

Achievement & Legacy

Twenty-five years ago Friends of Acadia founders had a vision of creating a membership-based and volunteer-powered organization that would translate their love for Acadia into tangible good for the park. A generation later—with millions of dollars granted and tens of thousands of volunteer hours donated—their vision is a reality, and we can look ahead to a strong partnership protecting Acadia for generations to come.

25 Years of Protecting Acadia

By the Numbers*

Endowments and other investments
\$19.1 million

Operating budget
\$2.9 million

Number of full-time staff
10

Number of FOA-funded seasonal staff
serving Acadia National Park
144

Grants to the park and communities since 1989
\$15.4 million

Number of members
3,566

Island Explorer Ridership since 1999
3.71 million

Magazine
Friends of Acadia Journal (3 issues/year)

* as of January 2011



Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.

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Front: MIDI from Baker Island by Tom Blagden

Interior: Shadbush in bloom on Canada Cliffs by Tom Blagden



FRIENDS OF ACADIA

Accomplishments & Milestones

25 YEARS OF PROTECTING ACADIA

2010 Accomplishments

GRANTS

Supported 36 programs with nearly \$1 million in grants to the park and surrounding communities, including \$240,000 to carriage road maintenance, \$20,384 to trail maintenance, and \$206,945 to the Island Explorer bus system

Employed more than 140 seasonal workers who served Acadia

Partnered with three organizations to publish *Plants of Acadia National Park*, a comprehensive photographic field guide to 862 species found in Acadia

Supported a highly effective invasive plant eradication program in Acadia

Purchased a new snowmobile for the Acadia Winter Trails Association, to help groom Acadia's carriage roads for cross country skiing

STEWARDSHIP

Organized and equipped more than 3,000 volunteers who worked on stewardship and other projects in Acadia, including more than 500 under the age of 18

Hosted events and activities that brought hundreds of children and adults outdoors to learn about and care for Acadia, including Acadia Quest, Family Fun Day, the 20th Annual Take Pride in Acadia Day, the 10th Annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, and more

Maintained and rebuilt trails and other valuable resources through the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Ridge Runners, Acadia Trails Forever, and Village Connector Trail programs

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Acadia National Park, to lend support and ensure the future viability of the Wild Gardens of Acadia

Initiated a village connector trail project in Trenton, which will provide an outdoor recreation opportunity for the community

ADVOCACY

Received the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the National Parks Conservation Association, recognizing advocacy on behalf of Acadia National Park

Issued five advocacy alerts, bringing together many voices to support full federal funding for Acadia and fight threats to the park

Lobbied the Maine legislature successfully to limit open carry of firearms in Acadia

Established the Friends of Acadia Advocacy Committee to support FOA advocacy.

Milestones

1986 to 1998

- Founded Friends of Acadia, a nonprofit charitable organization, independent from Acadia National Park
- Raised \$3.4 million endowment to maintain the park's 44-mile carriage road system in perpetuity
- Halted proposed heavy timber cut on 1,600 acres of land touching the park's Schoodic border
- Achieved, with the park, a first-in-nation legislative jet-ski ban on all ponds inside a national park
- Donated two wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn carriages and endowed their maintenance
- Constructed and endowed 4,700-foot Acadian Ridge Trail, a public path on conserved private property

1999 to 2005

- Co-developed and co-funded the fare-free, propane-powered Island Explorer public transit system
- Raised \$13 million for rehabilitation of 130-mile trail system, making Acadia the first national park with an endowed trail system
- Constructed the Great Meadow Loop Trail and Western Mountain Connector Trail
- Obtained \$1 million grant from L.L.Bean to support and expand the Island Explorer bus system
- Purchased 369 acres in Trenton for the Acadia Gateway Center and attracted \$7 million in congressional appropriations for the project, which will lessen the impact of traffic in the MDI region

2006 to 2010

- Reconstructed the Schooner Head Path, the wheelchair-accessible Jesup Path, and Canada Cliffs Trail through Acadia Trails Forever partnership
- Surpassed \$15 million in cumulative grants to the park and communities
- Purchased and protected 25 acres on Acadia Mountain, threatened by development
- Received an additional \$1.25 million from L.L.Bean to support the Island Explorer and establish the L.L.Bean Research Fellowships and Kids in Acadia programs
- Welcomed the 3-millionth rider on the Island Explorer
- Partnered with area organizations to host the first Acadia Night Sky Festival