



## **Dear Friends,**

As many of you may have seen in the media, our partners at Acadia National Park on Thursday implemented [further closures of park facilities](#) in response to guidance from the Maine CDC and to support efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

In addition to the Park Loop Road still being closed from winter and the carriage roads being closed due to mud season, ANP took the additional step this week to close the two-mile stretch of Ocean Drive that accesses Sand Beach and Thunder Hole, as well as closing all off-season restrooms and discontinuing any in-person, public-facing informational services. While many of us typically look forward to April 15 as a date when motor roads open throughout the park, this current closure of all park roads and facilities is intended to extend through the month of April and beyond [until further notice](#).

One of the things that makes Acadia such a special park is the degree to which it is intertwined with the surrounding communities. As spring weather warmed and more people started to arrive and use the park over the last week, however, it became clear that the growing use could put a real strain on support services offered in the neighboring towns. Local officials urged Acadia and Governor Janet Mills to address the concerning surge in visitation at a time when citizens throughout Maine and the nation were being advised to minimize travel and maintain social distancing. Very few visitor-oriented businesses remain open on Mount Desert Island, and the hospital and local emergency medical services have limited capacities.



As difficult as it is for all of us, Friends of Acadia fully supports these steps, knowing that our shared priority must be the safety of the public, the park staff, the volunteers, visitors, partners, and our neighbors. All of us at FOA stand ready to assist our partners at the park as needed in the days and weeks ahead.

Finally, as we have posted on our [website](#) and [social media](#) pages in recent days, FOA's physical office at 43 Cottage Street is also closed due to the Coronavirus, but FOA programs and operations are still very much up and running from the more than a dozen home offices of our hard-working staff. Our commitment to the park and our mission and long-term priorities remains strong, and we are grateful for the many contributions and expressions of support we have received from so many of you in recent days.

Knowing that many of you are interested in experiencing Acadia remotely now, our team will be making an extra effort to post updates, photos, and videos on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) pages. Please follow them regularly, and if you have questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Be careful, stay well, and join us in looking forward to future adventures in our beloved Acadia when the clouds of the current storm pass.

—David MacDonald, President, Friends of Acadia

Header Photo: A Bates Cairn on Champlain Mountain stands watch over Frenchman Bay. (Photo by Julia Walker Thomas/Friends of Acadia)



**Why am I receiving this E-News?** You are in our database as a past or current donor or supporter of Friends of Acadia who has not opted out of email communications. If you do not want to receive our monthly email newsletter of updates and goings-on at Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, please use the unsubscribe button below. Thank you!

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Friends of Acadia](#)

43 Cottage Street P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609