



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Note: When the main gate is open, please explore the EcoArts Discovery Trail.

Please Note: There are no public restrooms or water supply areas on site. Please pick up after your dog and keep your dog leashed. Check for ticks!

Directions to Highlands Center: Take Route 6 to the Highland Light Exit in North Truro. Go East on Highland Road. Turn right onto South Highland Road. After 0.6 miles, turn left onto Old Dewline Road. The Highlands Center is at the end of the road.

Trail Length: 1.7 kilometers or approximately 1 mile **Walk Time:** Approximately 30 minutes

Trail Description: Starting to the left of the baseball field, the trail winds through the back woods of Highlands Center along Snake Road. At the well site, it continues onto an uphill trail connector. Hikers should be acclimated to fairly steep terrain. At the top of the hill, the trail goes left and then follows a paved road to Sea Cliff Way, which connects back to the ballfield.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Cape Cod National Seashore



Woods Walk at Highlands Center and EcoArts Discovery Path



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

A Walk Through the Past

Like each of the trails in Cape Cod National Seashore, the Highlands Center Woods Walk has its own unique story. Beneath the surface, the Highlands Center has a rich Cold War history.

The Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore is the site of the former North Truro Air Force Station, active between 1951 and 1985. This housed one of the many radar facilities established across the country in response to Cold War fears of Soviet attack. Fairly remote, with no tall buildings or natural features to obstruct the range of radar technology, the coastal site was the perfect location for one of the Air Force's first radar squadrons. At one point, there were 500 civilian and military personnel stationed here.

As you walk the trail, look for clues of the site's Cold War history and life on the campus, beginning with the baseball field used for recreation. Deeper in the forest, along old access roads, you see infrastructure support units, like the helicopter pad and well site. Not too long ago, these roads were busy with people defending our nation.

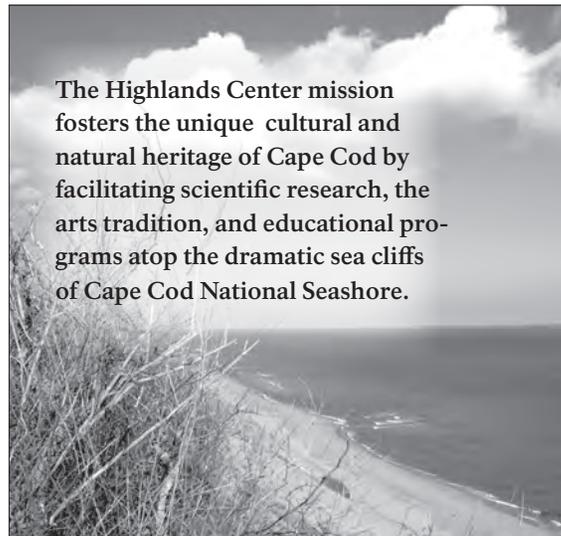
The houses you pass are part of the old housing development used by military personnel and their families while stationed here. As you walk through the pines, oaks, and heathlands, imagine living here at the height of the Cold War; so much has changed in this short period.

The Highlands Center Today

Since the closure of the station in 1985, things have changed dramatically at the Highlands Center. The northeast corner of the land was transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which uses the white radar dome you see today to track international flights into Boston's Logan airport and New York's Kennedy airport, while also monitoring military aircraft.

The remainder of the property was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1994, becoming part of Cape Cod National Seashore. Today, the exciting task of transforming the former Air Force station continues. The site currently hosts coastal observation, NPS scientific research, performing arts programs, and kiln firings.

Come back and see our progress!



The Highlands Center mission fosters the unique cultural and natural heritage of Cape Cod by facilitating scientific research, the arts tradition, and educational programs atop the dramatic sea cliffs of Cape Cod National Seashore.

EcoArts Discovery Path

After hiking the trail, walk down Old Dewline Road via the EcoArts Discovery Path. Colored posts will lead you to points of interest and public art. First, QR codes will take you to more detailed web information on partner activities and murals.



Del Filardi's *Breaking Wave* sculpture

Continue down Old Dewline to the old quad, now the main courtyard. Beautiful artistic posts depict the seashore's natural features and ecosystems, also with QR codes.



Castle Hill loading the wood kiln

At the end of the road, walk out to the contemplation area or overlook platform for a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean.

Current partner organizations: Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Cape Cod National Seashore, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Highlands Center Inc., Payomet Performing Arts Center, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Sustainable CAPE, and Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill.