

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Acadia National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** ACAD

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

The National Park Service will: complete the acquisition of lands within the Acadia National Park legislative boundary as directed by Congress in 1986; foster enthusiasm and strong support for the National Park Service, Acadia National Park and St. Croix Island International Historic Site, and the outdoors among today's young people; develop efficient, easy to use, and financially sustainable strategies to allow the public to experience Acadia National Park without the use of their personal vehicles; establish Acadia National Park as a world class outdoor laboratory for research on natural ecosystems, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation; restore important degraded natural ecosystems and historic properties to the conditions found when Acadia National Park was established in 1916, and; provide visitors at St. Croix International Historic Site with convenient, accessible, and safe facilities to learn about and explore the remarkable history of this first European settlement in North America.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Sheridan Steele

Site: ACAD

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will establish multi-use trails connecting the gateway communities with the park allowing residents and visitors staying in adjacent communities the ability to access the park's 130 miles of foot trails and 45 miles of non motorized carriage roads without the need for a car. Foot and bicycle access will reduce the need for people to drive into the park, thus encouraging public health and fitness.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ACAD

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

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Site: ACAD

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Acadia Legacy Land Conservation Project will establish a partnership with the National Park Service, Friends of Acadia, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, to acquire the remaining privately owned parcels within the Park's legislated boundary. Currently, there are over 130 parcels that remain to be acquired. This Acadia Legacy Land Conservation Project will "fill in the holes" of the park boundary as mandated by Congress.

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Site: ACAD

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The National Park Service will expand a pilot program initially established in partnership with L. L. Bean, Inc. and Friends of Acadia to grant research fellowships for important natural and cultural resource studies in Acadia National Park. This program will make meaningful connections between the National Park Service and the next generation of young scientists (undergraduate and graduate students, post-docs, junior faculty).

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Site: ACAD

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will enhance, expand, and ensure continuity of curriculum-based and Junior Ranger programs, and other youth services at Acadia National Park. Through matching funds of partners we will supply stipends for teachers to attend park institutes, recruit qualified teacher interns, and expand the number of scholarships and transportation awards for schools participating in the park's residential science education programs.

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Site: ACAD

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.**

**Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.**

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**Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

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Site: ACAD

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.**

**Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.**

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Site: ACAD

RECREATION

- Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.
- Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

We will establish and rehabilitate multi-use trails connecting the gateway communities with the park allowing residents and visitors staying in adjacent communities the ability to access the park's 130 miles of foot trails and 45 miles of non motorized carriage roads without the need for a car. Foot and bicycle access will reduce the need for people to drive into the park, thus encouraging public health and fitness.

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Site: ACAD

RECREATION

- Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

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Site: ACAD

RECREATION

- Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.
- Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

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Site: ACAD

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

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Site: ACAD

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

We will expand use of interactive media and technology on the park's web sites and in residential science education school programs.

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Site: ACAD

**EDUCATION**

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

The National Park Service will expand a pilot program initially established in partnership with L. L. Bean, Inc. and Friends of Acadia to grant research fellowships for important natural and cultural resource studies in Acadia National Park. Through increased research, new information about the park's resources will be shared with the public to improve their awareness of the park's values and importance.

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