



Dear Friends,

First and foremost, Friends of Acadia prioritizes the health and safety of our members, volunteers, staff, and communities. As part of a long-standing business continuity plan, we are taking appropriate steps to comply with public health advisories while maintaining critical operations via techniques such as having staff work as much as possible from home for the next few weeks. We thank people in advance for their patience if some inquiries or responses are inadvertently delayed in this process.

As the situation involving COVID-19 evolves, we will, with guidance from the Maine CDC, continue to evaluate the scheduling, scope, and appropriateness of our public events and meetings. Notification of postponements, cancellations, and other changes will be publicized as soon as possible on our website and social media platforms.

Know that the work helping to preserve and protect Acadia National Park continues, even if we may not be able to interact with you on a face-to-face basis. We appreciate your continued understanding and support. It was wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the park this past weekend. The spiritual and physical benefits of exposure to Acadia’s abundant sunshine and fresh air have always been an incomparable source of healing and comfort for all, now more than ever.

Earth Day Roadside Cleanup

Saturday, April 25, is the 20th annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, our yearly community effort to collect a winter’s worth of trash from roadsides on Mount Desert Island and Trenton. Always held the last Saturday in April, it’s a great way to take pride in your community, get outside, and celebrate spring, FOA-style!



Registration is now live on our website at <https://friendsofacadia.org/events/earth-day-roadside-cleanup/>. Because of the outdoor nature of this event, and the ability for small groups to participate without contact with each other, we are hopeful this event will be able to continue as planned.

Notification of postponements, cancellations, and other changes will be posted on our website and social media platforms. Event registrants will also receive email updates.

Carriage Roads Closed for Mud Season

Acadia National Park carriage roads were closed to all users on Thursday, March 12, and will remain closed until they dry out. Warm weather and wet conditions have made the gravel surfaces susceptible to damage. Walking, bicycling, and riding horses on the carriage roads under the current conditions can cause ruts and potholes that will channel water and exacerbate erosion.



While these historic carriage roads are closed, the National Park Service encourages visitors to enjoy Acadia’s hiking trails and the Park Loop Road, which is closed to motor vehicles until April 15. When hiking be prepared for icy conditions and carry traction devices for your footwear. When walking or biking on the sections of the Park Loop Road that are closed to motor vehicles, please be aware of closed gates, and the possibility of encountering snow, ice, debris, and an occasional official vehicle or construction equipment.

We will post an update on our social media channels and on the FOA website: www.friendsofacadia.org when the carriage roads reopen.

We Did It!

You helped us meet our Spring E-Challenge goal of \$17,500. Together, with gifts from a generous group of matching donors, we raised more than \$35,710 to help preserve and protect Acadia National Park. Thank you for joining us as stewards of the park and ensuring it will be protected for generations to come.



Transportation Plan Dry Run: Coming in October

Acadia National Park’s reservation system is not slated to go into effect until 2021. A dry run of the system, however, is planned for late October of 2020. Cadillac Mountain and the Ocean Drive portion of the Park Loop Road are the only sections affected by the reservation system dry run this fall.



Visit our website to get answers to FAQs about the reservation system: <https://friendsofacadia.org/news/acadia-to-conduct-reservation-system-dry-run/>

Advocacy Alert

Landmark legislation was introduced last week in Congress and co-sponsored by Senator Angus King and Senator Susan Collins. The *Great American Outdoors Act* (S. 3422) would provide up to \$1.9 billion annually for the next five years for deferred maintenance projects in national parks and other designated federal lands and would provide full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This funding would help Acadia address its backlog of deferred maintenance projects, currently estimated at \$65.8 million, and would help the park acquire inholdings within park boundaries as they come up for sale.



Deferred maintenance funding and LWCF legislation have been among FOA’s top advocacy priorities for many years, and we are greatly encouraged by this recent progress and what it could mean for Acadia’s future. Please join FOA in thanking Senators King and Collins for their leadership and support on these important park issues. If you reside in another state, urge your state’s U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the legislation and in asking leadership to bring the bill forward for a vote.

Search www.congress.gov with the bill number (S. 3422) to see the text of the *Great American Outdoors Act* and a list of current co-sponsors.

Header Photo: A hiker gazes across Frenchman Bay from a vantage point on Champlain Mountain. (Photo by Emma Forthofer/Friends of Acadia)



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