

# Camden Hills

## *Mountains at the Edge of Penobscot Bay*

**Build on a Strong Foundation** - Camden Hills State Park is at the heart of the largest block of undeveloped land in Midcoast Maine.

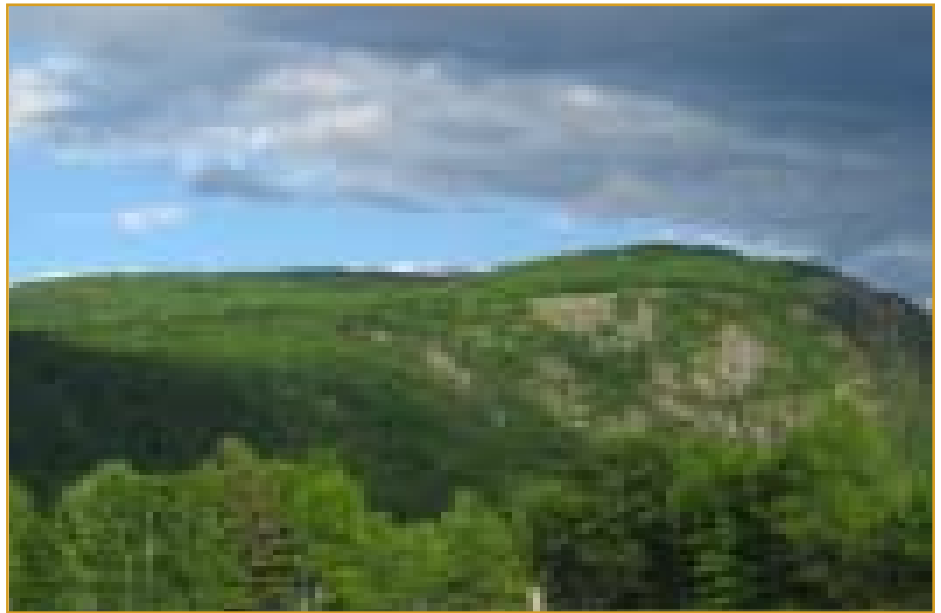
**Building on Tradition**- The Park rose out of private initiative in the early 1900's with the purchase of Mount Battie. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps built many of the trails we use today. The State took ownership in 1948 and opened the Mount Battie Road - built to be unseen from Penobscot Bay - in 1965.

**Building on Clear Need** - More people enjoy day hikes in Camden Hills State Park than in any park in Maine, yet recreational and development pressures threaten essential scenic and natural values.

**Building on Experience** - The Nature Conservancy has worked in the Camden area and Penobscot Bay for decades, and Conservancy-protected islands reach across the Bay. Here and throughout Maine, the Conservancy has helped expand our state park system.

**Building for the Future** - Opportunities to build on a century of conservation at Camden Hills Park are growing increasingly rare. When truly outstanding properties do come on the market, conservation interests need to act decisively. The ability of the Park to preserve natural resources hangs in the balance.

**Build Now** - The Maiden Cliff, Great Brook and Cameron Mountain tracts represent truly outstanding opportunities. But we need to act now.



Maiden Cliff offers breathtaking views across Megunticook Lake to the hills and valleys of Central Maine

The protection of Camden Hills State Park has been the work of generations, one of Maine's most extraordinary examples of conservation through broad community support. But the job is not done.

The Park is at the core of the largest tract of undeveloped land along Maine's Midcoast, close to attractive towns and amenities and offers breathtaking views of Penobscot Bay and the ridges and valleys of the interior. It is no wonder more people come to Camden Hills for day hikes than to any other state park in Maine.

This well-deserved popularity has dramatically increased recreational pressures upon the very natural resources people come to enjoy. And in this growing coastal region, development is rapidly fragmenting habitat and compromising the rural character and classic viewsheds. Development directly along the Park boundaries puts increased pressure on natural resources, creating problems for land managers and raising alarms about the deteriorating quality of the recreational experience and the inevitable impacts on wildlife.

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To relieve the pressure from growing numbers of visitors, to maintain the Park's special wildlife habitats, to assure adequate open space for recreational pursuits and to ensure the long-term integrity of Camden Hills State Park, the addition of strategically-located parcels is the only viable response.

The Nature Conservancy is working with conservation partners to conserve lands in the Camden Hills region. Today we have a fleeting opportunity to protect three crucial properties adjacent to Camden Hills State Park – Great Brook, Maiden Cliff and Cameron Mountain.



View from Maiden Cliff overlooking the Conservancy's Fernald's Neck Preserve

Rockport, Camden, Lincolnville, Northport, Belfast, Vinalhaven, and Islesboro are among the coastal communities witnessing unprecedented growth. Residential and business development in these rural areas is occurring rapidly, often threatening traditions of public access and fragmenting the lands that animals and plants need to survive. By countering development with the conservation of key parcels, the Conservancy is working to balance competing needs within society.



View from summit of Cameron Mountain, one of the last unprotected peaks in the Park

**The Opportunity.** The Nature Conservancy has the opportunity to protect three key parcels adjacent to Camden Hills State Park. These properties represent some of the last remaining tracts in the region of their size and importance to the ecological stability of the Park and surrounding areas. In total these parcels create 235 additional acres of conservation land that will help to ensure that bald eagles and wide-ranging mammals such as fisher, otter and bobcat have enough protected habitat to survive.

Additionally, protection of these tracts will secure bald summits, open ridges and mature oak forests within this mountainous coastal terrain, as well as continue to protect water quality in Penobscot Bay and local rivers, streams and tidal estuaries that are important for Atlantic salmon, shortnose sturgeon, and other wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy must raise \$3 million to protect these tracts. While we are seeking public funds, significant private funding from individuals, foundations and businesses is crucial to our success.

## contact information

The Nature Conservancy/Maine Chapter  
14 Maine Street, Suite 401  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
tel (207) 729-5181  
fax (207) 729-4118  
nature.org/maine