



The Acadia Gateway Center Is Now Open!

Located along Route 3 in Trenton, this new facility is now open and welcoming visitors to Downeast Maine and Acadia National Park. This intermodal transportation center is the perfect place to park your car, purchase your park pass, learn about places to visit, and hop on the Island Explorer bus.



[Watch a behind-the-scenes video tour](#) from opening day, and read more about the new welcome center in [Bar Harbor Story](#), [Mount Desert Islander](#), and [News Center Maine](#).

The Acadia Gateway Center is owned by the State of Maine and operated by the Maine Department of Transportation in partnership with the Maine Office of Tourism, the National Park Service, and Downeast Transportation. Construction of the center was funded by the Federal Transit Administration, Maine Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, and Friends of Acadia.

Last Few Chances to Be a Soil Hero in 2025 - Bring Your Pup on Sep. 13!

Be a Soil Hero as the Save Our Summits 2025 season comes to a close! Save Our Summits, a partnership between Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and Schoodic Institute, invites tenacious hikers to bring bags of soil to the summits of Sargent and Penobscot Mountains to help restore native vegetation.



Hikes run every Wednesday and Saturday through September 17. Join us for a special Bark Ranger edition of Save Our Summits on Saturday, September 13 and bring your dog along to hike! [Register here](#) for the Bark Ranger hike, and [here](#) for the final hike of the season on the 17th.

Join us for Take Pride in Acadia Day on Nov. 1! Registration Opens Oct. 3

Save the date! Our annual Take Pride in Acadia Day volunteer event will be Saturday, November 1. Spend a great day in the park and help us put Acadia's carriage roads to bed for the winter. Each fall we join together to rake fallen leaves from the historic carriage roads to help keep drainage ditches clear and working properly. This helps reduce the chance of runoff damage and washouts as the roads freeze and thaw over the winter and spring. Whether you are a seasoned raker or this is your first time, everyone is welcome to participate.



This year's event will follow a "hybrid" model with groups meeting out in the field at their assigned work sites at the beginning of the day and coming together in the afternoon for a tasty lunch of chili and cider! Registration will be open from October 3 - 24, and [we'll provide all the details here](#).

Sneak Peek: Fall Matching Gift Challenge Launches Sep. 22

What's your 'why' for supporting Acadia? We want to hear it!

On September 22 we'll launch our Fall Matching Gift E-Challenge. Thanks to a group of generous lead donors, all gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000 - doubling your impact! Your gift of \$100 becomes \$200, your gift of \$500 becomes \$1,000! Your gift will go twice as far to support the park you love. Be sure to share your why in the gift comments; your story might be featured on our social media. Stay tuned for more details!



Advocacy Update

On August 21, Friends of Acadia submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation urging the agency to strengthen investments in transportation programs that benefit national parks. Our recommendations included increased funding for the Federal Lands Transportation Program and Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads, along with expanded eligibility for competitive funding sources that could support projects in Acadia. [You can find FOA's comments here.](#)



Read more about the current challenges facing national parks in these recent stories in [The New York Times](#) and [The Boston Globe](#).

Trailwork in Costume at Trick-or-Trails: Oct. 23

You're never too old to dress up and do trail work! Join the Stewardship Volunteer Program Thursday, October 23, for Halloween fun at "Trick-or-Trails" as we celebrate the end of another successful drop-in volunteer season with one last work project. See the upcoming volunteer drop-in schedule [on our website](#).



7th Annual Hike with Moose — in honor of Goose — to benefit Friends of Acadia

Celebrate love, adventure, and the enduring spirit of Acadia at the 7th Annual Hike with Moose in honor of Goose, held at Burr Pond in Torrington, Connecticut, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 14.

Laura ("Moose") and Neil ("Goose") O'Keefe shared a deep connection to Acadia National Park, returning year after year and becoming beloved participants in the annual Acadia Quest program. In August 2017, shortly after their return from Acadia, Neil passed away in his sleep. Since then, Laura has honored his memory by hosting this heartfelt 3-mile trail hike.



This event is open to all — families, children, and dogs are warmly welcome. Whether you knew Moose and Goose or simply love Acadia, come walk in their footsteps and support the preservation of this treasured national park. Suggested donation: \$10

Learn more and support the cause [here](#).

Pints for a Purpose

Join us for informative talks and camaraderie that'll deepen your connection to MDI and Acadia National Park.

[This free series](#) happens every Thursday through October 16 at Terramor Outdoor Resort. All are welcome to attend, and \$1 of every beer purchased benefits Friends of Acadia!



- **Sept 11:** Nikki Burtis – Stewardship in Acadia
- **Sept 18:** Gary Stellpflug – Tales from the Trails
- **Sept 25:** Celebrating FOA's past with Lois Winter and other friends
- **Oct 2:** Billy Helprin – Loons and an update from the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Oct 9:** Lauren Gibson – A Season of Wild Acadia
- **Oct 16:** Earl Brechlin – More Wild, Weird, and Wonderful Maine

[See the full list of speaker on our website>>](#)

Help Stop Invasive Plants - Become a Backyard Steward

Backyard Stewards is a new community initiative that helps MDI residents to identify and remove invasive plants in their own backyards. The program offers online resources like identification and removal guides, native replacement guidance, as well as a directory of landscaping professionals and plant nurseries that have joined the program to help support their community.



- **Identify:** Learn to identify invasive plants that might be growing in your backyard.

- **Take action:** Remove these disruptive species and consider replacing them with native plants.
- **Tell us about it!** Share your hard work to help us make informed management decisions.

Find out how you can take action against invasive species in your own backyard and help keep invasive plants from traveling into Acadia [on our website](#).

In Case You Missed It:

["America's National Parks Are at a Crossroads. Here's How Congress Can Protect Them,"](#) op-ed by U.S. Senators Angus King and Steve Daines, co-sponsors of the America the Beautiful Act, on the importance of extending the Legacy Restoration Fund, a federal program dedicated to repairing and restoring our parks.

["Friends of Acadia's annual benefit raises \\$200K for Carroll Homestead,"](#) (*Mount Desert Islander*)

Until next month,



Header Photo: Dusk falls over Acadia National Park from the summit of Champlain Mountain after hiking the Precipice Trail (Rhiannon Johnston/Friends of Acadia).



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