

Beyond the Park Loop Road Parking Overflow Counts 2017
Acadia National Park Resource Report 2017-12
Charles Jacobi December 2017

Methods

In July and August 2017 we conducted eight counts of cars parked on road shoulders (or in some cases, all cars, as noted below) at numerous parking areas along four driving routes throughout the park. The routes, parking areas, count times and dates are shown in Table 1. This document covers all but the Park Loop Road route which is reported separately. Depending on the route driven, we made counts every 60 minutes or every 90 minutes on these dates: July 2, 3, 20, and 30 and August 1, 9, 15, and 17. These were all days with good weather. Other dates were scheduled but cancelled due to poor weather or staffing shortages. We made a variety of notes about where cars were parked on the shoulder, oversize vehicles, and anything else that seemed relevant.

Name of Route	Park Loop Road	Visitor Center – Rt. 233 – Rt. 198	Beech Mtn Pkg – Rt. 102 – Long Pd	Seawall – Bass Hbr Light
Parking Areas	Numerous: from Paradise Hill Road at Rt. 233/Cadillac Entrance to Park Loop Road to Otter Cliff Road and back.	Visitor Center Duck Brook Bridge Eagle Lake Giant Slide Parkman Mtn Norumbega Mtn Upper Hadlock Brown Mtn Lower Hadlock	Beech Mtn Ikes Pt Acadia Mtn St Sauveur Mtn Echo Lake Ranger Camp Long Pond Valley Cove	Seawall Seawall Picnic Area Wonderland Ship Harbor Bass Harbor Lighthouse
Drive/ Count Start Times	1000, 1130, 1300, 1430	1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500	1000, 1130, 1300, 1430	1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500

Results

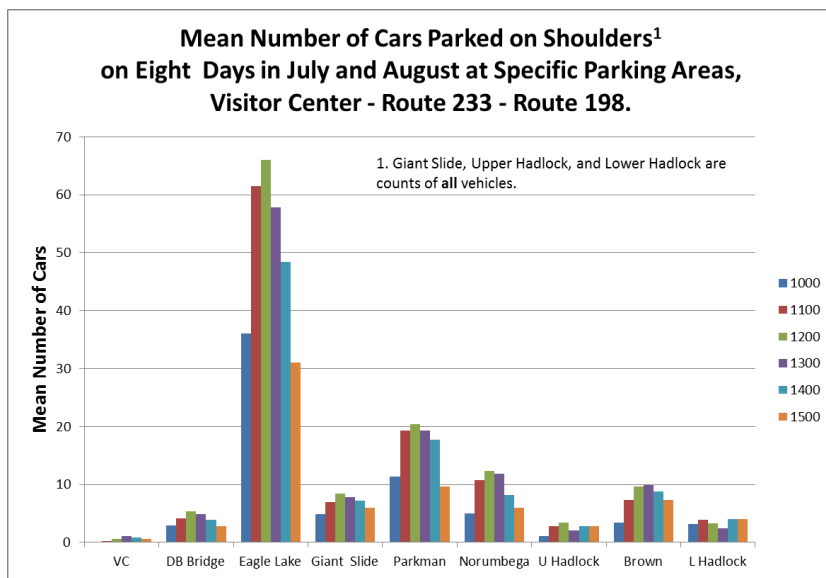
We report the data for each site in tables of mean and maximum counts by the hour along with some specific notes we made about where cars were parked at each site (e.g. which side of road, which side of the entrance to the parking lot), along with other notes made by the observers.

Note that each pair of graphs below is on a different scale.

Visitor Center – Route 233 – Rt. 198

We added the Visitor Center to this route on July 3 after the exceptional overflow parking on July 2, but we never saw that kind of parking overflow during our subsequent observations.

Note that each pair of graphs below is on a different scale.



Capacities

VC -- 265

DB Bridge -- 15

Eagle Lake -- 32

Giant Slide -- none?

Parkman -- 13

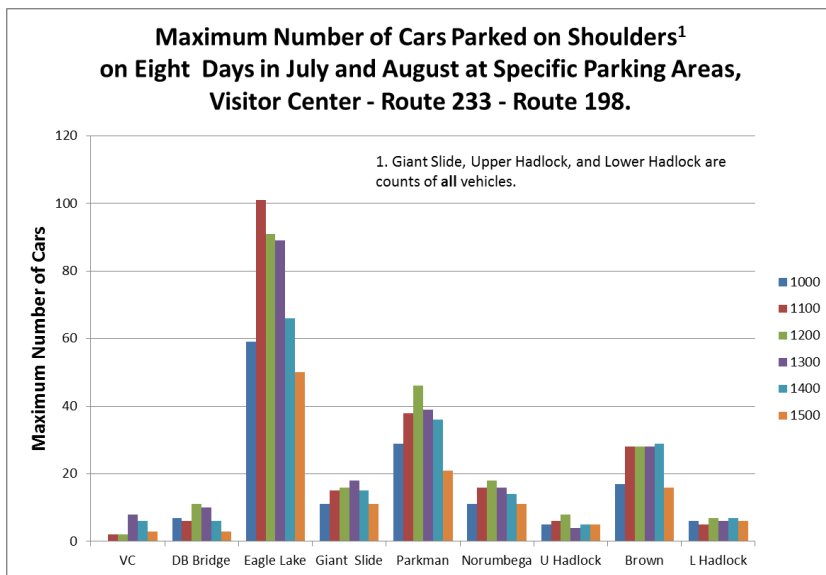
Norumbega -- 14

U Hadlock --3

Brown -- 14

L Hadlock -- 4??

The mean number of cars counted on the shoulders at Eagle Lake was highest at 1200 hours (n=66).



The maximum number of cars counted on the shoulders at Eagle Lake was 101 at 1100 on August 9.

Parkman Mountain routinely has 30 cars parked on the shoulders and sometimes more than 40.

Norumbega Mountain routinely has 10 cars parked

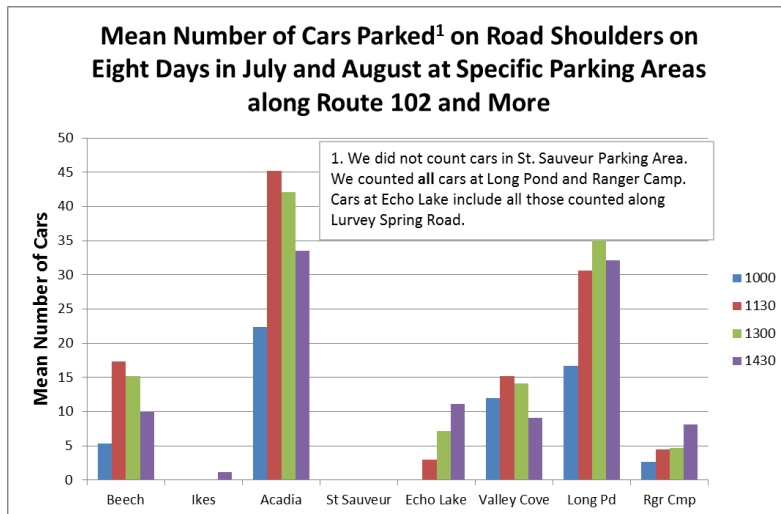
on the shoulder and sometimes 15-18.

The mean number of cars parked at Brown Mountain for each hours was relatively low (5-10) but one day (8/9/17) we counted more than 25 for four hours in a row.

Notes for Visitor Center – Rt. 233 – Rt. 198

1. We never saw cars parked on BH water facility lands at Duck Brook Carriage Road Bridge.
2. We saw cars parked along Rt 233 east of the Duck Brook Road (towards Bar Harbor) once (8/9/17, n=4 cars) in eight days. (We counted seven there on one return trip.)
3. We counted cars parked along Rt 233 west of the carriage road bridge 4/8 times. These were cars parked on the hill or on old Rt 233, and some were parked for the Breakneck Road.
4. We counted cars parked on both east and west sides of Rt 198 at Parkman Mtn 4/8 times.
5. We counted cars parked on the east side (Sargent Mountain) of Rt 198 at Norumbega Mtn 4/8 times. They were always on the west shoulder.
6. We never counted cars parked on the west side of Rt 198 at Brown Mtn. Those parked on the east side were always north of the parking lot and never south.
7. The No Parking signs on Rt 198 at Parkman Mtn and Brown Mtn were never violated.
8. We observed long lines for the Island Explorer at the Visitor Center most of the day on 7/3/17.
9. It was typical to see at least 4 RVs total parked in the RV spots on either side of the VC parking area. The most we saw was eight. On the busiest days (like July 3 when they filled it), cars parked in the RV spaces at the Visitor Center. Most of these RVs were small to medium in size and not giant rigs.
10. We observed one school bus parked at the Upper Hadlock Pond parking area.
11. At the Duck Brook Carriage Road Bridge, paved spaces were often available (sometimes many) when cars were parked on the shoulder. Some of these cars likely never drove further to check for empty spaces.

Beech Mtn Pkg – Rt. 102 – Long Pd



Capacities

Beech--27

Ikes--13

Acadia -- 17

St Sauveur --6??

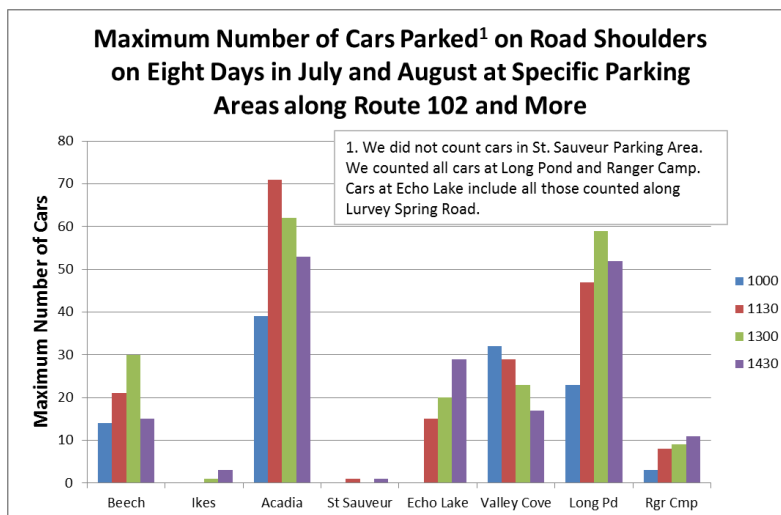
Echo Lake -- 110

Valley Cove -- 11

Long Pond -- 5

Ranger Camp -- 5??

At 1130 and 1300, the mean number of cars parked at Acadia Mountain on the shoulder was more than 40.



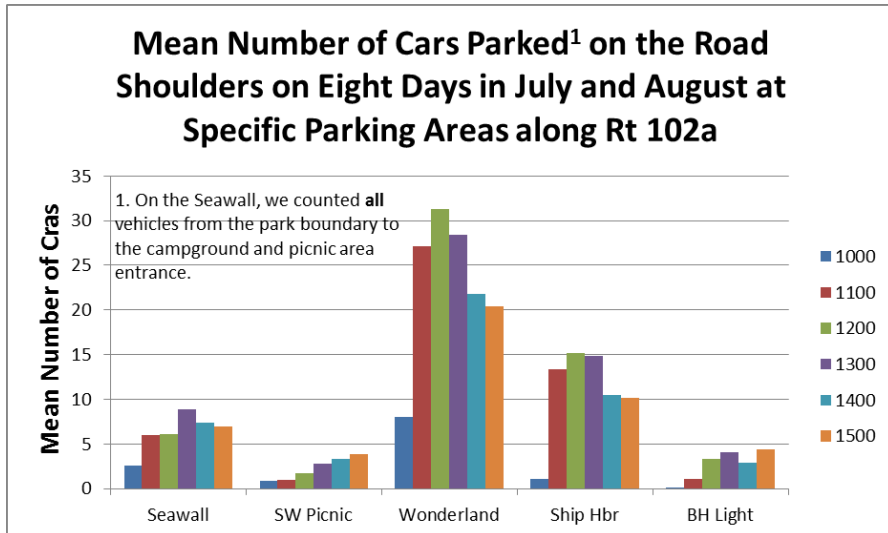
The mean number of cars overall parked at Long Pond was more than 30 at 1130, 1300, and 1430.

The maximum number of cars counted on road shoulders at Acadia Mountain was: 71; at Beech Mountain: 30; Echo Lake 29; Valley Cove 32; Long Pond 59; and Ranger Camp 11.

Notes for Beech Mtn Pkg – Rt. 102 – Long Pd

1. At Acadia Mtn we observed cars parked on both sides of the road 6/8 times.
2. At Acadia Mtn we observed cars parked N and S of the entrance 4/8 times. The other 4 times cars were parked to the N.
3. We observed cars parked on Lurvey Spring Road 6/8 days.
4. We observed cars parked on both sides of the Echo Lake Beach Road 3/8 times. Some of these could have been far up the road towards Route 102 in pulloffs. Sometimes 10 or more were parked along Lurvey Spring Road.
5. At Valley Cove we observed cars park on the N side of the road 6/8 days and on both sides 2/8 days (there are some No Parking signs on the south side).
6. At Valley Cove we observed cars park on the E and W sides of the parking entrance on 6/8 days and on the E side only sides 2/8 days. They were never observed only W of the parking lot entrance.
7. On 2/8 days we observed cars parked on both side of the road leading down to Long Pond. On 6/8 days they were just on the uphill, or exit side. Sometimes they extended past the entrance to the "upper loop."
8. On 7/8 days at Long Pond, cars were parked in the "upper loop" by the town shed.
9. At Long Pond, twice we observed boaters having difficulty launching.
10. We observed RVs parked at Acadia Mtn twice, and buses at Ikes Point twice (one was school bus from Camp Beech Cliff).

Seawall – Bass Harbor Lighthouse



Capacities

Seawall -- ??

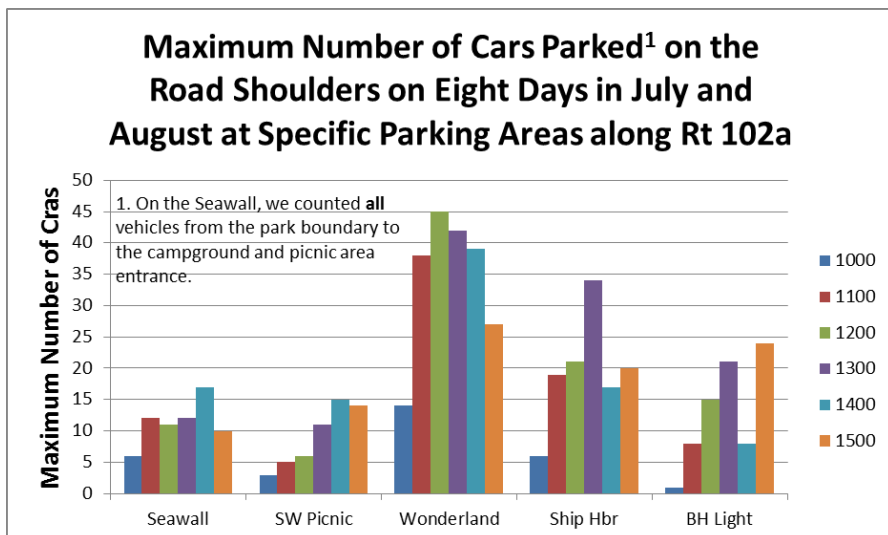
Seawall Picnic -- 20

Wonderland – 8

Ship Harbor – 20

BH Light -- 26

Most of the time, Wonderland had about twice the number of cars parked on the shoulder as Ship Harbor, but its paved parking area is much smaller.



At its busiest, Wonderland had an average of 25-30 cars parked on the shoulder, and Ship Harbor about 10-15.

The maximum number of cars observed on the shoulder at Wonderland was more than 35 from 11am to 2pm.

The maximum number of cars observed on the shoulder at Ship Harbor was 34 at 1300 hours (once), but the more typical maximum for other hours was about 20.

Notes for Seawall – Bass Harbor Lighthouse

1. At Wonderland and Ship Harbor we observed cars parked on both sides of the road 8/8 days.
2. We observed RVs parked at Ship Harbor, Wonderland, and Seawall Picnic Area on one or more of the eight days.
3. On 7/2 many big groups came to walk at Wonderland.
4. On 7/3, two buses were observed at Seawall Picnic Area (type not recorded).
5. Observers have noted vehicles parked in Gotts gravel/rock pit and at the 102a intersection and walking in to the Bass Harbor Lighthouse. As many as 15 people were observed walking in during one hour and as many as three vehicles parked out at 102a.
6. Gott's dump truck came in at 2pm one day to the Bass Harbor Lighthouse parking area and patiently waited for clearance to pick up the dumpster.
7. Commercial vehicles (not IDd,. RVs, and buses were observed at most locations at least once.
8. On 8/1 two cars parked on the east shoulder at Bass Harbor Lighthouse reduced the traffic to one lane with cars waiting and caused gridlock. On more than one occasion up to 16 cars were counted waiting in line to enter the lighthouse parking lot. Observers waited 14 minutes once to get in and turn around.
9. Some observers reset barricades at the lighthouse on several days. Based on the counts, the barricades worked pretty well most of the time, but caused traffic back ups for cars entering the parking lot.
10. On several days, the busiest time at Seawall Picnic Area was later in the afternoon.