

Renowned views of Camden Harbor and Penobscot Bay from famed Mount Battie.

CAMDEN HILLS STATE PARK

GUIDE & MAP

www.parkslandmaine.com

Camden Harbor from Mt. Battie by Joseph Hubbell.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Help stop the spread of invasive species.

- Buy firewood where you burn it. Do not transport firewood. FMI: www.maine.gov/firewood

Know applicable laws. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Warden Service does search-and-rescue operations and enforces state fish and game laws, boating laws (on inland waters), and ATV and snowmobile laws. To learn more about applicable laws and to purchase appropriate licenses, visit www.maine.gov/ifw.

Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.

- Generally good in all areas except for the Megunticook Ski Cabin, so have a backup plan.

Moose, bear and other large animals are abundant.

- Observe from a safe distance; do not flush wildlife.
- Drive slowly on area roads, particularly at times of low light.
- Food must be securely stowed when camping.
- Tents must be kept free of food and food odors.

Wear blaze orange during hunting season.

- Hunting is not permitted at the park between June 1 and Labor Day. Visit www.maine.gov/ifw for hunting laws.
- Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace.**
- Learn more at www.lnt.org

GROUP PICNIC SHELTER

AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

The park's beautiful and historic Group Picnic Shelter is a beautiful location for a wedding, a family reunion, or an annual gathering of friends.

Reservations for the Group Picnic Shelter open at 9:00 a.m. on the first business day of February each year. Call the park to make your reservation:

- February through March call: (207) 236-0849
- April through October call: (207) 236-3109
- November through January call: (207) 236-0849

Cost is \$150. for the rental plus the park day-use entry fee for each visitor. FMI: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/group-picnic_areas.shtml



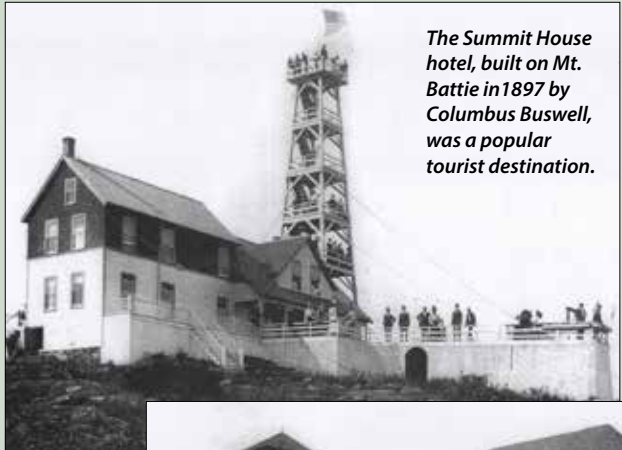
Inside the Group Picnic Shelter.



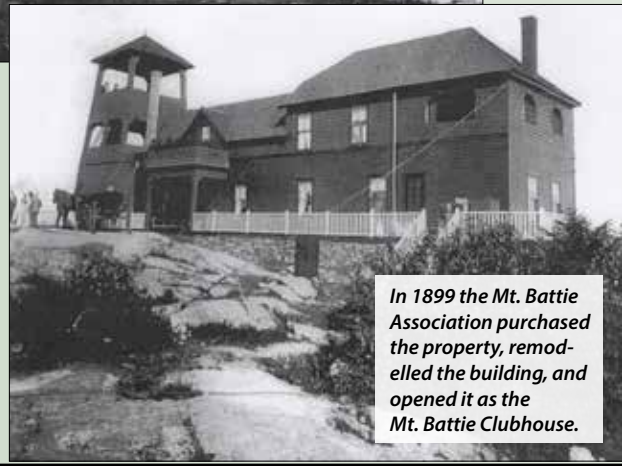
The Group Picnic Shelter is available as a rental.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The Camden Hills have always drawn people to them as a place to find food and natural resources, to live and recreate, to gather to take in the views and sea breezes, and to be inspired by the beauty of the mountains overlooking Penobscot Bay.



The Summit House hotel, built on Mt. Battie in 1897 by Columbus Buswell, was a popular tourist destination.



In 1899 the Mt. Battie Association purchased the property, remodelled the building, and opened it as the Mt. Battie Clubhouse.



WWI Memorial Tower dedication August 20, 1921. (Walsh History Center, Camden Public Library)



1130TH COMPANY CCC, CAMDEN HILLS CAMP NO 11002, CAMDEN, MAINE Mt. Battie rises up behind the CCC encampment.



Officers and recruits of the 1130th Co. Civilian Conservation Corps.

OVERVIEW

Camden Hills State Park signature location is the scenic vista high atop Mt. Battie where sweeping views of Camden Harbor, Penobscot Bay, and surrounding islands await. On a clear day, visitors can see Cadillac Mountain at Acadia National Park. It is this view that is to have inspired Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem *Renascence* and continues to inspire wonder in visitors today.

The iconic Stone Tower on the summit of Mt. Battie, built as a memorial to the soldiers of WWI in 1921, is a constant focal point for hikers. For those who prefer to drive - the Mt. Battie Auto Road, built in the 1960's, ends at the tower.



Mt. Battie Tower and view toward Penobscot Bay.



Westward view from Mt. Battie Tower.

MID-COAST REGION

DIRECTIONS

Located 2 miles north of Camden on coastal U.S. Route 1 (known as the Belfast Rd. north of Camden).



Lat 44.230138, Lon -69.047376

HOURS & SEASON

Open all year 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily unless otherwise posted at the gate. A day-use entry fee is charged year-round and is payable at the entry booth to staff or in the self-service fee container. The Mount Battie Road, from Nov 1st to May 1st, may be closed based on weather and staffing. Call the park ahead of your visit if you want to know the current status. The rest of the park is open year-round; the park entrance lot is plowed as well as other access points. Subscribe to Trail Condition Alerts by texting CAMDEN to 888-514-7527.

CAMPING

- Family Camping reservations begin in February and are made online at www.CampWithME.com
- Group Camping reservations are made by calling the Park directly at (207) 236-0849 (when calling Feb. - April) and at (207) 236-3109 (when calling May - Oct.). Details online at: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/group_camping.shtml
- Off Season Camping runs through October 15.
- Winter Camping is offered December 15 to March 15.

CONTACT

Camden Hills State Park
280 Belfast Rd.
Camden, ME 04843
Summer: 207-236-0849
Winter: 207-236-0849
For Trail Condition Alerts: Text CAMDEN to 888-514-7527
FMI: www.maine.gov/camdenhills



Above: Inside the Megunticook Cabin. Below: The cabin during the summer.



Megunticook Cabin in Winter.



WINTER ACTIVITIES

MEGUNTICOOK CABIN RENTAL

The Megunticook Cabin, available year-round for reservations, is very popular with skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobile riders. Visitors access the cabin by foot, bicycle, horseback, skis, or snowmobile only. Bookings are taken up to a year ahead. Call the park to make a reservation; payable by credit card.

Cabin Description

- Rustic 20' x 40' insulated cabin with fieldstone fireplace.
- No electricity or running water.
- An outdoor vault toilet is on site.
- Bunk beds sleep six.
- Split, seasoned firewood is available at the cabin for a fee.
- Online brochure: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/pdf/megunticook-cabin.pdf

WINTER CAMPING IS AVAILABLE

- DECEMBER 15 TO MARCH 15
Primitive tent camping only:
- No water, amenities, or cleared campsites or trails.
 - Winter camping experience and self-sufficiency a must.
 - Campsites accessed by snowshoe or skis, some walk-in.
 - On-site self registration required and available at the entry booth. Camping fees apply and are payable by cash or check at self-registration.
 - Carry in/Carry out - please do not leave any trash.
 - FMI: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml OR call the park at (207) 236-0849.

MT BATTIE HISTORY

Mt. Battie has seen many changes over the years. The Summit House hotel, built in 1897 by Columbus Buswell, was purchased by the conservation-minded Mt Battie Association in 1899 then remodeled and renamed the Mt. Battie Clubhouse. It was open to public as a summer hotel until it was torn down in October of 1920. In 1921 the stone tower was built and dedicated in honor of the soldiers from Camden who served their country during WWI.

MEGUNTICOOK CABIN HISTORY

The Megunticook Cabin, now open for year-round reservations, was originally constructed as part of a federal recreation area during the late 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a ski shelter. Previously named the Megunticook Ski Shelter, it served as a warming hut at the base of several ski slopes on the northern side of Mt. Megunticook. Skiers accessed the slopes by driving in over plowed roads from Stevens Corner or from US Route 1 by driving up the Spring Brook truck road. No lifts were available, skiers climbed to the summit after a run. The ski slopes remained open during the 1940's and closed by the end of the 1950's, resulting in the Ski Shelter later falling into disrepair.

A shell consisting of a roof supported by posts was all that remained by the late 1980's. The building was razed in the early 1990's. In 2005 park staff rebuilt the ski shelter using lumber they harvested from park property. A grant from the MBNA Foundation provided funding to have the stone fireplaces rebuilt and also furnished building materials.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- "Camden Mt. Park" got its start in the 1930's by forward thinking locals, Federal funding and approval by the National Park Service, and the stong backs and bodies of the Civilian Conservation Corps crews who built the park's original trails and structures. Now, as Camden Hills State Park, it both serves and relies on community members and visitors from near and far. We thank all of them, and call out a few here:
- AmeriCorps Maine Conservation Corps
 - Coastal Mts. Land Trust
 - Friends of Camden Hills State Park
 - Land for Maine's Future Program
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 - Mid-Coast Audubon Society
 - Mt. Battie Association
 - Town of Camden
 - Walsh History Center, Camden Public Library

REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

Camden Hills State Park is an ideal place to camp, hike, and explore Mid-coast Maine. Regional destinations include:

- Birch Point State Park**, located in Owls Head, provides scenic shore access to Penobscot Bay. The park's crescent-shaped sand beach allows for swimming in gentle surf. There are no lifeguards. Location: Birch Point Beach Road, off Route 73 south of Owl's Head. Season: Memorial Day to Oct. 1 (207) 548-2882. www.maine.gov/birchpoint
- Owls Head State Park**, managed in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard. The park provides access to Owl's Head Light, an 1852 lighthouse poised on a granite promontory 100 feet above Penobscot Bay. The park provides picnic tables and shore access. Location: 4 miles off Route 73 on Lighthouse Road, Owl's Head. Season: Open all year; staffed by Camden Hills State Park rangers. www.maine.gov/camdenhills
- Warren Island State Park**, designed for the boating public, is a peaceful spruce-covered island off Lincolnville in Penobscot Bay, offers nine wooded campsites, three group campsites, three Adirondack shelters, a reservable group picnic shelter, fresh drinking water, plus docking and mooring facilities on the northeast side of the island. There is no public ferry transportation to the island. Season: Memorial Day to Sept. 15. www.maine.gov/warrenisland



Flower and Tower - the Park's Mascots.

JR. RANGER PROGRAM

Young & old will have more fun and can get more involved with the park by picking up a copy of the Junior Ranger booklet. You'll earn a badge too! Junior Rangers like to:

- Have fun discovering the park.
- Observe the animals and plants that live in the park.
- Help park staff conserve and protect the park.
- Tell others about the wonderful things to see, do, and learn about at the park.

WHEN TO VISIT

This is a popular four-season recreation area. Hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and camping are among the outdoor activities offered at the park. For Trail Condition Alerts text CAMDEN to 888-514-7527.

- Spring** Mt. Battie Road may still be closed. Call ahead. Spring wildflowers and bird song greet hikers this time of year. Birders enjoy the park year-round. Be alert for wildlife with their young. Watch and enjoy from a distance. Expect black flies, tick, and browntail moth.
- Summer** Hikers enjoy the scenic vistas, diversity of trails, and camping. Get your Park Passport stamped. Pick up the Jr. Ranger activity booklet to help you explore and learn more about the park and also earn your badge.
- Autumn** Fall foliage can be viewed from the Mt. Battie Road or trails. Typical view time is mid-September through mid-October. For foliage reports visit: MaineFoliage.com
Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Winter** 7.6 miles of multi-use trails provide cross-country skiers with extensive skiing. Be aware that these trails are shared with snowmobiles.

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 108 campsites, each with a picnic table and fire pit; some with water & electric hook-ups; WiFi is available in the campground for a small fee.
- Hot showers, flush toilets, and electricity and water are available for use by campers.
- Megunticook Cabin (Ski Shelter) rental; vehicle parking is 2 miles away from the cabin.
- Group Camping area provides 5 sites for tent camping only.
- Day-use Group Picnic Shelter, with an ocean view, is available for rental.
- 30 miles of hiking trails include coastal and mountain trails.
- Trail Condition Alerts: Text CAMDEN to 888-514-7527
- Ski & Snowshoe Trailer visits occasionally in the winter.

CAMDEN HILLS STATE PARK

HIKING TRAILS

With over 30 miles of trails, the park offers many choices for hikers. Distances and time estimates are for one-way trips. Trails are marked with the color symbols shown below.

- View the *Natural Heritage Hike* guides to this park at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/heritage_hikes.htm
- Hiking trails are open for snowshoeing during the winter unless posted otherwise.

Adam's Lookout Trail (easy, 0.3 miles) Excellent views of Penobscot Bay on this trail connecting the Tablelands and Megunticook Trails. Allow 10 minutes.

Bald Rock Trail (easy to moderate, 1.3 miles) Leaves Multi-use Trail at 1.3 miles; excellent views of Penobscot Bay. Allow 30 minutes.

Bubba's Trail (easy to moderate, 0.8 miles) Climbs through the woods to the Tablelands Trail. Allow 30 minutes.

Cameron Mtn. Trail (easy, 1.9 miles) Gradually rises through old farmland and blueberry barren. Allow 1.5 hours.

Carriage Road Trail (moderate, 0.8 miles) Follows old carriage road to Mt. Battie's summit. Allow 45 minutes.

Frohook Trail (moderate to strenuous, 1.9 miles) Bike trail with natural surface (rocks, roots) through oak and spruce forests over 3 mountains; some steep slopes. Allow 2 hours.

Jack Williams Trail (easy to moderate, 1.6 miles) Offers views of lakes, hardwood forests, and rising cliffs. Allow 1.5 hours.

Maiden Cliff Trail (moderate, 1 mile) Provides striking views from cliffs 800' above Megunticook Lake. Allow 1.5 hours.

Megunticook Trail (moderate, 1 mile) Sweeping views of ocean, lakes, hills at Ocean Lookout. Allow 1 hour.

Mt Battie Trail (moderate to strenuous, 0.5 miles) Panoramic view from summit; some steep pitches. Allow 45 minutes.

Multi-use Trail (easy, 5 miles) Pleasant forested route on lower slopes of mountains. Allow 3 hours.

Nature Trail (easy to moderate, 1.2 miles) Gradually climbs forested slopes to the Tablelands Trail. Allow 1 hour.

Ridge Trail (moderate, 2.5 miles) Covers Megunticook's ridge and wooded summit (1380'). Allow 2.5 hours.

Scenic Trail (moderate, 0.8 miles) At Millerite Ledges (920') fine views of mtns. and lakes. Allow 45 minutes.

Shoreline Trail (easy, 0.3 miles) Follows the scenic shoreline of Penobscot Bay. Allow 15 minutes.

Sky Blue Trail (easy to moderate 1.5 miles) Meanders through blueberry barren and mature forest, and by a vernal pool. Allow 1.5 hours.

Slope Trail (moderate to strenuous, 1.5 miles) Climbs sharply to Megunticook's wooded summit from the Megunticook Cabin.

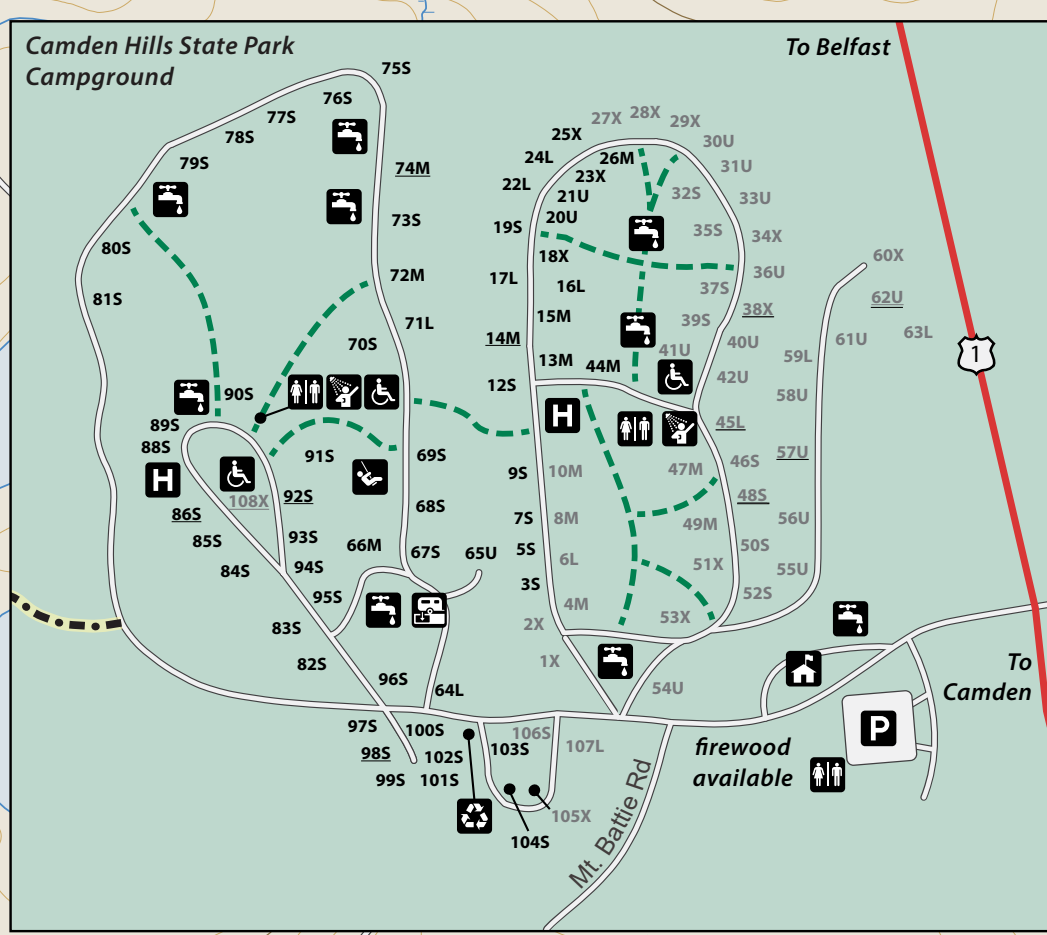
Summer Bypass Trail (easy, 0.8 miles) Crosses the northeast slope of Mt. Megunticook to avoid low, wet areas on the Multi-use Trail. Allow 30 minutes.

Tablelands Trail (moderate to strenuous, 1.5 miles) Descends from Mt. Battie, rises to plateaus (tablelands) and ledges, then climbs steadily to Ocean Lookout (1300') Allow 1.5 hours.

Zeke's Trail (moderate, 1.3 miles) Fairly steep old road; short spur to Zeke's Lookout. Allow 1 hour.

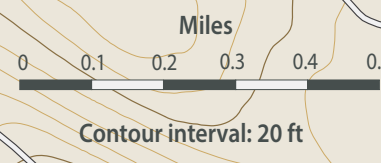
WINTER AT CAMDEN HILLS

is a special time of year - the park becomes a winter wonderland. Day use continues, and though the road to Mount Battie is closed, you can still hike to the top. Winter camping is available. Choose either rustic tent camping or rent the beautiful Megunticook Cabin.



- #S Small camper or tent site (up to 20')
- #M Medium camper site (up to 25')
- #L Large camper site (up to 30')
- #X Extra large camper site (up to 35')
- #U Largest camper site (greater than 35')
- * Underlined sites are non-reservable
- ** Grey sites have water and electric hookups.

- ### Camden Hills State Park
- Trails and Interest Points**
- Hiking/snowshoeing trail
 - Multi-use trail (hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling)
 - Biking doubletrack trail
 - Biking singletrack trail
 - Entrance booth
 - Parking
 - Accessible
 - Picnic area
 - Group picnic shelter
 - Overlook
 - Toilets
 - Megunticook Cabin
 - Boat launch, trailerable FMI: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
 - Camping area
 - Group tent site
 - Campground host
 - Water, potable
 - Dumping station
 - Recycling
 - Transportation
 - Major road, Highway
 - Secondary road, Street



SNOWMOBILING

- 7.6 miles of trail are open to snowmobiles and XC-skiers. Please stay alert for cross-country skiers on trail and especially at trail intersections.
- The Megunticook Cabin, located on the Ski Shelter/Multi-use Trail is a popular camping rental. Call the park to make reservations.
- Closest ITS Trail is 83 in Liberty. FMI: www.mainesnowmobileassociation.com/the-its-map/

Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office:
 (207) 287-4957
 Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019
 For Snowmobile Trail News & Alerts: Text SNOW to 888-514-7527