



ACADIA
National Park • Maine

Recommended:

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General Management Plan

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Cover photo: Superintendent George B. Door and NPS Director Stephen T. Mather, 1922.

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Acadia National Park *General Management Plan* is to define the basic management philosophy that will guide park management decisions and to direct the actions that will be required to support that philosophy. This management plan is the first approved for Acadia National Park in its 75-year history.

The mission of the park is twofold. First, Acadia National Park protects and preserves outstanding scenic, natural, scientific, and cultural values for present and future generations through programs, facilities, and services. Second, the park provides an increasingly urban population with programs and opportunities for nonconsumptive, resource-based recreation and education.

Management actions are directed to retain and enhance the unique qualities and resources of the park, particularly the natural resource base on which Acadia National Park was established. Notwithstanding a strong commitment to natural resource protection, the National Park Service will increase efforts to manage and interpret the park's wealth of cultural resources. The carriage road and hiking trail systems will be rehabilitated. The Park Service will collaborate with surrounding communities, other agencies, and private and public organizations to protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources located outside the park jurisdiction but significant to the perpetuation of the natural systems, scenic quality, and cultural heritage of the park and region.

Development in the park will be kept to a minimum. High-density and low-density use areas will be established to protect resources and provide a variety of visitor experiences. High-density use will be supported in specific areas on the east side of Mount Desert Island, but the present character elsewhere in the park will be retained. A new entrance station and visitor center will play a central role in orienting and informing visitors about opportunities in the park.

To reduce the perception of crowding in high-density areas, the number of parked cars will be kept to a minimum. Existing parking capacities will be enforced. Alternate means of park access will be developed, with the goal of replacing private automobiles with nonmotorized means and a public transportation system.

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