



Member Briefing: How Policy Developments Are Impacting Acadia

Over the past two months, policy developments in Washington have led to [staff cuts](#), funding freezes, disruptions, and uncertainty for national parks across the country, including Acadia. As a conservation organization dedicated to working in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve and protect Acadia, we embrace the idea of improving efficiencies, but we are deeply concerned about the impacts the current approach – and future cuts – may have on the park, its visitors, and the local economy.



Over the last few years, the number of visitors to Acadia has surged, reaching nearly 4 million visits last year. This increase in visitation has already put tremendous pressure on park staff as they work to serve their mandate: to preserve the natural and cultural resources of Acadia for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

Friends of Acadia remains firmly committed to our mission to preserve and protect Acadia through this time of change and into the future. We are actively engaged with congressional staff, sharing timely updates on how [policy actions, staffing cuts, and restricted federal funds](#) are affecting park operations and local communities. Friends of Acadia continues to push for the reinstatement of park employees and to protect against harmful budget cuts.

We will also continue to support the important park programs we are engaged in and will work closely with the park to understand and adapt to new needs that emerge from this shifting landscape.

We are immensely grateful for the outpouring of support we have seen for Acadia National Park and our local community. Here's how you can join us in making a difference:

Stay up to date: To keep our members and park supporters updated, we've created a [page to track the current status of cuts, funding freezes, and other directives](#) impacting Acadia. We will keep this page updated as the situation evolves and will continue to share updates on policy changes and volunteer opportunities through our [newsletter](#).

Call your representatives: [Let your congressional leaders know](#) how important Acadia and national parks are to you.

Apply for or share a seasonal park job: We are relieved that, thanks to support from the public and Maine's congressional delegation, seasonal park hiring is now unfrozen. Open positions are available at [usajobs.gov](#). Interested in working on the trail crew this summer? Check out [this video to see what it's like](#).

Care for our parks: With fewer staff in place, it's more important than ever to take care of our national parks and practice [Leave No Trace principles](#).

Support local businesses: The uncertainty around the upcoming season puts extraordinary pressure on local businesses in gateway communities that rely on summer visitors. Support the places that keep our communities vibrant.

Consider a donation: Help Friends of Acadia support the park by [becoming a member](#) or [donating](#). Your gift will fund programs at Acadia, including trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and youth education, and government affairs efforts to protect our cherished park.

Thank you, all, for your love and support of Acadia.

Earth Day Roadside Cleanup Registration Opens on April 1

Please join us on Saturday, April 26 for the 24th annual island-wide Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. Local community members and visitors from around the state will gather to pick up a "winter's worth of trash" from the roadsides of Mount Desert Island and Trenton.

Registration for the 2025 Friends of Acadia Earth Day Roadside Cleanup opens on [April 1 on our website](#).

Please [click here](#) for more information or contact Stewardship Manager Nikki Burtis at nikki@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3934.



Thank You for a Successful Spring E-Challenge

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Spring E-Challenge campaign. Thanks to your tremendous support and the immense generosity of our match donors, we raised a total of **\$56,290** for our beloved Acadia. Thank you!

Didn't get a chance to participate? You can still support Acadia by becoming a Friends of Acadia [member](#) or [donating](#) today.



Call for Membership Table Volunteers

Friends of Acadia is seeking enthusiastic and friendly individuals to join our team as Membership Table Volunteers. This role involves engaging with park visitors, promoting the mission of Friends of Acadia, and encouraging membership sign-ups and donations to support the preservation and protection of Acadia National Park. Learn more and [apply here](#).



A Special Invitation to Friends of Acadia Members

For many years, The Asticou has been more than just a beautiful retreat — it has been a cherished partner in Friends of Acadia's mission to protect and celebrate Acadia. For 19 years, the Asticou proudly hosted the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit, welcoming our community to gather, celebrate, and raise critical funds to protect Acadia for generations to come.



As the Asticou Hotel prepares to reopen for the 2025 season, they are excited to share an exclusive offer just for Friends of Acadia members — a special opportunity to be among the first to experience the newly reimagined Asticou Hotel with preferred rates for FOA members.

Come rediscover this timeless place where memories are made, milestones are celebrated, and Acadia's spirit shines.

[Learn more and book your stay.](#)



Members of the Acadia National Park Cutting Crew chip branches from a downed tree in on Ocean Drive. (Photo: Julia Walker Thomas/Friends of Acadia)

Friends of Acadia would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Acadia National Park staff for the incredible work they do year-round. Your dedication to preserving the beauty and integrity of Acadia National Park does not go unnoticed.

From maintaining the trails and facilities to ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all visitors, your hard work and passion make a tremendous difference us all.

The park's stunning landscapes and vibrant ecosystems are a testament to your commitment and expertise. Thank you for your tireless efforts.

Please join us in saying "thank you" to the hard working park staff! We will print a selection of messages and photos in next month's e-newsletter and the upcoming Winter/Spring issue of Acadia magazine. Reply to this email with your name, photo, and the story behind it, and you might just see it highlighted!

In Case You Missed It:

Friends of Acadia President & CEO Eric Stiles spoke with [NPR about job cuts to Acadia's park staff.](#)

Until next month,

Eliza Worrick



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Digital Marketing Manager

Header Photo: Water flows down Hadlock Brook off the Hadlock Ponds Trail
(Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia).



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