlook is a one-acre park, also known as the Beacon Street Overlook. There is a charming twisting path from Bayview St. to a viewing bench on a bluff above the ocean. This peaceful, private overlook is a great place to have morning coffee, lunch, or a picnic. Sit on the giant log bench, or bring your own lawn chair to relax and enjoy one of the most beautiful views in Maine.

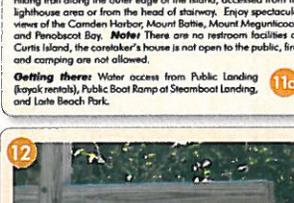
Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 100 feet to Bay View St. Turn right and follow Bay View 0.9 miles. Find a small two-car parking pullout on the right, just beyond intersection of Bay View and Beacon St. The path begins at sign across the roadway. Follow path about 100 feet to viewing area.



Curtis Island

Curtis Island is a three-acre Town Park located in the outer harbor 0.8 miles from the Public Landing. You can reach Curtis Island by kayak, canoe or small boat, tying up on the east side of the island. Curtis Island has many natural features enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Follow the wide grassy path from atop the long wood stairway, which leads to the island's west end. The west side of Curtis Island features an active nautical lighthouse, caretaker cottage (summer only), outbuildings, and large flat rocks sloping to the ocean. There is a wonderful hiking trail along the outer edge of the island, accessed from the lighthouse area or from the head of stairway. Enjoy spectacular views of the Camden Harbor, Mount Battie, Mount Megunticook, and Penobscot Bay. NOTE: There are no restroom facilities on Curtis Island, the caretaker's house is not open to the public, fires and camping are not allowed.

Getting there: Water access from Public Landing (kayak rental), Public Boat Ramp at Steamboat Landing, and Laite Beach Park.



Maiden Cliff

Maiden Cliff is Camden's second largest natural area, which comprises 232 acres of coastal mountainside with views of Megunticook Lake, Ragged Mountain and distant views of Penobscot Bay. It is a popular destination and is easily recognizable by the white cross standing at the top of the cliff. The trail to the top is a mile long. The first half is a steep climb while the last part is nearly level. The hike to the cliff will normally take forty-five minutes to an hour of a leisurely pace. The trail and cliff area are adjacent to Camden Hills State Park.

The white cross on top of Maiden Cliff is a memorial to Eleanor French, an 11-year old girl who fell off the cliff on May 7, 1864 and died. One story goes that she was pushed off the edge by a gull in flight. In another version, she fell off the cliff while attempting to retrieve her hat, which had blown off.

The trail to Maiden Cliff links to other hiking trails in Camden Hills State Park, which can easily turn a 60-minute walk into an all-day trek. A standard route is to travel the Maiden Cliff trail and then connect with the Seaside trail leading across the top of the Millville Ledges and finally onto the Ridge Trail, which will soon return you back to the Maiden Cliff Trail. This route offers many scenic views but is steep in places. Hiking time depends on ability and physical condition. Plan for a two- to four-hour round trip. During the summer, many hikers enjoy a refreshing swim afterward at nearby Barrett's Cove Beach.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.2 miles and bear left onto Route 52 (Mountain St.) after passing the Camden Library on the right. Proceed on Route 52 for 2.8 miles. Find large hiker parking area on the right, with trail signs at the end of parking area. Total miles 3.0.



Merrypring Nature Center

Merrypring Nature Center is a privately owned park that is open to the public year-round from dawn to dusk. Its 66 acres comprise a midcoast paradise for nature lovers of all ages. Four seasons of beauty make Merrypring a year-round destination. Birds walk the park's four miles of trails in search of everything from finches to falcons, while naturalists and schoolchildren marvel at deer, foxes and other forest denizens who call Merrypring their home. Botanists and artists seek out native hardwoods and wildflowers that populate the Killifish Arboretum. Gardeners enjoy professionally designed beds and borders devoted to plants that thrive in Maine's climate. Theme gardens showcase heirlooms as well as cutting-edge cultivars. Year-round educational programs open to the public spotlight the work of Maine's many talented ecologists and horticulturists, and the library offers a peaceful spot for anyone to learn more about nature and horticulture.

Getting there: From the Village Green, proceed south on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.8 miles to Conway Rd. on the right. Conway Rd. is 50 feet beyond John St. Turn onto Conway Rd. and follow to parking area 0.4 miles. Total miles 1.2.



Mount Battie Trail

The Mount Battie Trail starts in the parking area at the high end of Megunticook Street in Camden. This trail, which leads into the state park, is a local favorite, with breathtaking views of downtown Camden, the Harbor, Curtis Island, Sherman's Cove, Penobscot Bay and the outer islands. The summit of Mount Battie inspired one of Edna St. Vincent Millay's best known poems, "Renascence." The trail is approximately 0.6 miles long from the parking area to the summit at the Stone Tower atop Mount Battie. Halfway up this trail, you will find a very large, steep rock-floored area to be traversed with care. Just above the rock face is a lovely flat section, a great place to enjoy lunch and view the surrounding area.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 north (Main St.) 0.2 miles, bear left after passing the Camden Library onto Route 52 (Mountain St.); proceed 200 feet to Megunticook St. on the right. Turn onto Megunticook and follow 0.4 miles uphill to parking area, at end of street, park on left side. Total miles 0.6.



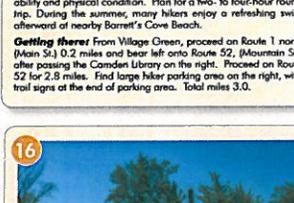
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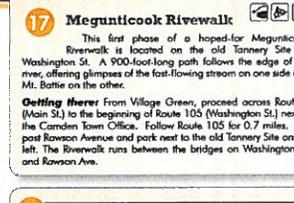
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Getting there: From the Village Green, proceed south on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.8 miles to Conway Rd. on the right. Conway Rd. is 50 feet beyond John St. Turn onto Conway Rd. and follow to parking area 0.4 miles. Total miles 1.2.



Megunticook Riverwalk

This first phase of a hoped-for Megunticook Riverwalk is located on the old Tannery Site on Washington St. A 900-foot-long path follows the edge of the river, offering glimpses of the long flowing stream on one side and Mt. Battie on the other.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to the beginning of Route 105 (Washington St.) next to the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 0.7 miles. Go past Rowson Avenue and park next to the old Tannery Site on the left. The Riverwalk runs between the bridges on Washington St. and Rowson Ave.



Seabright Park

Seabright is a wonderful park to walk a dog along the lower Megunticook River. The Seabright Trail loop starts at the sign on Mt. Battie Street and follows the river to the Seabright Dam and the Coastal Mountains Land Trust office, then returns to the sign and parking area via a parallel path. The whole walk is 0.4 miles, with nice views of the river and lower dam.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to the beginning of Route 105 (Washington St.) next to the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 0.7 miles to Gould St. Turn right onto Gould and go 200 feet to Mt. Battie St. Turn left and follow Mt. Battie St. 0.4 miles to Seabright Park on the right. Total miles 1.1.



Shirltail Point

Shirltail Point Park is a small but wonderful fresh-water swimming pool in Camden. Shirltail, which is located on the Megunticook River, has a grassy area leading down to the water's edge. Once in the water, it is shallow and sandy for a long distance, which is nice for small children. The grassy area in front of the beach includes benches, picnic tables, grills, and shade trees. This is a good place to launch a canoe or kayak. The river offers good fishing and boating as it meanders toward town from Megunticook Lake.

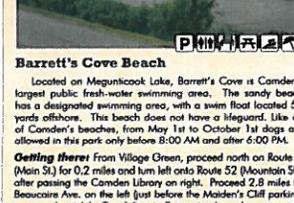
Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to Rt. 105 (Washington St.) beside the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 1.2 miles. Shirltail Point is on the right. Follow the gravel drive 300 feet to parking and beach area.



G.W. Hodson Park

Hodson Park is a beautiful three-acre oasis at the head of the Megunticook River, adjacent to the bridge that crosses the river and just below the Megunticook Lake outlet dams. The park is a great place for a dog to fetch balls from the water or to cast a fishing line. It's easy to launch a canoe or kayak from the southern side of the park, with a gentle slope into the river. Hodson Park has several picnic tables and a large rock ledge overlooking the river, which makes a great platform to fish the fast-moving water. The ledge area faces southwest and enjoys warm sunshine in the afternoon. There is a large parking area as you enter the park. Dogs are allowed in this park all day year round.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to Route 105 (Washington St.) beside the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 2.6 miles to the Molyneux Rd. intersection. Turn right onto Molyneux Rd. and proceed 0.4 miles to the park entrance on the right, about 200 feet beyond the bridge. Total miles 3.0.



Barrett's Cove Beach

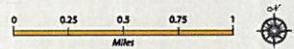
Located on Megunticook Lake, Barrett's Cove is Camden's largest public fresh-water swimming area. The sandy beach has a designated swimming area, with a swim float located 50 yards offshore. This beach does not have a lifeguard. Like all of Camden's beaches, from May 1st to October 1st dogs are allowed in this park only between 8:00 AM and after 6:00 PM.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) to Route 105 (Washington St.) beside the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 2.6 miles to the Molyneux Rd. intersection. Turn right onto Molyneux Rd. and proceed 0.4 miles to the park entrance on the right, about 200 feet beyond the bridge. Total miles 3.0.

Key to Activities & Features

- Beach
- Bench
- Bird/Wildlife Watching
- Boardwalk
- Boat launch-Hand-carry
- Boat launch-Trailer
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Chairlift Rides
- Community Event
- Fishing
- Garden
- Hiking
- Ice Skating
- Kayaking
- Lighthouse
- Lookout Tower
- Mountain Biking
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Playground
- Rock Climbing
- Scenic View
- Skiing-Alpine
- Skiing-Cross-country
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Toilets
- Tubing/Tobogganing
- Visitor Information
- Walking
- Waterfall

Featured Park Conserved Land/Open Space



Compass & Maps by **CCGIS**
 www.compassandmaps.org
 Photographic courtesy: Johnnary

Coastal Mountains Land Trust Preserves

Coastal Mountains Land Trust (CMLT) permanently conserves land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay. To get more information about Ragged Mountain, Bald Mountain, or Fernald's Neck Preserves, and to download detailed trail maps and preserve guides, visit CMLT's website: www.coastalmountains.org, or call (207) 236-7091. CMLT's office is located at 101 Mt. Battie Street in Camden and is open Monday through Friday between 8:30AM and 5:00PM.



Route 52 Boat Ramp (Megunticook Lake)

This Megunticook Lake Boat Ramp provides easy launching access to the lake. The entire area is paved with marked parking spaces. The launch ramp's large concrete block construction makes easy entry and exit. The ramp has a long wood dock for boat tie-up. Megunticook Lake is great for power boating, kayaking, water skiing, and fishing. Jet Skis are prohibited on the lake and swimming is prohibited at the boat launches.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed north on Route 1 (Main St.) 0.2 miles and bear left onto Route 52 (Mountain St.) after passing the Camden Library on right. Proceed on Route 52 for 2.9 miles. Boat Ramp will be on the left. Total miles 3.1.



Bog Bridge Boat Ramp (Megunticook Lake)

This Megunticook Lake Boat Ramp provides launching access to the lake. The launch area is paved and the launch ramp's large concrete block construction makes entry and exit easy for trailers. The ramp has a long wood floating dock for boat tie-up. Park your vehicle in the large lot across the street. Megunticook Lake is great for power boating, kayaking, canoeing, water skiing, and fishing. Jet Skis are prohibited on Megunticook Lake and swimming is not allowed at the boat launch area.

Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to Route 105 (Washington St.) beside the Camden Town Office. Follow Route 105 for 2.9 miles. Bog Bridge Boat Ramp is on the right.



Land's End (Megunticook Lake)

Megunticook Lake is ideal for a day out on the water. Spend a day exploring its many coves, rocky shorelines, tree-lined inlets, and open water. The lake is home to Bald Eagles, loons, Canada geese and many other birds and ducks. Put in at one of two public launches—the Route 52 Boat Ramp or the Bog Bridge Boat Ramp on Route 105. Then head for Land's End Park, a 118-acre nature preserve jutting out into the middle of the lake. Land's End has several beautiful, secluded spots with picnic tables to land and tie-up. Enjoy an hour of swimming in the cool waters, sunning on the rocks, or looking for eagles flying overhead. Fires and camping are prohibited and there are no toilet facilities at any of the picnic sites.

Getting there: By boat, it's about one mile from the Bog Bridge boat launch and two miles from the Route 52 boat launch.



Ragged Mountain Recreation Area (Site of the Camden Snow Bowl)

The Ragged Mountain Recreation Area, operated by the Camden Parks and Recreation Department, offers a variety of outdoor activities for all ages throughout the year. The centerpiece of this 270-acre property is the Camden Snow Bowl, a town-owned ski area with 850 feet of vertical drop, 16 downhill ski trails, four lifts, snowmaking and night skiing.

The Snow Bowl is the only ski area in the lower 48 states with views of the ocean from the ski slopes. The 400-foot Jack Williams Toboggan Chute is the setting for the annual U.S. National Toboggan Championships every February. The 22 locks trail provides twists and turns for Nordic skiers during the winter months and for hikers and bikers during the other seasons. A tubing hill is especially popular with youngsters.

After the snow melts, Ragged Mountain turns into a mecca for mountain bikers with miles of singletrack connected to trails on adjacent property owned by the Coastal Mountains Land Trust and other private landowners. The parking lot is the starting point for an eventual Round the Mountain Trail, a collaboration among the Land Trust, the Town and surrounding landowners. During the warmer months hikers, bird watchers, dog walkers, and other outdoor enthusiasts also use the recreation area extensively.

Along the entrance road to the Snow Bowl are tennis courts, a sports field, a boat launch into 55-acre Hooper Pond, swimming area, and an extensive parking lot. Maps and much additional information are available at www.CamdenSnowBowl.com.

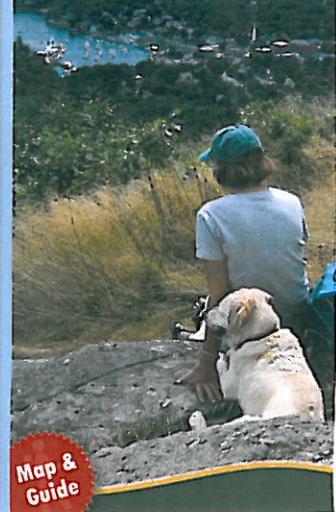
Getting there: From Village Green, proceed across Route 1 (Main St.) to Route 105 (Washington St.) beside the Camden Town Office. Go 200 feet to Mechanic St. on the left, turn left onto Mechanic St. and go 1.8 miles to fork in road. Bear left to fork onto Hooper Pond Rd. and proceed another 1.8 miles to the entrance to Ragged Mountain Recreation Area (the sign indicates the Camden Snow Bowl) on the left. Total miles 3.6.



WHERE THE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA
 www.camdenrpsnowbowl.com
 (207) 236-4388 (recorded info.)
 Camden ME 04843-1418
 20 Bannock Road
 Camden Parks & Recreation
 www.camdenmain.gov
 29 Elm Street
 Camden ME 04843-1207
 P.O. Box 1207
 Town of Camden



CAMDEN PARKS



Map & Guide