



Memorandum

To: National Park Service
Northeast Region
Boston, Mass.

Date: November 14, 2014

Project No.: 33281.07

From: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Re: Acadia National Park
Transportation Data Collection
Jordan Pond House Parking

This memorandum present parking occupancy and parking turnover data collected at the Jordan Pond House on Friday September 26, 2014. Parking occupancy counts were made of the both the South Lot (adjacent to the Jordan Pond House) and the North Lot from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Parking turnover data were collected in the South Lot during those hours.

Parking Inventory

The South Lot, adjacent to the Jordan Pond House, contains 68 parking spaces, of which 6 are designated for handicap-permit parking. The parking lot is nominally intended for restaurant patrons only. A sign for 'Restaurant Parking Only' is located on the right just after entering the driveway, but it is often overlooked.

The North Lot is comprised of two sections. The upper lot is closest to the Jordan Pond House and contains 115 parking spaces. The roadway and loop near the Jordan Pond boat launch provides 61 spaces, including two for handicap-permit parking and three for recreational vehicles. There are a total of 176 parking spaces in the North lot and 244 among the North and South lots.

Parking Occupancy

Jordan Pond House restaurant opens at 11:30 AM. As shown in **Table 1**, the South Lot was essentially full from 11:00 AM to the end of the observations at 4:00 PM. The North Lot was full from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

The parking lot activity in the South lot prior to the opening of the restaurant appeared to be predominately bicyclists using the nearby carriage roads, with some photographers, and a couple of Jordan Pond House employees. In the North lot most of the early parking activity was near the boat ramp and trails there.

The South Lot was full from 11:00 AM on. Cars cruised through the lot throughout the day. Queueing was common, as a driver would wait for someone walking back to their car. Several times during the day the queue of cars in the South Lot extended out to roadway (Lower Mountain Road) and through traffic was briefly blocked as cars waited to enter the Jordan Pond House driveway.

The North Lot filled up by 12:30 PM. interestingly, the parking along the lower roadway filled up before the more convenient upper lot parking. It appeared that drivers unable to find a parking space in the South Lot simply took the first visible empty space in the North Lot. When the North Lot was full, there were sometimes as many as a dozen cars searching for parking, but the circulation and queuing did not extend to the roadway.

During the busiest times of the day several drivers were observed traveling back and forth between the South and North lots multiple times. The exact number of these drivers is not known.

Table 1. Parking Lot Occupancy

	SOUTH LOT			NORTH LOT				
				Upper Lot	*****Lower Roadway*****			
	General Spaces	HC Spaces	Total	General Spaces	General Spaces	HC Spaces	RV Parking	Total
7:30 AM	5	0	5	1	1	0	0	2
8:00 AM	9	0	9	3	1	0	0	4
8:30 AM	10	0	10	2	2	0	0	4
9:00 AM	15	0	15	4	6	1	0	11
9:30 AM	19	0	19	8	12	1	0	21
10:00 AM	23	0	23	15	30	2	0	47
10:30 AM	38	1	39	18	36	2	0	56
11:00 AM	61	4	65	28	42	2	0	72
11:30 AM	62	6	68	54	52	2	0	108
Noon	62	6	68	103	56	2	0	161
12:30 PM	62	8	70	115	56	2	0	173
1:00 PM	63	7	70	121	62	2	0	185
1:30 PM	62	8	69	116	54	2	2	172
2:00 PM	62	8	70	116	64	1	2	181
2:30 PM	63	4	67	116	54	2	0	172
3:00 PM	62	3	65	110	51	2	2	163
3:30 PM	62	6	68	101	45	1	3	147
4:00 PM	60	6	66	86	47	1	2	134
Capacity	62	6	68	115	56	2	3	176

Parking Turnover in the South Lot

On Friday, September 26, 2014, VHB conducted a turnover count between 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Jordan Pond House South Lot to better identify the characteristics of parkers. Every 30 minutes the last three digits of the license plate for each parked vehicle was recorded and the data used to determine the arrival time, departure time, and length of stay for each vehicle.

A total of 254 cars parked in the lot during the 8.5 hours of the study. The average length of stay was 1.7 hours. The turnover during the study hours averaged 3.6 cars using each of the 68 parking spaces. As shown in **Table 2**, almost half the cars were parked for an hour or less, and some three-quarters were parked two hours or less.

Table 2. Jordan Pond House South Lot Activity by Length of Stay

Length of Stay	No. of Cars	Percentage of Cars	Cumulative Percentage of Cars	Spaces Occupied at 1:00 PM	Cumulative Number of Spaces Occupied at 1:00 PM	Cumulative Percentage of Spaces Occupied at 1:00 PM
0.5 hours	74	29%	29%	5	5	7%
≤ 1.0 hour	123	19%	48%	6	11	16%
≤ 1.5 hour	156	13%	61%	8	19	27%
≤ 2.0 hours	193	15%	76%	8	27	39%
≤ 2.5 hours	207	6%	81%	4	31	44%
≤ 3.0 hours	222	6%	87%	8	39	56%
> 3 hours	32	13%	100%	31	70	100%
	254	100%		70		

Table 2 also illustrates the disproportionate impact of long-term parkers on parking availability. Whereas those parking for more than three hours accounted for only 13 percent of the number of parkers, they occupied 44 percent of the parking spaces during the 1:00 PM peak period. Effectively, each long-term parker prevented at least three short-term parkers from using the South Lot. It should be noted, however, that even if there were no long-term parkers in the South Lot the parking lot would likely still have been at full capacity since it would have been used instead by the many parkers diverted to the North Lot.

PARKING SURVEY TURNOVER RESULTS

Acadia National Park

Jordan Pond House (South Lot)

Friday, 9/26/2014

Capacity	68																			
Occupancy																				
Peak Occ.	70	103%																		
Turnover	3.7	3.6																		
Volume	254																			
Avg.		1.70																		
Duration	#	%																		
0.5	74	29%	29%																	
1.0	49	19%	48%																	
1.5	33	13%	61%																	
2.0	37	15%	76%																	
2.5	14	6%	81%																	
3.0	15	6%	87%																	
3.5	9	4%	91%																	
4.0	5	2%	93%																	
4.5	8	3%	96%																	
5.0	3	1%	97%																	
5.5	3	1%	98%																	
6.0	3	1%	100%																	
6.5	1	0%	100%																	
7.0	0	0%	100%																	
7.5	0	0%	100%																	
8.0	0	0%	100%																	
8.5	0	0%	100%																	
9.0	0	0%	100%																	
9.5	0	0%	100%																	
10.0	0	0%	100%																	
10.5	0	0%	100%																	
11.0	0	0%	100%																	
11.5	0	0%	100%																	
12.0	0	0%	100%																	

254

Shown above is for a 30-minute turnover study conducted from 7:30 AM through 4:00 PM.

Findings include:

- Peak parking of 70 cars, exceeding the designated capacity of 68 spaces, occurred at 12:30PM, 1:00PM, and 2:00PM.
- 254 different vehicles were recorded throughout the 8.5 hour survey.
- The turnover (based on peak occupancy) was 3.6
- The turnover (based on legal capacity) was 3.7
- Average observed parking duration was 1.70 hours.
- 29% of all cars, parked for 30 minutes.
- 48% of cars parked for one hour or less.