



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Acadia National Park**  
**Maine**

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## Acadia National Park 2008 Accomplishments

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### At a Glance

**\$7.149 million budget**

**88 permanent/7 term/146 seasonal staff**

**2.075 million visitors**

**\$127 million spent by non-local visitors in local economies (2005)**

**2,777 volunteers/42,253 volunteer hours**

**\$403,837 donated**

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### National Park Service Centennial

Used Centennial Initiative funding to hire seasonal employees to increase visitor services throughout the park

Began the "Engage Youth" Centennial Challenge project to enhance and expand opportunities for children through scholarships and bus funding to attend the Schoodic Education Adventure residential program; funding for carriage and boat rides as part of curriculum-based programs; innovative media such as blogs and podcasts on the park website; high school internships and summer employment; teacher workshops; and the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program

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### Preserving History

Facilitated the completion of cultural landscape inventory reports for Cadillac Mountain and motor roads and a historic structure research report for the Rockefeller Building at the park's Schoodic Education and Research Center

Completed the cataloging of the historic Proctor Collection of natural history specimens (more than 18,000 records) and the Naval Security Group Activity collections from the former Winter Harbor Navy Base into the NPS National Catalog database

Rehoused the park's entire collections into compact storage systems that meet state-of-the art preservation standards

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### Improving Visitor Experience

Repaved 17 miles of the Park Loop Road and Schoodic Loop Road with the assistance of the Federal Lands Highway Program

Completed extensive storm damage repairs from a severe wind storm and Tropical Storm Hanna

Continued the Acadia Trails Forever partnership, resulting in the construction of the Schooner Head connector trail and rehabilitation of the Jesup Path and Schiff Path

Completed the design and purchase of 122 custom motorist guidance and park/facility identity signs, which will replace and improve 17% of the park's road signs

Distributed free Junior Ranger books to children, allowing 1,467 children to become Junior Rangers in the park

Completed the park's first virtual tour, the Acadia eCruise ([www.nps.gov/acad/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm)), and added additional video/audiocasts featuring park resources and programs to the park website

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### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Continued the bike safety outreach effort, completing 60 bike patrols and contacting more than 300 visitors during one bicycle safety pit stop program

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### **Working with Communities**

Worked with Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Bar Harbor Housing Authority to protect almost 140 acres of environmentally sensitive land along Northeast Creek

Continued the partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Maine Department of Transportation, Friends of Acadia, six municipalities, and private businesses to operate the fare-free Island Explorer bus system, which had a record-breaking year in 2008 with more than 400,000 riders

Partnered with Friends of Acadia to initiate the Acadia Quest, a series of youth- and family-oriented experiences in the park that encourage youth and families to explore, learn about, and protect national parks and other conserved lands

Launched the "Night Sky Initiative" in partnership with the Island Astronomy Institute and Friends of Acadia to measure, promote, and protect the quality of the night sky above Acadia National Park and surrounding communities on Mount Desert Island

Established a new volunteer program to help in the removal of washed-up debris from Isle au Haut trails, which resulted in about two dump-truck loads of lost buoys being removed from coastline trails

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### **Caring for the Environment**

Established conservation easements on three properties, totaling 18 acres; initiated new conservation easement projects for five additional properties; and monitored 180 conservation easements

Completed the three-year Blackwoods Campground landscaping project, planting more than 6,100 trees and shrubs, 1,875 herbaceous plants, and 42.5 pounds of native grass seed, and revegetated a total of almost 71 acres throughout the park

Initiated a campaign to improve awareness about the degraded condition of many park and Mount Desert Island streams for fish passage by conducting presentations to park staff, members of the League of Towns, town conservation committees, Friends of Acadia, and local sportsmen

Installed a new wide-angle visibility camera and weather station at the Schoodic Education and Research Center to provide real-time weather and air quality data, which is available on the park website

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### **Working Smarter**

Began the process to identify efficiencies in core park operations

Reduced the size of the vehicle fleet, saving energy and repair costs

Saved the park more than \$10,000 by using Department of the Interior-approved radio-type Internet access versus running cable, which provides better Internet coverage for researchers and park staff in some areas of the park

Spent more than 1,200 staff hours in safety and environmental training, resulting in zero lost-time accidents in 2008