

# Caring for Acadia's SECOND CENTURY



## BY THE NUMBERS\*

Members  
5,114

Grants to the park and communities since 1986  
\$33 million

Dedicated volunteer hours  
14,000  
Valued at \$323,680

Full-time staff  
16

Endowments and other investments  
\$50.1 million

Annual operating budget  
\$4.5 million

Publications  
Friends of Acadia Journal (3 issues annually)  
Annual Report  
E-News (12 issues annually)  
[www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)



### OUR MISSION

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: Fern & moss surrounding stream in Acadia  
Interior: Foggy rocks along Ocean Drive  
Overleaf: Jordan Pond from South Bubble



# 2019

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & MILESTONES



FRIENDS OF ACADIA



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# & MILESTONES

## TRAILS & CARRIAGE ROADS

### ■ STEWARDSHIP CREW

Friends of Acadia Stewardship Crew leaders supervised volunteers who contributed more than 6,400 hours of work on trails and carriage roads. Some 600 feet of bog walk around Jordan Pond was replaced and 1,000 feet of the Seaside Path resurfaced.

### ■ TAKE PRIDE IN ACADIA DAY

More than 425 people, including scouting and school groups from across Maine, turned out for the annual Take Pride in Acadia Day in November. They cleared drainage ditches and culverts on more than 10 miles of carriage roads protecting them from winter damage.

### ■ WINTER TRAILS

A dozen volunteer cross-country ski trail groomers donated more than 300 hours to setting and maintaining perfect conditions on 30 miles of carriage roads. Two new Arctic Cat Bearcat grooming sleds were purchased.

## TOMORROW'S STEWARDS

### ■ ACADIA QUEST

Nearly 700 unique users took advantage of the new Acadia Quest app this year, which featured the "Acadia's Pathmakers" edition. Teams enjoyed meeting the park's trail crew, who sent them questing on great trails and paths.

### ■ OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

FOA's Outdoor Classrooms grant helped create learning spaces, butterfly gardens, bog walks, and more at schools in Tremont, Rockland, and Deer Isle during the fourth year of the program.

### ■ YOUTH GRANTS

With financial support from Friends of Acadia, urban youth organizations from Bridgeport, CT and Cincinnati, OH, visited Acadia in July and spent a week camping, exploring, and learning during what one participant said was a "life-changing experience."

## WILD ACADIA

### ■ WETLAND RESTORATION

Restored a half-acre area at Sieur de Monts to a forested wetland and reestablished natural drainage following the removal of a failing septic system.

### ■ INVASIVE PLANTS

With support from FOA, Acadia's Invasive Plant Management Team surveyed just over 1.6 square miles of land on the hunt for 26 high-priority invasive species. A total of 1.5 acres, over 106 sites, were treated.

### ■ STREAMS

Work continued to assess baseline conditions within the Marshall Brook watershed including measuring stream flow and sampling water quality. Assisted two Mount Desert Island towns with fundraising to replace culverts to improve fish passage and resilience to the effects of climate change.

## PRESERVE & PROTECT

### ■ SUMMIT STEWARDS

In addition to assisting Acadia National Park staff with 47 road closures due to traffic congestion on Cadillac Mountain, FOA's Summit Stewards dedicated 655 hours to backcountry patrol, removing more than 900 illegal cairns. They educated more than 7,000 visitors in Leave No Trace Principles.

### ■ INFORMATION SOURCE

During the partial federal government shutdown in January, Friends of Acadia assisted the park's skeleton staff by providing timely and valuable visitor information. Those efforts reached more than 1.1 million people over four weeks.

### ■ ADVOCACY

Friends of Acadia met with Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and members of Maine's Congressional Delegation, as well as worked with other partners in a national coalition to spotlight more than \$66 million in deferred maintenance projects in Acadia (\$11.9 billion nationally).

1996

Carriage Road Endowment created to maintain the 44-mile system in Acadia National Park in perpetuity.

1999

Friends of Acadia co-founded and co-funded the fare-free, propane-powered Island Explorer bus system. Total ridership through 2019 — 8,442,305

2001

Acadia Trails Forever Fund is established, marking the first hiking trail system in any national park to benefit from a permanent financial endowment.

2013

Friends of Acadia helped permanently protect more than 1,400 acres of intact forest and wetlands abutting Acadia in the area now known as Schoodic Woods.

2016

Acadia National Park Centennial Celebration. Friends of Acadia coordinated a year-long celebration involving 453 Centennial Partners, more than 150 events, and the sealing of a time capsule to be opened in 2116.

2019

Friends of Acadia held its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit where more than \$318,000 was raised to help restore 17 historic and architecturally significant bridges on the park's carriage road network.

