

**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.

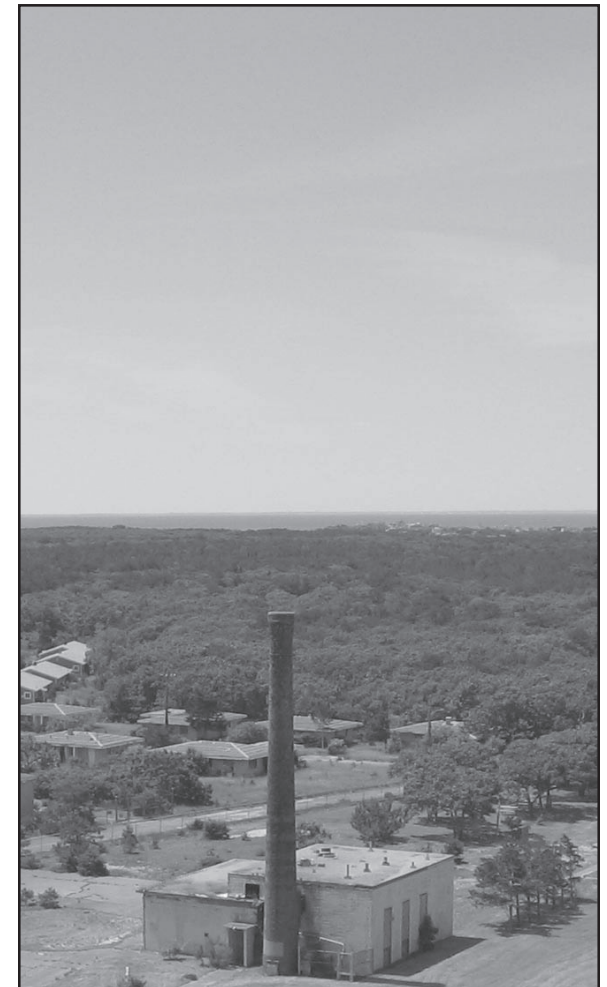
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cape Cod National Seashore

## Woods Walk at Highlands Center



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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## 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 entertainment. 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. There are 27 housing units whose future re-use is still being considered. 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.

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## 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.

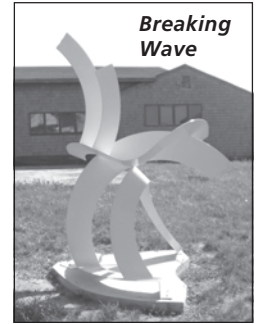
The remainder of the property was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1994, becoming part of Cape Cod National Seashore. The concept of the Highlands Center as a community of science, arts, and education was presented in Cape Cod National Seashore's 1998 *General Management Plan*. Today, 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!



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## The Main Campus

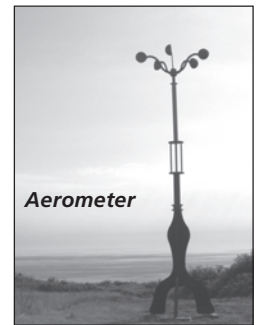
After hiking the trail, walk down Old Dewline Road through the main campus of the Highlands Center. First, you pass the Payomet Performing Arts Center tent and Del Filardi's fanciful "Breaking Wave" sculpture.



Continue down Old Dewline to see old barracks and power plants, and new labs and classrooms. The quadrangle, and former center of life, will be key in establishing the Highlands Center as a place to gather and share ideas with the community.



At the end of the road, walk out to the overlook platform for a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy Donald Gerola's kinetic wind sculptures that sit atop the bluffs



*The Highlands Center Mission: The Highlands Center 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.*

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