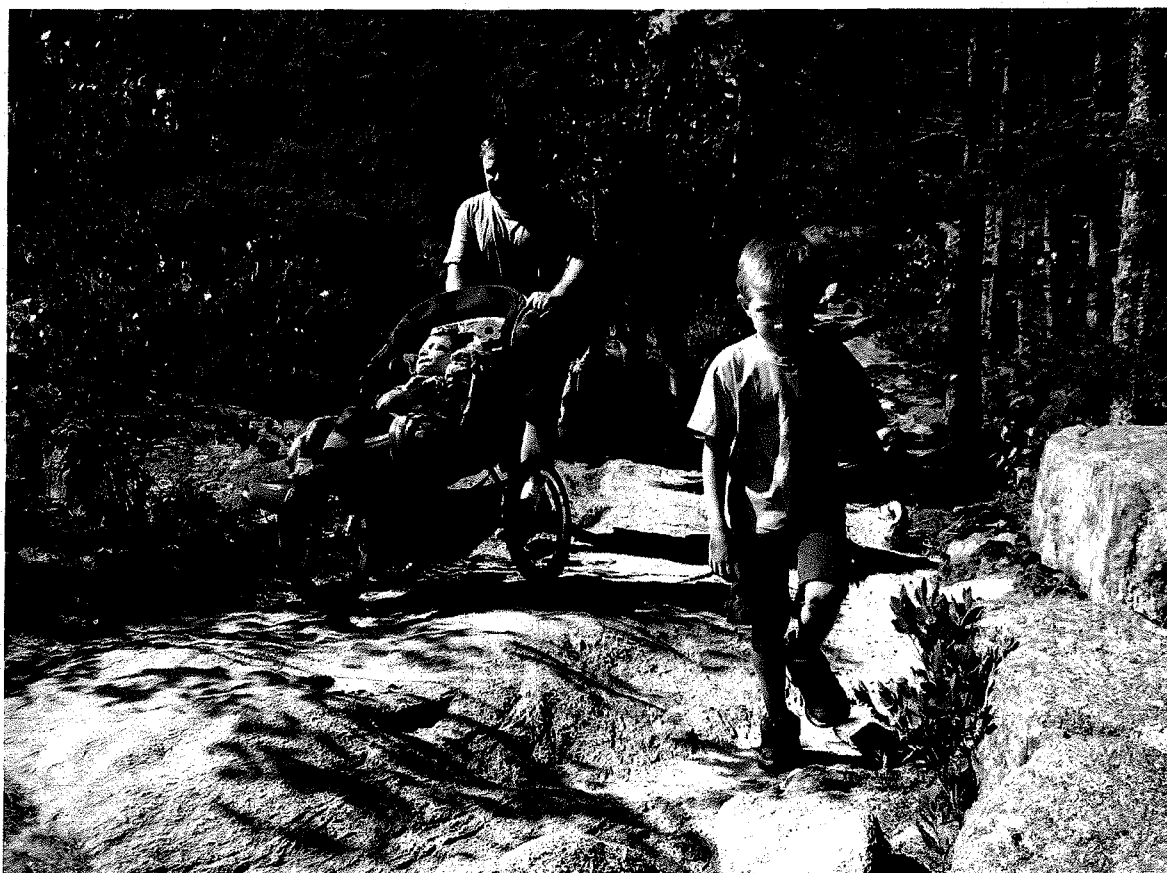




VISITOR SATISFACTION AND VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK: 2013



Family of Hikers, Gorham Mountain Trail

**“We enjoyed the beauty of the park and enjoyed sharing nature with our sons 5 and 9.”
“All the beauties gathered in one place!”**

Charles Jacobi, Natural Resource Specialist

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SUMMARY

The response rate for the visitor survey card in 2013, our third year with lock boxes and on site surveys, was 99%.

We surpassed the GPRA satisfaction goal for the overall quality of visitor facilities, services, and recreation opportunities (92%) with a measure of 99%.

The combined evaluation criteria scores for park facilities, services, and recreation opportunities respectively were all 94% or higher. In 2013, visitor satisfaction with restrooms and commercial services had the lowest overall evaluation scores (4.3 and 4.4 on a scale of 1 to 5 respectively). Their associated satisfaction measures (good and very good combined) were 87% for rest rooms and 90% for commercial services. We have been above 80% for rest rooms since 2005; before 2005 we were frequently below 80%. All other individual measures for various facilities, services, and recreation opportunities were at 4.5 or above, and all of these had a 90% or greater satisfaction measure.

We met the GPRA significance goal (87%) with a measure of 92%.

In 2013, fifty-nine percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 29% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. Seventeen percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 20% knew it was significant for its natural resources.

Fifteen years of data consistently show that visitors most often recognize Acadia is significant for its scenery (mean = 72%), followed by recognition of its recreation opportunities (mean = 33%). Recognition of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources is much less common, though much improved over 1998, with means of 15% each.

It appears that visitors completing the survey cards on site are in more of a hurry and spend less time on the Significance question. Overall, the answers are less thoughtful and less memorable. The tradeoff is a high response rate, which makes the survey card evaluation results much more reliable.

Finally, Acadia is "great" (mentioned 44 times in all comments), "loved" (32), "wonderful" (18), a "treasure" (9), "amazing" (8), good for children and families (7), important for "future generations" (5), "awesome" (5), "clean" (4), "breathtaking" (2), "fabulous" (2), "gorgeous" (2), and "fantastic" (once).

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Some Significance Comments

Coastal scenery, wildlife, plant life, geology, topography.
Freedom, explore, discover, enjoy, relax.
Teaching future generations about nature.
Learning opportunities for ecological maintenance/restoration as well as glacial carving of mountains.
The Precipice Trail reminds us that we can still have fun.
Rare ecosystems and animals.
Beauty. Noncommercial. Family. Friends. Something for everyone.
It gives people the opportunity to see and experience the natural way of the environment.
Teaches people about the beauty and importance of preservation.
We enjoyed the beauty of the park and enjoyed sharing nature with our sons 5 and 9.
Preservation of pristine nature in perpetuity and in the face of rampant development.
Peace, tranquility.
Amazing trail work and upkeep.
It provides a wonderful place for families.
To preserve the beauty of the world and to preserve nature to be able to see it in its natural state.
Don't know. Here for exercise and beauty of the scenery.
Have no idea. This is such a big country. But it is for everyone to discover Acadia.
I am from the Netherlands. For me nature is not directly connected with the nation.
For New Englanders to gawk at.
To blow minds.
Irreplaceable.
The best of the U.S. is in the parks.
Incomparably extraordinary.
It's nirvana.

Some General Visitor Comments

The wilder the better.
Park Loop Road All one way. Limit cars and Unlimited buses.
Just pure heaven on Earth.
The sequester, if not reversed, will be devastating in several years.
Love it. Have come here since I was a kid. Now my adult children feel the same way.
All the beauties gathered in one place!
I am very disappointed with Seawall going to all reservations next summer. I have been coming yearly for the past 30 years and fear I will no longer be able to get a site (frown face).
We love Acadia and have come every summer for 10 years. Please keep it as natural and pristine as possible!
The most amazing place I have visited.
Keep the park wild! Keep it clean. Fund it properly. Thank you.
We like the newly paved roads.
There is nothing else like this.
The rangers have been wonderful for us and our kids for 20 years. Thank you!!
Get rid of cars.
It's too busy in August.
It is absolutely beautiful. There is something for everybody of any ability.
Signs to ask people not to build stone sculptures on beaches.
Best place in the world.
Acadia is the greatest.
Trails should be open despite what birds are on trail.
Appreciate all the thoughtful planning, restoration, land protection, progressive shuttle services-appreciate the partnership with Friends of Acadia.

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, the National Park Service (NPS) measured visitor satisfaction and visitor understanding of the significance of Acadia National Park through a brief survey card administered to a representative sample of visitors (see Appendix 1 for sampling protocols). The NPS had identified satisfaction and understanding of significance as two important service wide goals to satisfy the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

In this report, data from the Visitor Survey Card Data Report (see Appendix 2) prepared by the University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit will be reviewed briefly. The Idaho report presents the results of very general visitor evaluations of park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. We also present and analyze the results for the open-ended part of the survey card that asks visitors to tell why Acadia is significant and to give any other comments they wish.

METHODS

The University of Idaho established general survey methods for all park units to distribute 400 survey cards. The protocol for survey card distribution evenly divides the sample between weekends and weekdays, and between two blocks of time, 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. National protocols also call for contacting visitors on a frequency of every third person or vehicle if more than 100 persons or vehicles were expected in the four hours, and every person or vehicle if less than 100 visitors were expected in the four hours. Each park selected the site(s) for survey administration. Surveyors were instructed to start with one of these protocols depending on the site and time, but to adjust as needed based on visitor flows, and to err on the side of completing surveys in the time allotted (See Appendix 1 for specific site guidelines). We always tried to spread surveys out over the entire four hour period. The Recreation Technician and four Ridgerunners distributed the questionnaires.

SAMPLING SITES

Sampling History. From 1998 – 2010, we passed out survey cards and asked visitors to complete them some time during or after their visit and drop them (postpaid) in the mail. The return rate was generally around 20-25 percent.

At the start of the program in 1998, we selected eight sampling sites and used them each year through 2010, administering 50 surveys at each site. These sites were selected mainly for their high visitation, but there were several other considerations. Because of the division of the park and Mount Desert Island into an east and west side, we chose five locations on the more heavily visited east side (Visitor Center, Entrance Station, Carriage Roads Intersection 10, Jordan Pond, and the Beehive – Bowl Trails junction) and two on the less visited west side (Echo Lake Beach, and the Ship Harbor and Wonderland Trails together). The eighth location consisted of both Blackwoods Campground on the east side and Seawall Campground on the west side, with surveys split evenly between them.

Three locations on the east side were high use frontcountry sites. The other two locations were high use backcountry trail and carriage road sites. The carriage road intersection selected was between the high and low use areas on the carriage road system (see Jacobi and Manning 1997). The trail junction selected represents moderately difficult to difficult trails with high use. One of the high use frontcountry sites on the east side, Jordan Pond, was selected because of the concession there and the multitude of activities available (hiking, biking, and boating). On the west side, we selected Echo Lake Beach because it is a high use frontcountry area. The primary activity there is visiting the beach and a secondary activity is hiking. Ship Harbor and Wonderland Trails were selected because they are easy trails and they represent the frontcountry users of the Rt. 102A corridor with its easily accessible park attractions.

NEW LOCK BOX PROTOCOL

In 2011, we took the opportunity to administer the survey cards for immediate completion on site using lock boxes to assure data integrity. This was expected to greatly increase the return rate. It also required us to adjust and then move collection from the Visitor Center, and also move collection from the Entrance Station. Because the Visitor Center is often a first stop for visitors, instead of passing out survey cards at the bottom of the steps (for later completion), in 2011 and 2012 we administered the survey cards on Island Explorer busses returning on the Park Loop Road route to the Visitor Center, thus ensuring we asked visitors who had been in the park for at least some time. Administering surveys on the bus was a challenge, and we were probably oversampling bus users. To simplify and ensure a more representative sample, in 2013 we shifted from the Visitor Center bus to collecting surveys at another popular park site, Sieur de Monts Spring. At the Entrance Station, where we had previously passed out cards to drivers (again, for later completion), instead we administered 25 survey cards each at the two main attractions just down the (one way) road—Sand Beach and Thunder Hole.

We also began to use a screen out rule at all sites, asking visitors if they had been in the park for at least one day, eliminating them if they did not meet this criteria. In addition, we kept a Refusal Log capturing approximate age and gender information for comparison to the sample.

SURVEY CARD ADMINISTRATION

We deviated from established protocols somewhat as shown in Table 1, in large part due to inclement weather but also simple misunderstandings of assignments. Surveys were evenly distributed between weekdays and weekends, but we collected 182 in the morning and 218 in the afternoon. At several sites, we had to return multiple times to complete 50 survey cards. Some sites split distribution between morning and afternoon.

VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)

The University of Idaho reported the results for the closed-ended questions about facilities, services, and recreation opportunities (Appendix 2). We compare this data for the years from 1998 to the present in two tables later in this report.

TABLE 1: LOCATION, DAY, AND TIME FOR 2013 GPRA CARD DISTRIBUTION.

Location	Date/Day	N	Time	Frequency
Eagle Lake	8/01/13, Thursday	25	0810 – 1210	every nth
Eagle Lake	8/02/13, Friday	5	0915 – 1130	every nth
Brown Mountain	8/01/13, Friday	8	0800 – 1200	every nth
Brown Mountain	8/05/13, Monday	12	0800 – 0930	every nth
Seawall CG	8/03/13, Saturday	25	0815 – 1145	every nth
Blackwoods CG	8/04/13, Sunday	25	0800 – 1130	every nth
South Bubble Trail	8/04/13, Sunday	16	0800 – 1200	every nth
South Bubble Trail	8/11/13, Sunday	9	1000 – 1200	every nth
Beehive Trail	8/11/13, Sunday	25	0800 – 1200	every nth
Thunder Hole	8/12/13, Monday	25	1245 – 1645	every nth
Sand Beach	8/12/13, Monday	25	0800 – 1200	every nth
Jordan Pond Area parking lots	8/13/13, Tuesday	18	1300 – 1700	every nth
Jordan Pond Area parking lots	8/14/13, Wednesday	7	0900 – 1100	every nth
Jordan Pond Area parking lots	8/14/13, Wednesday	25	1330 – 1700	every nth
Sieur de Monts	8/16/13, Friday	36	1300 – 1700	every nth
Sieur de Monts	8/19/13, Monday	14	1300 – 1530	every nth
Ship Harbor/Wonderland	8/18/13, Sunday	50	1300 – 1700	every nth
Echo Lake Beach	8/24/13, Saturday	50	1300 – 1700	every nth

VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE (GPRA GOAL IIB1)

The first open-ended survey question asked, “This park was established because of its significance to the nation. In your opinion, what is the significance of this park?” Visitors could respond by writing in as many items as they wished. We classified their answers according to a series of significance statements prepared for the Acadia National Park GPRA plan (National Park Service 1997). We revised these significance statements slightly based on visitor responses in 1998 and 2001 (2001 revisions are in italics below). These significance statements were followed closely. Exact wording was not necessary, but the concept had to be readily apparent from the visitor’s choice of words. This was not always obvious or easy, but most statements clearly fell into one category. If a statement contained one or more ideas that were different, both were used in the analysis.

1. **Outstanding scenery** – beauty – glaciated coastal and island landscape – mountains meet the sea – highest topography along the East coast of North America – Somes Sound the only fjord in the continental U.S. – *geography* – preservation from development, especially the coastline – geology (as relates to topography) – tides.
2. **Recreation Opportunities** – many activities available – carriage roads, trails, hiking, biking, boating – scenic motor roads – park accessible to all users – public shoreline access – peace/quiet/solitude – *learning/education*.
3. **Rich cultural heritage** – Native American history – French and British settlement – history of park formation, large land donations, visible proponents of conservation – historic hiking trails – historic carriage roads.

4. Biological/Ecological (Natural) resources – any mention of flora or fauna - exceptionally high biological diversity – presence of numerous rare species – unique mix of plant species that are at their northern and southern range limits – abundant wetlands – variety of habitats and communities – *clean air and water*.

We counted the number of surveys with any response related to significance, even if it was not included as part of our significance statements. Responses not related to the significance question at all and non-responses were discarded from analysis. Of the responses related to significance, we then counted those matching at least one of the four significance statements. We also compiled responses in each significance category and compared them to previous years.

OTHER COMMENTS

We established eleven categories of comments and allocated comments to the appropriate categories, although there is always a little judgment involved in this. Because of content overlap, all comments should be read to gain a full understanding of any category. Multiple/independent comments on each survey were classified separately whenever possible. A semi-colon separates the comments of individuals. Visitor comments are reported largely verbatim with only minor editing for clarity.

RESULTS

The data presented in Visitor Survey Card Data Report from the University of Idaho report is mostly self-explanatory (see Appendix 1 for details). These data are accurate to plus or minus 6% with 95% confidence. This means that if different samples had been drawn, the results would have been similar ($\pm 6\%$) 95 out of 100 times.

The response rate was 99% (395/400 survey cards), far above previous response rates thanks to the lock boxes. There were some costs to this that will be described below.

The respondents were 50% female and 50% male. Slightly more than half of them (56%) were between the ages of 41 and 60. There were 8 refusals to participate, six males and 2 females evenly split between males and females. Their mean age was 39 years. Reasons given were: too busy; cooking breakfast; getting ready to leave; don't speak English; and having a bad day. The number of refusals is small enough that we can still have confidence in the data.

VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)

The most important result was that 99% of visitors were satisfied overall with the quality of appropriate facilities, services, and recreation opportunities (Table 2). This is well above the National Park Service 2013 GPRA goal of 92%. Table 2 also shows the combined facilities,

combined services, and combined recreation opportunities scores for 1998 – 2013. The three combined evaluation criteria scores for 2013 were all 94% or higher.

Table 3 shows the scores for each of the individual criteria from 1998 – 2013. In 2013, visitor satisfaction with restrooms and commercial services had the lowest overall evaluation scores (4.3 and 4.4 on a scale of 1 to 5 respectively). Their associated satisfaction measures (good and very good combined) were 87% for rest rooms and 90% for commercial services. We have been above 80% for rest rooms since 2005; before 2005 we were frequently below 80%. All other individual measures for various facilities, services, and recreation opportunities were at 4.5 or above, and all of these had a 90% or greater satisfaction measure.

The following individual evaluation criteria have varied by 10% or more since the beginning of the program: exhibits, restrooms, campground and picnic areas, ranger programs, park map brochure, commercial services, opportunities for learning, and value for entrance fee paid. Evaluations for the visitor center, walkways and trails, employee assistance, and outdoor recreation have remained more constant.

VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE (GPRA GOAL IIB1)

Of the 395 returned surveys, 240 had relevant and usable responses to the Significance question. Thirty-four had irrelevant answers to the Significance question and there were 121 with no answer.

Ninety-two percent of surveys with responses to the significance question had at least one match (221/240). This exceeds the National Park Service 2013 GPRA goal of 87%. The percentage of surveys with one, two, three, or four matches from 1998 – 2013 is shown in Table 4. In 2013, 30% of visitors had at least two matches to the significance statements, 3% had at least three matches, and none had four matches.

Table 5 shows the percentage of surveys matching each individual significance statement from 1998 – 2013. In 2013, fifty-nine percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 29% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. Fifty-nine percent was the lowest percentage we have seen by 5%. Seventeen percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 20% knew it was significant for its natural resources.

Fifteen years of data consistently show that visitors most often recognize Acadia is significant for its scenery (mean = 72%), followed by recognition of its recreation opportunities (mean = 33%). Recognition of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources is much less common, though much improved over 1998, with means of 15% each.

For the first two years with the lock box protocol, recreation and cultural heritage “matches” have been erratic. Recreation matches were 32% lower in 2012 than 2011 (56% vs 24%) and Cultural Heritage matches were 13% higher (17% vs 4%). Data from 2013 now suggest that 2011 was an outlier year. Appendix 2 contains all the verbatim significance responses.

**TABLE 2: RESPONSE RATE, OVERALL VISITOR SATISFACTION RATING
AND RATINGS FOR COMBINED FACILITIES, COMBINED VISITOR SERVICES, AND COMBINED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998–2013.**

Year	Response Rate ¹		Overall Visitor Satisfaction		Combined Facilities		Combined Visitor Services		Combined Recreation Opportunities	
	Percent	N ¹	Percent ²	Points ³	Percent	Points	Percent	Points	Percent	Points
1998	23	86	95	4.7	88	4.4	86	4.4	97	4.8
1999	35	137	99	4.7	91	4.4	89	4.5	98	4.8
2000	29	113	96	4.6	89	4.4	94	4.6	98	4.7
2001	23	92	98	4.8	89	4.5	91	4.5	98	4.7
2002	23	87	100	4.8	90	4.5	93	4.5	98	4.8
2003	19	76	100	4.8	89	4.5	89	4.5	96	4.7
2004	24	94	98	4.7	87	4.4	91	4.5	94	4.7
2005	29	111	99	4.8	92	4.5	93	4.6	95	4.7
2006	31	118	95	4.7	90	4.5	91	4.5	93	4.7
2007	19	75	97	4.8	90	4.5	91	4.5	97	4.6
2008	21	83	99	4.8	94	4.6	89	4.5	93	4.6
2009	23	93	98	4.7	91	4.5	90	4.5	94	4.7
2010	17	66	98	4.8	92	4.5	94	4.6	99	4.8
2011	95	381	99	4.7	95	4.6	92	4.6	97	4.7
2012	99	395	99	4.8	96	4.6	95	4.7	98	4.8
2013	99	395	99	4.8	94	4.6	94	4.6	97	4.7
Mean	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	98	4.75	91	4.50	91	4.54	96	4.72

1. Response rate and N refer to the overall number of surveys returned. For response rates for each question, see Appendix 2.

2. Percent represents the combined total of good and very good evaluations.

3. Points reflects the average score given by respondents on a scale of 5, from 5=very good to 1=very poor.

4. Change to lock box increased response rate enormously. Mean is not representative anymore.

TABLE 3: VISITOR SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR FACILITIES, VISITOR SERVICES, AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998–2013

FACILITIES	Visitor Center		Exhibits		Restrooms		Walkways Trails Roads		Campgrounds Picnic Areas	
	Percent	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)	Percent	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)
1998	97	4.6	95	4.5	73	3.9	94	4.7	80	4.2
1999	96	4.6	91	4.3	77	4.1	99	4.7	90	4.4
2000	93	4.5	88	4.3	79	4	95	4.7	89	4.5
2001	94	4.5	83	4.3	78	4.3	100	4.8	92	4.5
2002	91	4.5	89	4.4	81	4.2	98	4.8	89	4.5
2003	90	4.5	87	4.4	78	4.2	98	4.7	98	4.6
2004	93	4.6	88	4.3	71	4	97	4.7	88	4.4
2005	98	4.6	87	4.4	86	4.3	98	4.7	91	4.4
2006	93	4.5	82	4.3	86	4.3	96	4.8	91	4.6
2007	92	4.6	87	4.3	82	4.2	97	4.8	94	4.6
2008	97	4.7	89	4.3	91	4.5	98	4.8	98	4.7
2009	94	4.6	95	4.3	83	4.2	97	4.8	86	4.4
2010	92	4.6	96	4.4	83	4.2	95	4.7	94	4.4
2011	98	4.7	97	4.5	86	4.3	99	4.8	93	4.6
2012	98	4.7	97	4.6	89	4.4	99	4.8	96	4.7
2013	95	4.7	95	4.5	87	4.3	98	4.8	95	4.6
Mean	94.44	4.59	90.38	4.38	81.88	4.21	97.38	4.76	91.50	4.51

1. These columns have variation of 10% or more. 2. New question 2005. 3. Question deleted 2005; sightseeing added to outdoor recreation question.

TABLE 3: VISITOR SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR FACILITIES, VISITOR SERVICES, AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998–2013 (CONT.)

VISITOR SERVICES	Employee Assistance		Park Map/Brochure		Ranger Programs		Commercial Services		Value for Entrance Fee ²	
	Percent	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)	Percent ¹	Points (1-5)
1998	96	4.7	85	4.4	77	4.4	83	4.2	-	-
1999	94	4.7	89	4.5	92	4.6	80	4.2	-	-
2000	99	4.7	90	4.5	100	4.8	90	4.3	-	-
2001	95	4.7	94	4.6	91	4.6	80	4.2	-	-
2002	95	4.7	94	4.6	90	4.5	90	4.3	-	-
2003	96	4.7	86	4.5	97	4.7	79	4.1	-	-
2004	95	4.6	93	4.5	88	4.5	83	4.2	-	-
2005	96	4.7	96	4.6	100	4.8	86	4.4	92	4.6
2006	95	4.6	91	4.5	92	4.7	83	4.2	91	4.6
2007	94	4.6	89	4.4	95	4.6	85	4.2	96	4.7
2008	96	4.7	95	4.5	90	4.5	77	4.2	84	4.5
2009	97	4.7	88	4.5	100	4.6	79	4.1	90	4.6
2010	97	4.7	91	4.5	100	4.7	90	4.3	95	4.7
2011	96	4.7	91	4.5	94	4.5	87	4.3	94	4.6
2012	97	4.8	94	4.7	94	4.6	90	4.5	97	4.8
2013	96	4.7	93	4.6	95	4.7	90	4.4	95	4.7
Mean	95.88	4.69	91.19	4.53	93.44	4.61	84.50	4.26	92.67	4.64

1. These columns have variation of 10% or more. 2. New question 2005. 3. Question deleted 2005; sightseeing added to outdoor recreation question.

TABLE 3: VISITOR SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR FACILITIES, VISITOR SERVICES, AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998-2013. (CONT.)

REC OPP	Learning		Outdoor Recreation		Sightseeing ³			
	Percent ¹	Points (0-5)	Percent	Points (0-5)	Percent	Points (0-5)		
1998	95	4.7	96	4.8	98	4.9		
1999	97	4.6	98	4.8	99	4.8		
2000	94	4.5	99	4.8	99	4.8		
2001	94	4.5	100	4.8	99	4.8		
2002	96	4.6	99	4.9	100	4.9		
2003	93	4.4	97	4.9	99	4.9		
2004	88	4.4	96	4.7	97	4.8		
2005	90	4.4	100	4.9				
2006	88	4.4	97	4.9				
2007	93	4.4	100	4.8				
2008	84	4.4	99	4.8				
2009	90	4.5	98	4.8				
2010	98	4.6	100	4.9				
2011	94	4.5	99	4.9				
2012	96	4.6	99	4.9				
2013	94	4.6	99	4.9				
Mean	92.75	4.51	98.50	4.84	98.71	4.84		

1. These columns have variation of 10% or more. 2. New question 2005. 3. Question deleted 2005; sightseeing added to outdoor recreation question.

**TABLE 4: PERCENT OF RESPONSES MATCHING
AT LEAST ONE, TWO, THREE, OR FOUR ACADIA SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS, 1998-2013***

# of Matches	1998 n=81	1999 n=126	2000 n=94	2001 n=72	2002 n=68	2003 n=72	2004 n=74	2005 n=115	2006 n=121	2007 n=48	2008 n=60	2009 n=69	2010 n=50	2011 n=269	2012 n=219
At Least 1 match	82%	89%	91%	94%	93%	92%	99%	95%	98%	98%	97%	100%	92%	97%	97%
At least 2 matches	21%	36%	39%	42%	33%	32%	32%	32%	27%	43%	32%	57%	40%	36%	22%
At least 3 matches	1%	4%	3%	4%	0%	4%	7%	2%	11%	10%	8%	4%	10%	2%	2%
At least 4 matches	0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

# of Matches	2013 n=240	2013 n=	2014 n=	2015 n=	2016 n=	2017 n=	2018 n=	2019 n=	2020 n=	2021 n=	2022 n=	2023 n=	2024 n=	2025 n=	Mean
At Least 1 match	92%														95%
At least 2 matches	30%														35%
At least 3 matches	3%														5%
At least 4 matches	0%														0%

*The percentages in Table 4 do not add up to 100 because visitors could give multiple answers.

**TABLE 5: PERCENT OF RESPONSES WITH SPECIFIC MATCHES TO ACADIA SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS
FOR SCENERY, RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES, 1998-2013***

Signif. Item	1998 n=81	1999 n=126	2000 n=94	2001 n=72	2002 n=68	2003 n=72	2004 n=74	2005 n=115	2006 n=121	2007 n=48	2008 n=60	2009 n=69	2010 n=50	2011 n=269	2012 n=219
Scenery	67%	74%	74%	82%	67%	71%	74%	71%	77%	75%	73%	81%	70%	64%	68%
Recreation	31%	40%	33%	29%	34%	31%	34%	23%	30%	27%	35%	45%	30%	56%	24%
Cultural Heritage	3%	9%	15%	10%	14%	15%	16%	18%	19%	23%	23%	17%	26%	4%	17%
Natural Resources	6%	8%	14%	8%	12%	11%	14%	24%	21%	25%	13%	17%	30%	11%	11%
Signif. Item	2013 n=240	2014 n=	2015 n=	2016 n=	2017 n=	2018 n=	2019 n=	2020 n=	2021 n=	2022 n=	2023 n=	2024 n=	2025 n=	2026 n=	Mean
Scenery	59%														72%
Recreation	29%														33%
Cultural Heritage	17%														15%
Natural Resources	20%														15%

*The percentages in Table 5 do not add up to 100 because visitors could give multiple answers.

It appears that visitors completing the survey cards on site are in more of a hurry and spend less time on the Significance question. Overall, the answers are less thoughtful and less memorable. The tradeoff is a high response rate, which makes the evaluation results much more reliable. See the preface of this report for a few of the more interesting Significance comments and other comments.

OTHER COMMENTS

The "other comments" give visitors an opportunity to say anything at all about the park and they do. We have compiled them in 11 categories, but there is overlap, and we recommend all responses be read for a full understanding. We also include here comments from the Significance question that are not about significance.

Facilities and Maintenance. The connecting trails at the top of Cadillac Mountain should be better marked. We found it to be confusing; ...and are glad so much work has been done on the trails recently; Excellent for over 15 trails; Some of the bathrooms are strong smelling (Brown Mtn); Sand Beach restrooms need frequent cleaning and need more parking; Hiking trails could be better marked; We like the newly paved roads; Should not close trails during summer; Trails could use better markings; Some of the trail blazes need to be repainted; Some of the blue dots on the trails are faded and unable to see; We were surprised by the cleanliness; Some trails need remarking; Hard to find Cadillac North Trailhead sign from parking lot; Campground trail too muddy; We had a difficult time finding the marker for the Beehive Trail-not on map;

Facilities and Services Needed. It would be good to have gas available on the Park Loop Road; It seems that needs more picnic areas; Bike racks at green!; I would like to see more mountain bike specific trails/single track; More bathrooms; Need more parking, more stalls in rest room (August 2013); Open more rest rooms; More parking areas; Need more signs; More running races in the park; Path to Seawall shore; Bathrooms at Sand Beach need more frequent service; Wonderland Trail could use some maintenance. Rocks pushed up by frost from winter; Maybe more parking for Jordan Pond House but that's it; No phone service in area; Signs to ask people not to build stone sculptures on beaches; 2-way bike trail along Park Loop Road would be excellent; Improved signage please: Bus stop signs – please label name of stop. Parking lots - please have sign on road to indicate where to stop; It would be great if there was a bike share program at the Bubbles where you could hike up and bike down, have bikes at the bottom; Some trails are dangerous but there are no indications; More kayak rentals; More open hours during the year would be great; We love Acadia. Very well maintained; Open more rest rooms;

Concessions. Maybe more food options; Would be good to have more some more food options-even light snacks, sandwiches, drinks; Jordan Pond House food was excellent; Popovers are awesome;

Campgrounds. Great but we came after 5pm and were confused about how to check into site—main entrance?; I am very disappointed with Seawall going to all reservations next summer. I have been coming yearly for the past 30 years and fear I will no longer be able to get

a site (frown face); Blackwoods should have showers of their own. Those up the street are inadequate; (I miss showers, a lot); We would love showers; Showers in the park?; Appreciated the quietness of the campground after 10pm; There is a "glitch" with the on line camping reservation system that cost us \$60 more – due to misleading info on annual pass giving camping discount. Also recommend dishwashing sinks outside bathrooms; In order to generate income the Blackwoods Campground should own the hot showers to get income and defray costs; not a big fan of reservations only; Been coming for 13 years love it here. Sad about next year's plan for reservation; Playground would be great. Towels/dryers in washrooms needed; We asked to change site and we couldn't. They tell us it was impossible; Over the years, with cuts to funding, we have seen many reduced services. Please don't take this as a criticism directed at ANP, but an observation. ANP has done a great job trying to hold it together.; At Blackwoods Campground we had to walk a long distance to have a shower since we had no car. Also no sinks for the dishes. Except that the park is very pleasant;

Resource Management. Trails should be open despite what birds are on trail;

Congestion/Crowding/Visitor Experience. Great that dog could go on trails; Great scenery and natural beauty to enjoy; Don't change a thing; The wilder the better. Hate to see it overrun with people who want to only see the highlights; Great fun; Could increase access to beach areas, picnic sites; range of activities for all ages and abilities; Park Loop Road All one way. Limit cars and Unlimited buses; Proximity to major metro areas; Love the hiking, biking, kayaking etc.; Sand Beach couldn't find parking. No problem!; This park has excellent services to the community. It has very high quality service.; Though closed roads were inconvenient (Stanley Brook for example); Biking on roads treacherous. Speeding needs to be more controlled; It is so dog friendly and offers so much to everyone; More education on noise levels (author's note: not a camper); Easy for families to navigate-much for children to learn; ANP is a perfect blend of wildness, yet in close proximity to beautiful towns; It would be great to have a trail where dogs could run free; Get rid of cars; It's too busy in August; Cars are too important;

Fees. You could have more ranger booths, so people have to buy park passes; definitely worth the cost; Was unsure about amount to pay to enter and where until asked ranger;

Buses. Buses very good.; Bus system needs to be made easier to use; Buses good!; Keep bus services; We were disappointed not to find a bus coming down from Cadillac after hiking up with young family; Great transportation; Nice buses; Island Explorer is the best. You don't need a car and it greatly reduces the number of cars; The buses are great but stop too often for people. Need express buses back to the Village Green; Locker @ bus stops would help for hikers; The free shuttle is very useful and well done.;

Interpretive Services. Ranger Sean Cox was especially excellent with all of his programs; We did missing mansion guide by Sean. He was excellent, knowledge, attitude; Todd with the birds was great. Susan bridges was very kind. We love all; Park newspaper said there were star talks nightly but they were Tues-Thur; They need a new visitor center; Otherwise all is great; Wish Junior Ranger program was run a little better-unless you've prepared the form, it's

disappointing-but the ranger programs are great! More useful brochure; I would like to know more about the vegetation; Nature cruise from NE Harbor poor; Maps are outdated or changed, Thank you; Better Thunder Hole time of visit schedule; Friendly people; Should provide free detailed trail maps-both hard copy and on line (pdf); Need Jr and Senior Ranger booklets; Without paying a substantial price, there is not a comprehensive trail map available; Mark small roads on map for easier usage; Provide a key to numbers on your carriage trail maps!; Ship Harbor Trail brochures and numbered stops; Emily Burnett is a knowledgeable friendly ranger. We loved her!;

Employees. Rangers have always been very helpful; The people are terrific. They are helpful, friendly, and informed; Rangers at Seawall are the best!; The rangers have been wonderful for us and our kids for 20 years. Thank you!!; Park rangers and Friends of Acadia very helpful and knowledgeable;

General Impressions. Everything is so great; Beautiful; Clean; We love Acadia; Great!!; Everything has been great!; We are glad we came; Uniqueness of the Maine/northern U.S. coast; I am very impressed; Enjoyed it; Love it. Have come here since I was a kid. Now my adult children feel the same way; They will deteriorate unless generously funded. The sequester, if not reversed, will be devastating in several years; The sequester is a disaster. Congress should be ashamed of themselves; The national parks define us as a nation. This one is especially important because there are so few in this part of the country; Keep up the good work; No place I'd rather be; Great; We've had a beautiful day. Perfect weather. Just pure heaven on Earth; We love the whole park...; Proximity to major metro areas; Acadia is a unique location and a wonderful place for anyone to visit. I'm glad that we have it; All the beauties gathered in one place!; Keep it up!!; An amazing park, we were blessed to be here; Excellent; Wonderful park. We have been coming here for 25 years and have not tired of it; We had a great time; Great time; Love the carriage roads and loop road!; Cutbacks in staff is having a negative effect on the overall quality; It's fantastic!; Wonderful!; I love Acadia and the National Park Service; It's awesome; I love this park and have come here every summer for over 20 years; Beautiful; Everything has been super wonderful and we're excited to participate and explore further. Thanks for your work!; Just wonderful... Thanks; We love Acadia and have come every summer for 10 years. Please keep it as natural and pristine as possible!; Fabulous; Overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities was excellent!; Keep up the great work!; Excellent overall; Excellent. Could not ask for better. -best in Northeast; Everything is fine; The most amazing place I have visited; Keep the park wild! Keep it clean. Fund it properly. Thank you; We're having a great time!; Stay the course; Thank you; I love it here!; Keep up the good work!; Love it; You are doing an excellent job; Love it! Easy access throughout; Very clean and well kept. Very impressive; Been coming for over 40 years and never gets old. A wonderful gem; Awesome place!; Wonderful park. I've visited National Parks around the country and I was very proud that conditions around the park was so presentable to all the visitors from other countries; Love it!; It's beautiful.; Fabulous park!; Great loved our visit; Everything was great; Keep up the great work!; I really can't think of anything to improve. We come every year for 1-2 weeks; Love living here. Moved from Mass to be near Acadia. Visited many N.P.s and love this the best; We had a lovely time; Hopefully people will feel an ownership towards parks like this and fiercely

defend them in times of budget constraints. There is nothing else like this; Great park!; Keep up the good work; Great opportunities; It is being very well taken care of!; Keep on keeping on! Thanks; It is absolutely beautiful. There is something for everybody of any ability; Thanks you; Very good, organized; Love it!; Great; We have been very impressed; We had a great time!; Awesome place!; Keep it protected forever; Thank you; Love it!!; We are grateful for this and all our national parks; Love Acadia; Keep up the good work; Beautiful and well kept; Great experience; Overall very pleased; Keep it like this. Nice; Best place in the world; We visit every year; It is beautiful; Acadia is the greatest; Very important to me(?); My favorite place on earth. Thank you for keeping it so nice; Loved it. Would come back and even camp here; It is the best national park; Very unique; Top notch; Could use more American flags; national treasure definitely; It's national treasury. Keep it that way for good; Wonderful and special; We enjoyed it; Thanks for all; Irreplaceable; National treasure; Perfect as is; Unique one of a kind; Amazing park; Keep it up!; Incomparably extraordinary; Perfectly peaceful; All good; Appreciate all the thoughtful planning, restoration, land protection, progressive shuttle services-appreciate the partnership with Friends of Acadia; Best ever; I love this place;

CONCLUSIONS

The 2013 GPRA survey showed that Acadia National Park exceeded or met the national goals for satisfaction (including commercial services) and significance. Visitors understand very well that Acadia is significant for its beautiful scenery and that it is a great place to play.

Recognition of the park's rich cultural heritage and diverse natural resources is much less common. While recognition of both of these significance items has improved substantially since 1998, it is still relatively low (each about 15% of respondents, on average—Table 5). Park managers might consider how important it is to improve visitor's understanding of these items. Inclusion of the park mission statement in as many presentations, publications, and other media as possible and posting it prominently in public contact areas is one of many actions that may help visitors understand the significance of Acadia's cultural heritage and natural resources.

One visitor with young children noted that their family hiked up Cadillac not knowing there was no bus service down. Perhaps this could be more prominently noted on the bus schedule in large font on the schedule page. Currently there is no indication about this lack of service anywhere in the schedule. Visitors must look at all the individual route schedules to see if there is a service up Cadillac and recognize that it is absent.

Finally, Acadia is "great" (mentioned 44 times in all comments), "loved" (32), "wonderful" (18), a "treasure" (9), "amazing" (8), good for children and families (7), important for "future generations" (5), "awesome" (5), "clean" (4), "breathtaking" (2), "fabulous" (2), "gorgeous" (2), and "fantastic" (once).

REFERENCES

Jacobi, C. and R. Manning

- 1997 Applying the visitor experience resource protection process to Acadia National Park carriage roads: A summary of research and decision-making. Technical Report NPS/NESO-RNR/NRTR/98-5. December 1997. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. New England System Support Office. 23pp.

National Park Service

- 1997 Strategic management plans: Acadia National Park, St. Croix Island International Historic Site, Maine Acadian Culture Project. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 72pp.

APPENDIX 1: SURVEY SITE GUIDELINES

- The object is to pass out surveys during the entire four hour period. Err on the side of complete distribution in time allotted rather than ending with survey cards left.
- Start by contacting every visitor group and adjust distribution rate based on success. It is better to get ahead of the game and slow down.
- Do not choose a group by who they are or what they look like.
- One survey per group for anyone 18 years or older. Choose drivers if in a car. First client if in a walking/biking group (not leader). Second row on right, aisle seat if a commercial or other bus.
- Ask first if they have visited the park at least one day (not today). This is a screen out factor.
- Bring a bus schedule so you can determine if there is time for a bus rider to complete the survey.
- Choose visitors who are finishing/exiting their experience at a site.
- Record refusals as individuals by gender and estimate age.
- Be cheerful and enthusiastic. Follow contact script closely. Emphasize how much we want their participation to improve facilities, services, and recreation opportunities.

Echo Lake Beach 1-5 Weekend: 50 Intercept exiting visitors at the top of the steps near the turnaround and those exiting by the service road or waiting for the IEX bus (HCP access area). Start with every group and adjust as needed.

Seawall and Blackwood Campgrounds 8-12 Weekend: 25 each campground

Walk the campground - all loops. Start with every second campsite occupied. Adjust rate up or down as needed. If needed do multiple walk-throughs to spread surveys out over the four hours. Record site numbers for completed surveys so as not to ask again.

Sand Beach and Thunder Hole 8-12 Weekday: 25 each site

At Thunder Hole intercept exiting visitors crossing the Ocean Path after visiting the viewing area. Start with every group and adjust as needed. At Sand Beach intercept exiting visitors at the top of the steps as they leave the beach. Start with every group and adjust as needed.

Sieur de Monts Spring 1 - 5 Weekday: 50

Intercept exiting visitors where the sidewalk meets the parking area.

Beehive and South Bubble Trailheads 8-12 Weekend: 25 each site

Intercept exiting visitors at the trailhead. Start with every group and adjust as needed.

Ship Harbor/Wonderland 1-5 Weekend: 25 each site

Intercept exiting hikers at the trailhead. Start with every group and adjust as needed.

Jordan Pond 1-5 Weekday: 50

Work all three parking lots contacting visitors returning to their cars. Start with every group and adjust as needed.

Eagle Lake and Brown Mountain Parking Areas 8-12: Weekday - 25 each site

Intercept exiting visitors at Eagle Lake near the three sided kiosk. For the boat launch, work the edge of the parking area by the carriage road. Start with every group and adjust as needed.

APPENDIX 2: UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO REPORT

Acadia NP 2013 Visitor Survey Card Data Report



Introduction

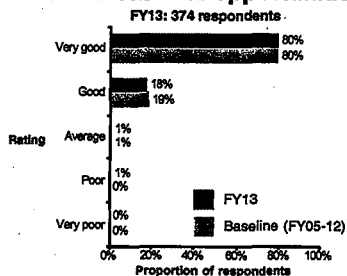
To assist the National Park Service in complying with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), a visitor survey was conducted in units of the National Park System in FY13. The survey was developed to measure each park unit's performance related to NPS GPRA Goals IIa1 (visitor satisfaction) and IIb1 (visitor understanding and appreciation).

The results of the Visitor Survey Card (VSC) survey conducted at this park are summarized in this data report. A description of the research methods and limitations is on the back page.

Below (left) is a graph summarizing visitor opinions of the "overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities." This graph compares FY13 data (shown in black) with baseline data (shown in gray). The satisfaction measure below this graph is a combined percentage of "good" and "very good" responses. This is the primary performance measure for Goal IIa1. (The satisfaction measure may not equal the sum of "very good" and "good" percentages due to rounding.)

Below (right) is the FY13 GPRA reporting measure for Goal IIa1. The percentage included in the box should be used for reporting GPRA Goal IIa1 performance. The response rate for this park survey was 99% with 395 total visitors responding to the survey.

Overall quality of facilities, services & recreational opportunities



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Understanding the Results

Inside this report are graphs that illustrate the survey results. The report contains three categories of data—park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities. Within these categories are graphs for each indicator evaluated by park visitors. For example, the park facilities category includes indicators such as visitor center, exhibits, restrooms, and so forth. In addition, responses for indicators within each category are averaged into a combined graph for the category (e.g., combined park facilities). The combined graphs compare FY13 data with baseline data.

Each graph includes the following information:

- the number of visitor responses for the indicator;
- the percentage of responses which were "very good," "good," "average," "poor," and "very poor;"
- a satisfaction measure that combines the percentage of total responses which were "very good" or "good;" and
- an average evaluation score (mean score) based on the following values: very poor = 1, poor = 2, average = 3, good = 4, very good = 5.

Very
Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Very
Good

The higher the average evaluation score, the more positive the visitor response.

- graph percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

FY13 GPRA Reporting Measure for Goal IIa1

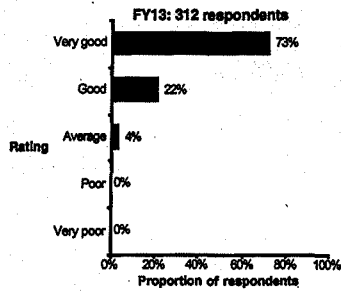
Percentage of park visitors satisfied overall
with appropriate facilities, services, and
recreational opportunities:

99%



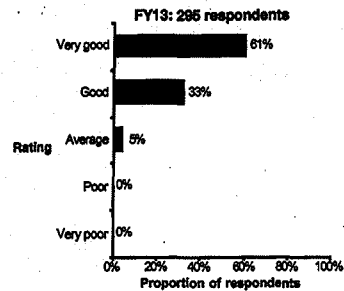
Acadia NP Park Facilities

Visitor Center



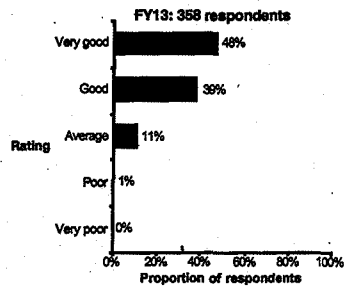
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Exhibits



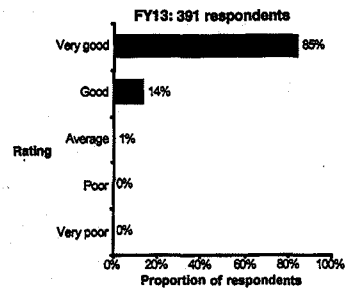
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Restrooms



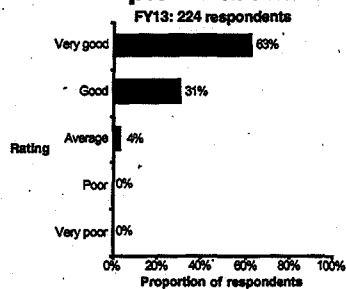
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 87%
Average evaluation score: 4.3

Walkways, trails, and roads



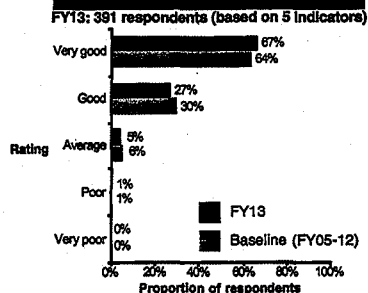
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Campgrounds and/or picnic areas



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Combined park facilities



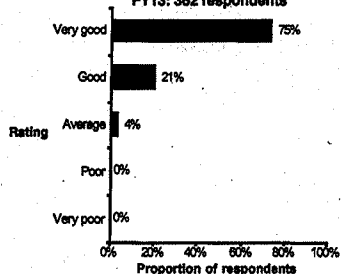
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Acadia NP Visitor Services



Assistance from park employees

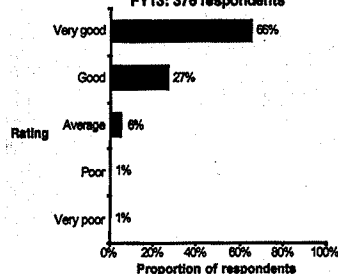
FY13: 382 respondents



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 96%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Park map or brochure

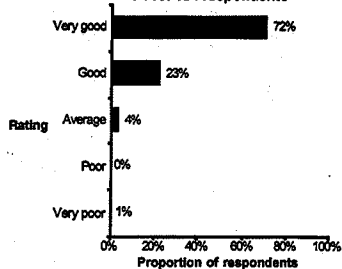
FY13: 376 respondents



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 93%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Ranger programs

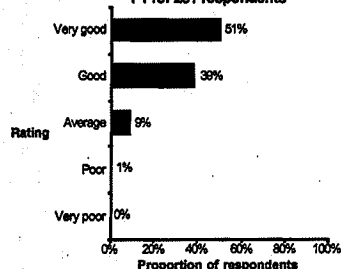
FY13: 154 respondents



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Commercial services in the park

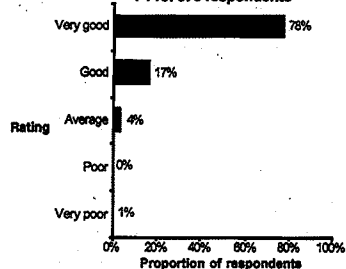
FY13: 251 respondents



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 90%
Average evaluation score: 4.4

Value for entrance fee paid

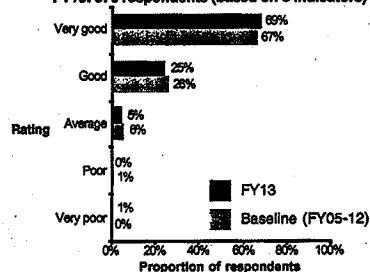
FY13: 370 respondents



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Combined visitor services

FY13: 376 respondents (based on 5 indicators)

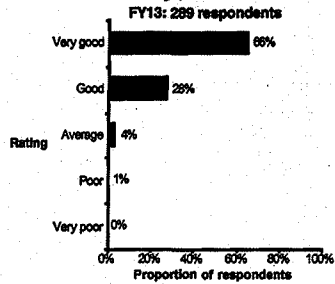


FY13: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6



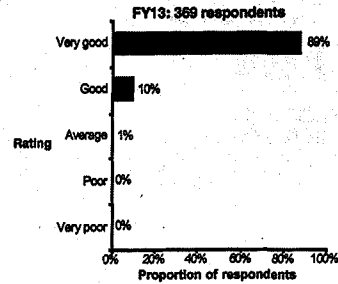
Acadia NP Recreational Opportunities

Learning about nature, history, or culture



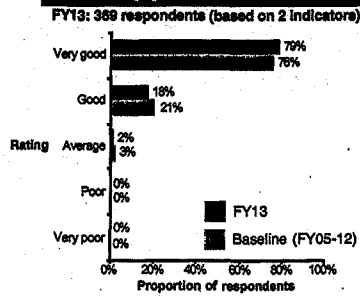
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Outdoor recreation



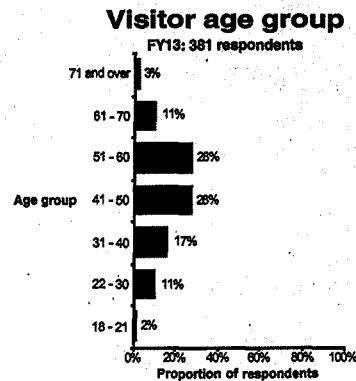
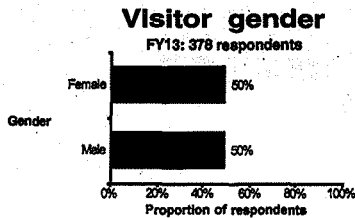
FY13: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.9

Combined recreational opportunities



FY13: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Acadia NP Visitor Gender and Age Group



Please note: Baseline data for this report has been normalized to begin in FY05 due to the addition of the "Value for entrance fee paid" question and the inclusion of "Sightseeing" in the Outdoor Recreation survey question in 2005.

Research Methods

Survey cards were distributed to a random sample of visitors in this park during the period August 1-31, 2013. The data reflect visitor opinions about this NPS unit's facilities, services, and recreational opportunities during the survey period. Visitors at selected locations representative of the general visitor population were sampled. The results do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year, or park visitors who did not visit the survey locations.

Returned cards were electronically scanned and the data analyzed. Frequency distributions were calculated for each indicator and category. All percentage calculations were rounded to the nearest percent. The survey response rate is

described on the first page of this report. The sample size ("N") varies from figure to figure, depending on the number of responses.

Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30. In such cases, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph. This report excludes any indicator with less than 10 responses.

For most indicators, the survey data are expected to be accurate within $\pm 6\%$ with 95% confidence. This means that if different samples had been drawn, the results would have been similar ($\pm 6\%$) 95 out of 100 times.

For more information contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit
psuinfo@uidaho.edu - (208) 885-2585

APPENDIX 3: SIGNIFICANCE COMMENTS

These are reported verbatim, without editing for spelling or grammar. Numbers refer to numbered response cards.

1. Coastal scenery, wildlife, plant life, geology, topography.
2. It is a beautiful example of nature and man interacting.
3. Its beauty.
4. Rich history and environmental education.
5. First in East; donated land – set example.
6. Conservation of natural environment and wildlife for the future.
7. Any preservation of natural environment is a huge benefit for society.
8. Model for philanthropy.
9. The loss of the natural beauty of this place cannot be replaced.
10. To teach the public about the beauty of the park and to respect nature.
11. Wild spaces kept open in New England.
12. Maintaining natural areas for our citizens to enjoy.
13. Natural beauty.
14. Preserve nature.
15. The beauty and mountains.
16. A great preservation of our national heritage and outdoor experiences.
17. A natural view and experience of northern sea coast and land.
18. The beauty, wildlife is really a treasure.
19. Freedom, explore, discover, enjoy, relax.
20. Uniqueness of the Maine/northern U.S. coast.
21. Beautiful coastline. Coastal preservation.
22. Teaching future generations about nature.
23. Beautiful views, habitats for numerous species, and great climbing.
24. Preservation.
25. Nature.
26. We value the opportunity to be in nature and see the wonders of the Maine coast.
27. The Precipice Trail reminds us that we can still have fun.
28. It is a protected area reflective of the Maine coast easily accessible to huge number of people, a great introduction to many people to the outdoors and the park system.
29. Keeping as close to natural as possible.
30. Stewardship of land that is beautiful and keeping available to the public.
31. Preserving the space.
32. The national parks define us as a nation. This one is especially important because there are so few in this part of the country.
33. This park has incredible natural and historic beauty. My family loves Acadia.
34. Spectacular scenery and abundant recreation opportunities.
35. To preserve a significant and unique northeast coastal area – preserve access.
36. The majesty of nature = potential of mankind.
37. Any open nature is significant to our well being.

38. Beauty. Noncommercial. Family. Friends. Something for everyone.
39. Preserving the Maine coast.
40. Recreation! Access to a beautiful place.
41. Providing recreation. Preserves nature.
42. We enjoyed the beauty of the park and enjoyed sharing nature with our sons 5 and 9.
43. It's essential that we protect our resources.
44. Acadia is a unique location and a wonderful place for anyone to visit. I'm glad that we have it.
45. Landmark to preservation.
46. Great views in our countrys natural wonder/natural resources.
47. Preserved area on Atlantic coast.
48. Bringing people back to nature.
49. Beautiful preserved open land. We love it all.
50. Beautiful natural park.
51. Beautiful area should be preserved.
52. Great to have national park like this and it has great trails and views.
53. Let people see nature undeveloped and (un?) commercialized. Unique natural beauty.
54. Preservation of public lands.
55. Love it here. Hikes are doable for my age. Carriage roads great for biking.
56. Preserving pre-settlement conditions.
57. Exposing folks to the best wonders of northern New England nature.
58. Historical and incredible natural beauty in rugged coastal setting.
59. Chance to see areas that otherwise wouldn't be available to the public.
60. Scenic beauty and N.E. American History.
61. Unique east coast topography and coastline.
62. It's really fun and interesting to retrace some of the steps as those from long ago. It's also a great way to preserve nature over time.
63. The opportunity to enjoy nature and its beauty.
64. Proximity to major metro areas.
65. Fjord! – Amazing! Beautiful!
66. Nature, beauty, freedom to enjoy it!
67. The history.
68. Preservation, conservation, and enjoyment of visitors, all trying to work together in a park setting.
69. Carriage roads great ability to recreate.
70. Access to wilderness for all ages.
71. Natural beauty and wilderness.
72. Natural features. History of the Rockefeller family (i.e.) carriage trails.
73. It's gorgeous and pristine, rare in 2013.
74. To preserve nature and wildlife – variety of opportunities to learn.
75. Preservation of beautiful natural area.
76. Learning about the living thing and nature.
77. Wildlife conservation.

78. Provides a national park for New England and preserves the unique area on MDI and surrounding lands/land.
79. Awesome beautiful.
80. Preserve beauty.
81. These national parks are extremely valuable and should be preserved regardless of cost.
82. It's beauty, resources, natural beauty.
83. Natural beauty.
84. Preserving the land pristine area, for future generations.
85. Preserved history, culture, and recreation.
86. The beauty and trails.
87. Historic carriage roads, unique scenery.
88. Geography – preservation – ocean views.
89. Sense of history and preservation of national outdoor space.
90. Preservation of natural areas so it can be preserved by future generations. Acadia is an amazing natural national treasure. Thank you NPS and the people that donated their land.
91. It shows people that natural beauty still exists in America.
92. It is a beautiful example of East Coast mountains, ocean, and wildlife.
93. Its natural beauty showcasing a northeastern national park.
94. History and nature.
95. History, preservation of this fragile environment.
96. Preserved natural beauty for everyone to enjoy.
97. Preservation, sights.
98. Preserving nature and the history of park and area.
99. To preserve the natural beauty and resources of this region.
100. The beauty!! Great hikes.
101. Preservation of natural features and life.
102. The variety of terrain, mountains, trees. The opportunity to climb, walk, bike, kayak, and canoe and enjoy nature.
103. Freedom to enjoy the beauty of the ocean and mountains.
104. Sandy beach. Otter Cliff.
105. It's beautiful, love the hiking.
106. Everyone should see it! Breathtaking. Peaceful.
107. It has National Significance because it helps preserve the National Beauty of America.
108. Enjoying the outside.
109. Unbelievably important. The carriage roads are unique and a national treasure. We thank Rockefeller for his vision every time we visit.
110. The park is an island and you can see the glacial influence.
111. Great history.
112. Formed by glacial activity.
113. Amazing ocean vistas. Gorgeous natural beauty – overall breathtaking. Best of both worlds – ocean and mountains.
114. One of the most unusual and beautiful parks.
115. Nature beauty.
116. A wild and scenic place sorely needed on the east coast.

117. Preserving nature in all its grandeur.
118. The benevolent sharing of the land and improvements for others.
119. Great natural beauty, interesting social history.
120. Awareness of nature/environment.
121. The history, nature – relationship and connection to science and history is phenomenal.
122. Highly significant. Major national attraction. Recreation for all.
123. National treasure! We should be doing more to protect and get our country out and seeing it. It's beautiful.
124. This land is preserved forever.
125. Its natural beauty.
126. Nation's preservation and love of nature.
127. NE beauty and outdoor activities.
128. Teach our children about nature and noncommercial trips.
129. For everyone to enjoy and respect.
130. Carriage trails – history of park and protection.
131. It is environmentally important. It is part of our heritage and should continue to get funding and support.
132. Preservation of pristine nature in perpetuity and in the face of rampant development.
133. Its natural beauty.
134. Peace, tranquility.
135. Nature and beauty.
136. CCC; recreational area with access to ocean, forest, mountains – hiking trails.
137. Hiking/campsite.
138. It's beauty!
139. Geographic diversity and size of natural park.
140. Preserve nature! Yes!
141. A national park sight on the atlantic is crucial to the beauty and survival of the coast and accessibility of the ocean.
142. Preserve the beauty of our natural resources.
143. People giving back to their country. Preserving open space.
144. To preserve the valuable natural scenic areas we have left.
145. Shoreline.
146. Nature.
147. Learning opportunities for ecological maintenance/restoration as well as glacial carving of mountains.
148. Preserving a beautiful natural area for future generations.
149. Open space for the public.
150. To maintain the natural beauty of Maine.
151. National parks are so important to keep open and maintain for the beauty and nature preservation.
152. Its natural beauty.
153. Natural history and beauty encapsulated in one area and interest re Maine and U.S. settlement/establishment and history of tourism.
154. Closest natl park to major population area in U.S.

155. Love all the heritage.
156. Easternmost point of the country. Significant flora and fauna on display as well.
Significant seaside protection.
157. Great for nature and outdoor overall.
158. Scenic conservation/preservation.
159. Provides a wonderful area to connect with ocean, mountains, and woods.
160. Rare ecosystems and animals.
161. Nature and beauty to preserve.
162. Historical connection to Canada – combination of forest/ocean – so much to learn.
163. Many hikes, outdoor opportunities, forest communities.
164. History of park, natural beauty, recreation.
165. A prime example of the ruggedness of the east coast and the beautiful natural preserve.]
166. Preserving natural beauty.
167. It gives people the opportunity to see and experience the natural way of the environment. Teaches people about the beauty and importance of preservation.
168. Very high!! Great example of philanthropic nature of U.S. citizens.
169. Nature in its natural form.
170. A beautiful place to enjoy nature.
171. Scenery, geology, carriage roads (history of)
172. Part of America's history.
173. Amazing trail work and upkeep.
174. Preserves natural beauty for all the country's residence and foreigners.
175. The vistas.
176. Best Nat'l Park for northeast U.S. Available to large population.
177. Natural and cultural history.
178. To guard the natural beauty for future generations.
179. Outdoor recreational opportunities for humans.
180. Hopefully people will feel an ownership towards parks like this and fiercely defend them in times of budget constraints. There is nothing else like this.
181. The natural and social/civic history.
182. It has preserved a very diversified ecological system for posterity.
183. History and beauty.
184. Highlights the beauty of the East Coast – the natural landscape of the Maine coast – indian heritage.
185. Terrain, bald peaks, micro-climate and ecology.
186. Beauty.
187. To preserve the earth that we are blessed to have.
188. It has immense historical significance and significance as a conservation center and a place for everyone to enjoy.
189. Natural beauty.
190. Natural beauty, unique setting, history.
191. Lovely piece of geography.
192. The beauty and wonderful place for all to relax and recreate.
193. Its beauty and land preservation.

194. Boreal forest.
195. It provides a wonderful place for families.
196. Connecting with nature.
197. Just a beautiful spot to enjoy w/ family.
198. It shows N.E. nature represents.
199. It is a gem and should continue to be preserved – excellent scenery and hiking.
200. Rugged beauty.
201. Shows off the overall beauty of what Maine has to offer.
202. Federally protected land northeast of the country.
203. Its beauty, nature – part of the U.S. – shows how magnificent this country is – from coast to coast.
204. Beauty uniqueness (geologically) and recreational use.
205. It is such a beautiful accessible park. There is nothing like it.
206. Protection of the natural wilderness.
207. To share the nation's beauty with its citizens.
208. Coastal mountains, diverse terrain, micro climates. Also sheer unspoiled beauty.
209. Beauty and conservation.
210. The beautiful and unique scenery and wildlife.
211. Indian heritage is very important to me.
212. To preserve the beauty of the world and to preserve nature to be able to see it in its natural state.
213. Extraordinary natural beauty/interest.
214. A place to rejuvenate ones senses and outlook.
215. Water rock National Park Service.
216. As a symbol of America's wild places it should be preserved.
217. Great to have "western style" NP for us easterners.
218. One of the great wonders of America USA on the east coast.
219. Considerable significance - this is an important part of being an American.
220. Best park in N.E.
221. Only N.P. in northeast.
222. For all to respect and enjoy.
223. No national significance.
224. Picturesque and all Maine.
225. Don't know. Here for exercise and beauty of the scenery.
226. So important to save such beautiful natural areas.
227. Great family memories.
228. We were able to see just how blessed we are as a nation – beautiful.
229. Great to carry this mission of parks and conservation! Go Maine!
230. A place to see our country as it was when it was born.
231. Maine habitat.
232. We need all our NP. Too much land is commercialized.
233. It's one of the last great frontiers of the country.
234. Have no idea. This is such a big country. But it is for everyone to discover Acadia.
235. Shows Maine at its best.

236. I am from the Netherlands. For me nature is not directly connected with the nation.
237. It is the Maine coast at its best.
238. It is a showcase for all the Northeast has to offer.
239. Very important. A gift!
240. One of the preatyeast of all.

Responses made that do not relate to significance statements. (Some of these have been repeated in the Other Comments section in the text.)

1. Very important to ??
2. My favorite place on earth.
3. For New Englanders to gawk at.
4. Very high significance.
5. It is the best national park.
6. Very unique.
7. To blow minds.
8. America!!
9. National treasure definitely.
10. It's national treasury. Keep it this way for good.
11. Wonderful and special.
12. Significant.
13. Thanks for all.
14. Irreplaceable.
15. We get to see the best of USA.
16. National Treasure.
17. Very significant.
18. Yes.
19. Unique one of a kind.
20. Amazing park!
21. The best of the U.S. is in the parks..
22. High.
23. Incomparably extraordinary.
24. Extremely high.
25. Treasure of our being.
26. Huge!
27. It is a major significance.
28. Major.
29. One of the most important in the U.S. and one of my favorite in the world.
30. Best ever.
31. Big!
32. Very high significance.
33. It's nirvana.
34. Incredibly significant.