



VISITOR SATISFACTION AND VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK: 2015



Thunder Hole, July 2010

Charles Jacobi, Natural Resource Specialist

March 2015

Acadia National Park Natural Resources Report Number 2016 - 5

SUMMARY

The response rate for the visitor survey card in 2015, our fourth year with lock boxes and on site surveys, was 96%.

Acadia National Park scored 99% on satisfaction for the overall quality of visitor facilities, services, and recreation opportunities.

The combined evaluation criteria scores for park facilities, services, and recreation opportunities were 99%, 97%, and 98% respectively as well. As always, visitor satisfaction with restrooms and commercial services had the lowest overall evaluation scores (4.2 and 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5 respectively). Their associated satisfaction measures (good and very good combined) were 84% for rest rooms and 83% 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.

Acadia National Park scored 68% on visitor understanding of the significance of the park based on word recognition coding by the consultant, and 84% based our own analysis. This last score is still considerably lower than previous years.

Sixty-three percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 22% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. These percentages are low compared with previous years. Eleven percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 8% 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 = 70%), followed by recognition of its recreation opportunities (mean = 32%). Recognition of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources is much less common, though much improved over 1998, with means of 15% each.

The lock box and the computer word recognition protocols have resulted in fewer matched answers to the significance question, probably because people are filling it out on-site with less time to think.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
METHODS.....	1
SAMPLING SITES.....	1
LOCK BOX PROTOCOL	2
SURVEY CARD ADMINISTRATION	2
VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)	2
VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE (GPRA GOAL IIB1)	3
OTHER COMMENTS	4
RESULTS.....	4
VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)	4
VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE (GPRA GOAL IIB1)	5
OTHER COMMENTS.....	12
CONCLUSIONS.....	14
REFERENCES	15
APPENDIX 1: UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO REPORT.....	16
APPENDIX 2: SURVEY SITE GUIDELINES	22
APPENDIX 3: SIGNIFICANCE KEYWORD LIST	23
APPENDIX 4: ANSWERS TO SIGNIFICANCE QUESTION.....	26

TABLES

TABLE 1: Location, Day, and Time for 2015 GPRA Card Distribution.	3
TABLE 2: Response Rate, Overall Visitor Satisfaction Rating and Ratings for Combined Facilities, Combined Visitor Services, and Combined Recreation Opportunities 1998–2015.	6
TABLE 3: Visitor Satisfaction Ratings for Facilities, Visitor Services, and Recreation Opportunities 1998–2015 ...	7
TABLE 4: Percent of Responses Matching at Least One, Two, Three, or Four Acadia Significance Statements, 1998-2015.....	10
TABLE 5: Percent of Responses with Specific Matches to Acadia Significance Statements for Scenery, Recreation Opportunities, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Resources, 1998-2015	11

Some Significance Comments

Extraordinary coastline with exceptional mountain/forest trails near shore.
This park is so wonderful and accessible especially for children. Learning and conversation.
Protection at unique ecosystems/landscapes areas of historical significance, protection of wildlife.
Untouched coast line preservation.
Unique environment. Geological and biological diversity. History.
Mountains and the amazing seashore. Preserving these from commercialization and urbanization.
Preservation of natural resources.
It's beauty needs to be preserved. Push for less cars.
Would love to have more parking available in Acadia!

Some General Visitor Comments

Restroom crew does spectacular job.
Amazing trail work.
Hand sanitizer in restrooms is appreciated but seems toxic, try for fragrance free.
Please consider a different more natural hand cleaner.
Restrooms?! (long lines).
Needs more restrooms for a national park.
More restrooms are needed at trail heads.
Toilets and more trail head parking areas.
More parking at great head!
Parking in summer very difficult to near impossible to find.
More parking.
As more people use the park, may want to limit access to some areas to protect wild life.
We would like to see a mandatory shuttle system during peak times to reduce traffic.
More parking.
Parking parking parking!
The park has an amazing ability to accommodate many people making it's beauty available.
The park is overcrowded. My experience had been impacted by the number of people i see. More parking!
Far exceeded carrying capacity. Need political will to manage capacity.
Parking is rough i hate seeing cars parked in rv spots.
Beautiful, crazy busy at jordan pond.
Please-no plastic bottles sold in park.
Get local people to run the services.
Beautiful park, excellent fee of \$20, great free busses.
We need a new visitor center/interpretive center.
The visitor center is insufficient. It is loud, crowded, and only consists of basic information desks.
All my friends had a great time, it was my idea.
Love this place, this is the third time we are here as a family, we come from michigan.
Feels like home.

I recommend you read all the comments. These are just my selections. There are many about camping, facilities, and interpretive services, and many positive general impressions

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, 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. 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, we compile data prepared by the Pacific Consulting Group (PCG) from the Visitor Survey Card Data Report (see Appendix 1), the results of their Significance analysis and our own analysis, and the Other Comments offered by respondents all in one place. We also offer historical data in several tables for comparative purposes.

METHODS

PCG 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 2 for specific site guidelines and sampling protocols). We usually started by surveying every visitor group and adjusted as needed 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.

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 greatly increased 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 stop 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 due to inclement weather and/or low visitor traffic. Surveys were evenly distributed between weekdays and weekends. At three sites, we had to return a second time to complete 50 survey cards.

VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)

PCG reported the results for the closed-ended questions about facilities, services, and recreation opportunities (Appendix 1). 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 2015 GPRA CARD DISTRIBUTION.

Location	Date/Day	N	Time	Frequency
Echo Lake	8/02/15, Sunday	50	1300 – 1700	every group
Sieur de Monts	8/06/15, Thursday	34	1515 – 1400	every group
Sieur de Monts	8/10/15, Monday	11	1300 - 1700	every group
Sieur de Monts	8/13/15, Thursday	7	1410 - 1515	every group
Ship Harbor/Wonderland	8/07/15, Friday	50	1300 – 1700	every group
Blackwoods CG	8/09/15, Sunday	25	0800 – 1200	every site
Seawall CG	8/09/15, Sunday	25	0810 – 1150	every site
Sand Beach	8/11/15, Tuesday	25	0900 – 1155	every group
Thunder Hole	8/11/15, Tuesday	7	0945 – 1200	every group
Thunder Hole	8/14/15, Friday	18	0925 - 1100	every group
Jordan Pond Area parking lots	8/15/15, Saturday	50	1315 – 1645	every group
Eagle Lake	8/19/15, Wednesday	25	0800 – 1200	every group
Brown Mountain	8/19/15, Wednesday	10	0800 – 1200	every group
Brown Mountain	8/21/15, Friday	40	0800 – 1200	every group
Beehive Trail	8/22/15, Saturday	25	0800 – 1200	every group
South Bubble Trail	8/22/15, Saturday	25	0900 – 1145	every group

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. Through 2013, we analyzed these comments ourselves to match them with one or more of the four significance statements from the Acadia National Park Government Performance and Results Plan listed below (National Park Service 1997). We revised these significance statements slightly based on visitor responses in 1998 and 2001 (2001 revisions are in *italics* below).

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*.

Beginning in 2014, PCG transcribed these significance responses and conducted a computer word search analysis based on them. For the 2015 surveys, we provided PCG with an exhaustive list of words related to the original significance statements. For example, we included all permutations, versions, and synonyms of the word beautiful. This list is in Appendix 3.

OTHER COMMENTS

We established eleven categories of comments for the second open-ended survey question which asked visitors to tell us anything else they wished. We sorted the comments into the appropriate categories, although there is always some 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 verbatim.

RESULTS

The data presented in Visitor Survey Card Data Report from the PCG 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 (+/- 6%) 95 out of 100 times.

The response rate was 96% (384/400 survey cards) thanks to the lock boxes. There were some costs to this that will be described below.

The respondents were 53% female and 47% male. Forty-nine percent were between the ages of 41 and 60. There were 57 refusals to participate, 23 males and 34 females. Some of the reasons given were: no time; catch the bus; in a hurry; not interested; and going for a hike. We estimated the ages of people that refused to participate, and it appeared that slightly less than half of them were under 41 years old. The percent of these refusals is quite a bit larger than the percent in the respondent sample. Results should be interpreted with caution.

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). Table 2 also shows the combined facilities, combined services, and combined recreation opportunities scores for 1998 – 2015. The three combined evaluation criteria scores for 2015 were 99%, 97%, and 98% respectively.

Table 3 shows the scores for each of the individual criteria from 1998 – 2015. In 2015, visitor satisfaction with restrooms and commercial services had the lowest overall evaluation scores (4.2 and 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5 respectively). Their associated satisfaction measures (good and very good combined) were 84% for rest rooms and 83% 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. However, scores for these items have generally been more consistent in recent years. Evaluations for the visitor center, walkways and trails, employee assistance, and outdoor recreation have remained more constant since 1998.

VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE (GPRA GOAL IIB1)

Of the 384 returned surveys, 268 had relevant and usable responses to the Significance question. The RSG score for significance was 68% using the word search method. I reviewed their list, reclassified many answers, discovering in many cases they omitted references to beauty. I also removed two answers I judged as unrelated to significance that their word search had classified as significant. My re-scoring showed that 84% of surveys with responses to the significance question had at least one match (224/268). This is a 7% improvement from last year but still below scores from most previous years. The reason for this is probably that visitors have less time to think about significance while completing surveys on site. Verbatim answers are in Appendix 4.

The percentage of surveys with one, two, three, or four matches from 1998 – 2015 is shown in Table 4. In 2015, 18% of visitors had at least two matches to the significance statements, 2% had at least three matches, and 0% had four matches.

Table 5 shows the percentage of surveys matching each individual significance statement from 1998 – 2015. Classifying these gets somewhat messy because many answers must be interpreted and overlaps are hard to separate. In 2015, sixty-three percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 22% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. Eleven percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 8% knew it was significant for its natural resources. These percentages are low compared with most years before the introduction of the word search and lock box protocols. The time constraint may again be the cause. Fifteen years of data consistently show that visitors most often recognize Acadia is significant for its scenery (mean = 70%), followed by recognition of its recreation opportunities (mean = 32%). 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 the changes in how the Visitor Survey card is administered (lock box) and how the data is analyzed and compiled (computer word recognition) have significantly affected the results. 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

**TABLE 2: RESPONSE RATE, OVERALL VISITOR SATISFACTION RATING
AND RATINGS FOR COMBINED FACILITIES, COMBINED VISITOR SERVICES, AND COMBINED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998–2015.**

			Overall Visitor Satisfaction		Combined Facilities		Combined Visitor Services		Combined Recreation Opportunities	
Year	Response Rate ¹ 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
2014	96	385	99	4.8	99	4.7	99	4.7	99	4.8
2015	96	384	99	4.8	99	4.7	97	4.7	98	4.8
Mean	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	98	4.8	92	4.5	92	4.6	97	4.7

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 1998–2015

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
2014	95	4.7	94	4.6	84	4.2	99	4.9	94	4.6
2015	96	4.7	95	4.6	84	4.2	98	4.8	95	4.7
Mean	95	4.6	91	4.4	82	4.2	98	4.8	923	4.5

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 1998–2015 (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
2014	97	4.8	92	4.6	94	4.7	89	4.4	97	4.8
2015	98	4.8	92	4.6	96	4.7	83	4.3	95	4.7
Mean	96	4.8	91	4.5	94	4.6	85	4.3	93	4.7

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 1998–2015. (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				
2014	96	4.6	99	4.9				
2015	92	4.5	98	4.9				
Mean	93	4.5	99	4.9	99	4.8		

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, 1998-2015*															
# 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	2014 n=273	2015 n=270	2016 n=	2017 n=	2018 n=	2019 n=	2020 n=	2021 n=	2022 n=	2023 n=	2024 n=	2025 n=	2026 n=	Mean
At Least 1 match	92%	77%	84%												92%
At least 2 matches	30%	21%	18%												33%
At least 3 matches	3%	1%	2%												4%
At least 4 matches	0%	0%	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, 1998-2015*															
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=273	2015 n=270	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%	55%	63%												70%
Recreation	29%	18%	22%												32%
Cultural Heritage	17%	13%	8%												15%
Natural Resources	20%	14%	11%												15%

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

tradeoff is a high response rate, which makes the evaluation results for facilities, services, and recreation opportunities much more reliable. The new analysis methods are intended to provide better scoring consistency servicewide. They have also caused us to load up the keyword list with everything under the sun in an effort to achieve a higher score. See the preface of this report for a few of the more interesting significance comments. Appendix 2 contains all the verbatim significance responses.

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. Many “other comments” can also be found in Appendix 3 which has all the significance comments, many of which are unrelated to significance. Remember these are qualitative comments and should not be construed as representative of all park visitors.

Facilities and Maintenance. We are impressed by signage, ---- of park, lack of litter, and opportunities to enjoy nature; Amazing trail work; Bathrooms are clean; A very clean and enjoyable park; Very clean and neat overall. Well maintained trails and up to date maps; Great hiking trails, well marked and managed; Clean bathrooms; More benches along coastal trail/Jordan Pond; Better trail marking; Bathrooms at Thunder Hole were nasty; Best facilities of any park we have visited; Need better signs on trails; Trail location on sandy beach not marked well; Restroom crew does spectacular job; Very clean, trails well maintained;

Facilities and Services Needed. Make better bathrooms; Need more places to buy passes; Hand sanitizer in restrooms is appreciated but seems toxic, try for fragrance free; Please consider a different more natural hand cleaner; Restroom on the South Bubble ----; Hard to find convenient food out of Bar harbor; showers; The bathrooms could be upgraded, outdoor showers ---- at sand beach, covered picnic tables; Would like to see different trails with different color markings; Restrooms?! (Long lines); Water fountain's and Water fountains; Needs more restrooms for a National park; More restrooms are needed at trail heads; I would include more picnic areas for families; More parking at Great Head! Toilets and more trail head parking areas

Concessions. Jordan Pond was excellent; Please-no plastic bottles sold in park; Get local people to run the services; Pop overs! (Don't serve w/ them);

Campgrounds. Wish there were showers here at Seawall campground; Booking site system needs work!; Blackwoods toilets are gross, and the quiet policy isn't really enforced; If they could add a central shower it would be awesome; Hot showers at campground; No showers and dish washing facilities; Nothing else. We are happy campers; We would like showers in the campgrounds; Need to improve recycling types of materials at campgrounds and dishwashing facilities at the campground; Free firewood very nice; We love it here. I've been here many times and hiked mountains, carriage trails and love camping here; Warn families about group campsites; I wish I could camp here more than 14 days in May to October season; Camping fees

when we arrived-confusing to our group (additional fees?); Need some work on camping facilities. A ---- net to have any nearer to the water; Blackwoods is our favorite vacation destination; Picnic bench at site 81 getting dangerously unstable. Someone could get burned; Campsite can have better tent pad;

Resource Management.

Congestion/Crowding/Visitor Experience. We love its natural beauty and non-commercial existence; Parking in Summer very difficult to near impossible to find; Great facilities, great hiking; Bike route ---- ---- ---- to carriage trails; More parking; Love the carriage paths; As more people use the park, may want to limit access to some areas to protect wild life; We would like to see a mandatory shuttle system during peak times to reduce traffic; Fabulous hiking!; More parking; Parking parking parking!; Please tell people to keep DOGS off the trail!; The park has an amazing ability to accommodate many people making it's beauty available. Thank you; The park is overcrowded. My experience had been impacted by the number of people I see; Should have more parts open in fall, winter and spring; More parking!; Far exceeded carrying capacity. Need political will to manage capacity; Parking is rough I hate seeing cars parked in RV spots; Beautiful, crazy busy at Jordan Pond. Excellent experience overall;

Fees. Beautiful park, excellent fee of \$20, great free busses; Offer pass for less than 1 week;

Buses. Transportation (bus) poor; Love Island Explorer; Bus service great idea but standing room only made it unusable; We love the island explorer; Good bussing system, clean overall;

Interpretive Services. Restore ranger programs to the level before Congressional cutbacks; Map could be improved; I wish there was an established astronomy group area club; Timing of trail would good (like trail "a" takes 3-5 hours); Needs a new visitor center!; Have a top make for bike routes; We need a new visitor center/interpretive center; More please! Post videos of programs on You Tube!; More people need to know all that's available; More readily apparent information about the bus system; Visitor Center interp. staff able to answer detailed questions re history; Better job explaining how bus system works; Better trail designation on park map. Thanks; Please provide educational references for program which fill up quickly--night program; Love the Junior Ranger, hikes, accessibility; A bit more detail on the trail descriptions would be great; Need trail descriptions; Need better instructions at Visitor Center!!!!; The visitor center is insufficient. It is loud, crowded, and only consists of basic information desks; Obtaining info was very easy/fast when needed; Wish the movie in visitor center had more factual info on park and history;

Employees. Excellent ridge runner; Very nice people; Rangers are always approachable and very knowledgeable; The staff is doing a great job; Hire more employees!;

General Impressions. Keep up the good work!; Thank you. Excellent park overall! ;N/A. Keep it up!; Wonderful, will be back; Keep it beautiful!; Great!; Keep up the good work!; Hurray for the park; No, we are enjoying every minute; Love Acadia; We love it here. Keep it

up!; Love it; Great park!; Beautifully preserved; No, everything is great. Thank you; We love it here! Great family park; All my friends had a great time, it was my idea; Wonderful; Come every summer for 10 days to 2 weeks (that should say something); I've enjoyed it; We had a great visit; Beach, mountains, hikes, deer, lakes, ocean. Has it all. Thank you!; Keep up the good work; Our third time here. Great experience; This is one of our favorite places to visit and come here every other year. So beautiful and accessible!; Beautiful park well maintained; Feels like home; Fabulous; We love it here; Good job, thanks!; We come there almost every year! Every visit brings something new; Keep it up; It's one of our favorite places; Everything has been wonderful; Very beautiful!; We LOVE Acadia!; One beautiful place!; I love coming here, it's beautiful!; Everything was amazing; Most unique park (national) or otherwise we have ever visited. Extremely enjoyable and pleasant; All good!; Very happy here; Thank you; It was a pleasure; Love this place!; Love it!; Keep up the good work!; We love it. Please preserve it's beauty; Very nice; We enjoy this area and I love it; We absolutely love Acadia-thank you for all you do!; Love this place, this is the third time we are here as a family, we come from Michigan; Just beautiful; Absolutely beautiful!; Everything has been great so far!; We have loved everything thank you!; It's perfect. We love it!; We had a wonderful stay; Running here for a week has been one of my favorite times of the year; Good hikes, opportunities, kind people; Great for 20 yrs. Dive Ed's program was great; Very great place to play outside!; Gorgeous place. Very well kept up;

CONCLUSIONS

The 2015 GPRA survey showed that Acadia National Park could hardly do better at satisfying visitors. Because of the changes in analysis however, we scored less well than most previous years on visitor understanding of 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.

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: UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO REPORT

Acadia NP 2015 Visitor Survey Card Data Report



Introduction

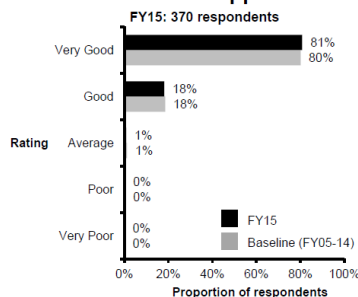
To assist the National Park Service in complying with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), a visitor survey was conducted in 335 units of the National Park System in FY15. The survey was developed to measure each park unit's performance related to NPS GPRA Goals IIa1 (visitor satisfaction) 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 FY15 data (shown in black) with a ten-year baseline data (FY05-14) 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 FY15 GRPA 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 96% with 384 total visitors responding to the survey.**

Overall Quality of Facilities, Services & Recreational Opportunities

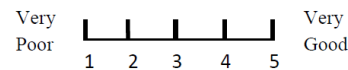


FY15: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

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 FY15 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.



- The higher the average evaluation score, the more positive the visitor response.
- Graph percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

FY15 GPRA Reporting Measure for Goal IIa1

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

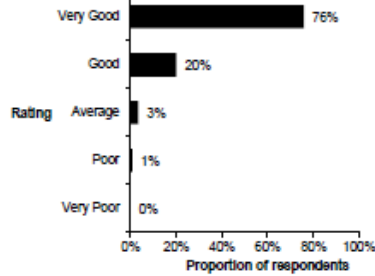
99%



Acadia NP Park Facilities

Visitor Center

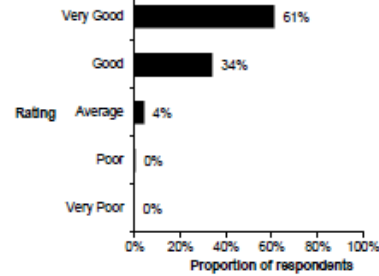
FY15: 289 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 96%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Exhibits

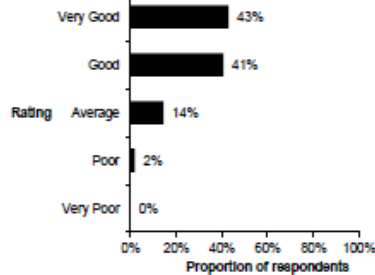
FY15: 281 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Restrooms

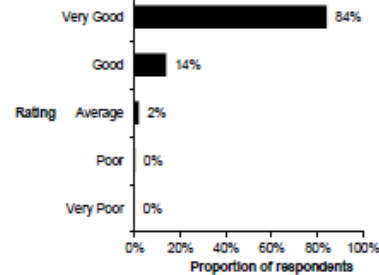
FY15: 352 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 84%
Average evaluation score: 4.2

Walkways, Trails, and Roads

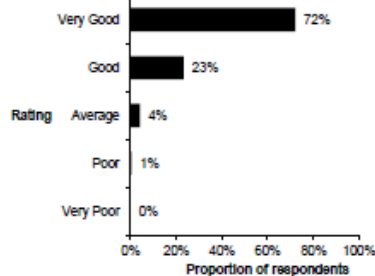
FY15: 376 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Campgrounds and/or Picnic Areas

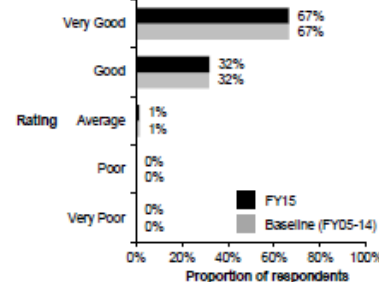
FY15: 194 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Combined Park Facilities

FY15: 341 respondents (based on 5 indicators)



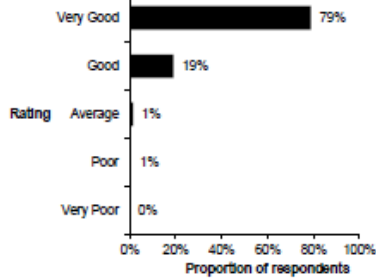
FY15: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.7



Acadia NP Visitor Services

Assistance from Park Employees

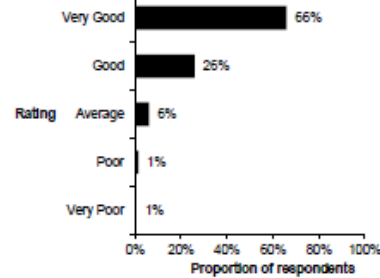
FY15: 337 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Park Map or Brochure

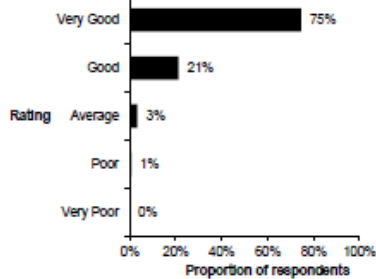
FY15: 363 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 92%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Ranger Programs

FY15: 150 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 96%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Commercial Services in the Park

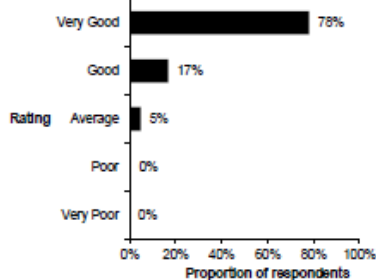
FY15: 244 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 83%
Average evaluation score: 4.3

Value for Entrance Fee Paid

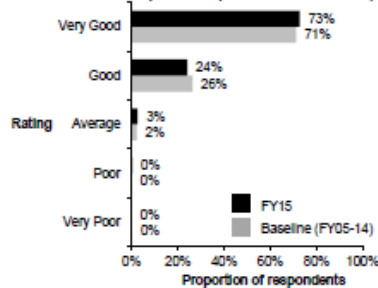
FY15: 358 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Combined Visitor Services

FY15: 339 respondents (based on 5 indicators)



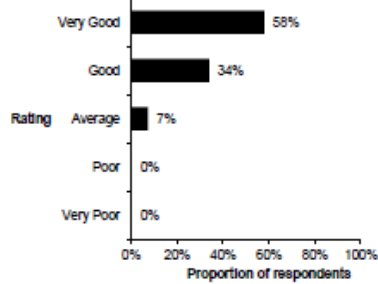
FY15: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.7



Acadia NP Recreational Opportunities

Learning about Nature, History, or Culture

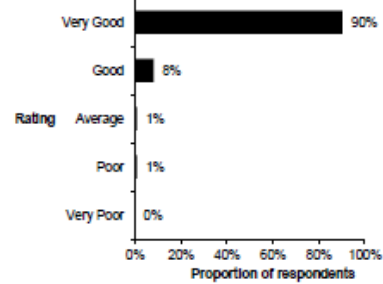
FY15: 283 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 92%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Outdoor Recreation

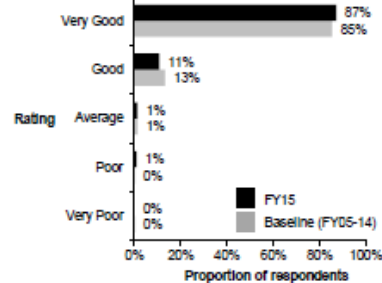
FY15: 358 respondents



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.9

Combined Recreational Opportunities

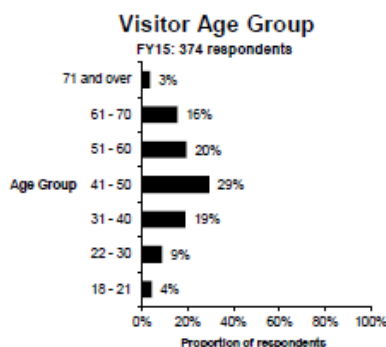
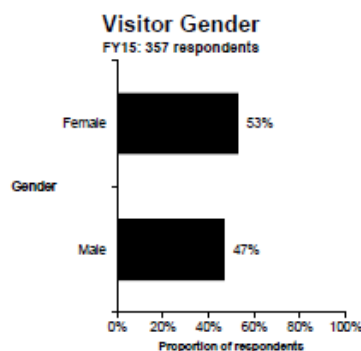
FY15: 365 respondents (based on 2 indicators)



FY15: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.8



Acadia NP Visitor Gender and Age Group



Research Methods

Survey cards were distributed to a random sample of visitors in this park during the period August 2 - 22, 2015. The data reflect visitor opinions about the NPS unit's facilities, services, and recreational opportunities during the survey period. Visitors at the 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 $\pm 1.0\%$ with 95% confidence. This means that if the different samples had been drawn, the results would have been similar ($\pm 1.0\%$) 95 out of 100 times.

The combined indicators are an average of several individual indicators. The average is based on the indicators within the grouping that have responses. For those combined indicators based on five indicators, the average for each respondent is only calculated if at least three of the indicators have responses. For the combined question based on two indicators, the average is only calculated if at least one of the indicators has a response. These respondent averages are then transformed into the same 5 point scale where 5 is Very Good and 1 is Poor, based on a logical classification of the rating scale.

For more information contact Beruia Novich at Pacific Consulting Group
bnovich@pcgfirm.com - (650) 327-8108

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

The Visitor Survey Card Project



The Visitor Survey Card Project Pacific Consulting Group



643 Bair Island Road, Suite 212
Redwood City, CA 94063 • (650) 327-8108
www.pcgfirm.com

APPENDIX 2: 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 3: SIGNIFICANCE KEYWORD LIST

Scenery	Recreation	Cultural	Natural
aesthetic	access	American	Animals
aesthetics	accessibility	British	biodiversity
archipelago	accessible	broken stone roads	biological
beautiful	activities	conservation	biology
beauty	activity	conserve	birds
boulders	adventure	conserved	bog
Cadillac	affordable	conserves	bogs
coast	all	create	clean air
coast line	appreciate	created	clean water
coastal	bicycling	creation	communities
coastline	bike	cultural	community
conservation	bikes	cultural landscape	coniferous
conserve	biking	culture	conservation
conserved	bird watching	cultures	conserve
conserves	boating	design	conserved
development	bridges	designed	conserves
domes	canoeing	designed landscape	conserving
east coast	carriage ride	donate	deciduous
environment	carriage road	donated	diverse
erratic	carriage roads	donation	diversity
fjord	climbing	donations	eagle
fjord	coast	donor	eagles
future	coastal	donors	ecological
geographic	driving	Dorr	ecology
geographical	educate	easement	ecosystem
geography	education	European	ecosystems
glacial	educational	first national park in	environment
glaciated	enjoy	east	environments
glacier	enjoyable	fishing	falcon
glaciers	enjoyed	forebears	falcons
gorgeous	enjoyment	French	fauna
granite	escape	gift	flora
high	everyone	gifted	forest
higher	exercise	heritage	forests
highest	experience	historic	geologic
hill	experiencing	historical	geological
hills	families	historically	geology
island	family	history	habitat
islands	footpaths	indigenous	habitats
lake	fun	land	intertidal
lakes	hike	maritime	legacy
landscape	hiker	native	mammals
landscapes	hikes	park	marsh
lovely	hiking	philanthropic	marshes
mountain	horse	philanthropists	meadow

Scenery	Recreation	Cultural	Natural
mountain mountainous mountains natural night sky noncommercial non-commercial not commercial ocean oceanside panoramic peak peaks preservation preserve preserved preserves pristine protect protected protection protects rugged Sand Beach scenery scenic sea seas seashore seaside shore shoreline tallest Thunder Hole tides topography undeveloped undisturbed unspoiled view views viewsheds vista vistas wild wilderness wilds	horseback kayak kayaking learning meditation motor roads opportunities opportunity outdoor outdoors path paths peace peaceful people picturesque public publicly quiet recreation recreational reflection relax research rest riding rock climbing running science scientific scientifically seashore seaside shore shoreline shores sightseeing solitude stargazing swimming teach teaching therapeutic therapy tide pooling trail trails	philanthropy preservation preserve preserved preserves preserving private private land resources Rockefeller rustic rusticators settlers stonework Wabanaki	meadows migratory natural nature plants pond ponds preservation, preserve preserved preserves pristine protect protected protection protects resource resources science species subalpine sub-alpine summits system systems tide pools tidepools tradition trees unspoiled varied variety various wetlands wildlife wood woods

Scenery	Recreation	Cultural	Natural
wonder wonderful wondrous	understand understanding visitor visitors		

APPENDIX 4: ANSWERS TO SIGNIFICANCE QUESTION

Preserving green space is important.

It's unique and beautiful.

Best park east of MS.

Extraordinary coastline with exceptional mountain/forest trails near shore.

To remind us of the fragile beauty of our land and the need for assiduous shepherding of them.

Gorgeous, pristine landscapes ---- variety of elements --- protected for safety ----.

Beautiful NE Coastal landscape.

I am grateful that this land is available for citizens and visitors. European Settlers first landed on these shores-what an amazing vista they encountered as we do now.

Dark green woods, cod in Summer, Ocean not too far away.

Main jewel. Offers an outdoor experience that is accessible to all. Educates about the importance of maintaining beautiful places.

Immense.

Very significant to future generation.

Keeping it natural, natural beauty.

Maintaining beauty for generations to come and affordable prices.

Setting aside mountainous areas near ocean.

Since most of the sea ---- is private, ANP gives people the opportunity to explore the ocean with plenty of public access.

Vast site-area.

This park is so wonderful and accessible especially for children. Learning and conversation.

Geology-you should talk about this more!

Historic trails and mountain views.

This park ---- the treasure that previous generations preserved for us, it is our job to preserve it for future generations.

Trees, natural landscape.

Protection at unique ecosystems/landscapes areas of historical significance, protection of wildlife.

It's a heaven. It's a great breath taking place.

A place to enjoy nature.

Natural beauty.

Appreciation of USA's natural treasures.

First park to be donated public land from private enterprise individuals.

Scenic beauty. Nature preservation.

It is very unique.

It's a gorgeous part of the country!

Preservation of environment.

Preserve wild species.

The beauty of the Maine Coast is available to all.

It is a national treasure.

To preserve the natural coastline for the future.

Very good.

Beauty, scenery, water, trees.

Natural beauty, recreation, history.

The nature represents what ---- to most people.

Jewel.

Preserving nature and natural history in the North East.

To be here for future generations.

It's a national treasure, both natural and historic.
Cosmic beauty.
It's a huge and beautiful resource that is worth supporting financially.

Outdoor recreation.
Preserving rocky coast and woods of Maine.
Natural beauty, history, recreation available on the East Coast.
Untouched coast line preservation.
Preservation of natural beauty.
In offering multiple habitats, Acadia promotes the heart and essence of the "Maine" experience.
Not sure!
Lots of history, great scenery, awesome running/hiking. We need to preserve as much land as possible.

Great views, ocean, lakes and hills.
All national parks have national and international significance.
Preservation of eco systems.
Preservation of unique and beautiful scenery, wilderness preserved. Animals sheltered.
Great good hiking.

Great opportunity for families to bond.

The beauty of the sea and the mountains.
Nature presentation, sport.
Shows what people can do to support natural areas and their use.
History, nature passed on to generations.
East coast park, diversity of landscape.
Helping to keep wild areas wild.

It's nature.
Natural beauty, access to public.
Preserving nature, educating people about nature conservancy.

Only national park on East coast. Close to millions of potential visitors. Family friendly in so many ways.
History of indigenous cultures.

The sand and the water very refreshing.

Access to ocean and viewing stars at night.
Back to nature! Opportunity to escape.
It's one of the better known parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite and Grand Teton.
Historically, scientifically, morally significant.
Connecting people to natural resources.
A unique combination of natural beauty and historic significance.
This park is beautiful!
Beauty, education, rest.

Maintaining raw coastal beauty, having a part that is on the ocean. Also, Acadia is my daughter's name.

Preserving scenic outdoor activities.
Beauty to Maine. Natural habitat specimen.
Beautiful scenery and education about nature.
Access to all.
Celebrate and preserve nature and its beauty.
We have very little wilderness left for public consumption, and these national parks allow the public to enjoy such scenes.
Preservation of local wildlife/ecosystem, access to scenery.
Beautiful scenery.

It has a huge significance. What a beautiful place.
Great preservation.
Very significant. It is a true beauty.
The aesthetics available to the public.
We come every year. It is our absolutely favorite park and is significant historically.
Enjoying natural habitat.
Glacier, carved mountains on the East Coast-very important! Loved Sehoodie Point!

Physical attributes-ocean to mountains, fun for everyone.

More tours.

Beautiful nature and wildlife.

Its beauty.

Unique experience on the East Coast.

Scenery, geology.

History.

It's the jewel of New England.

Keep natural beauty of the US.

Unique beauty and wildlife that is native to the island.

Access to coastline and recreational opportunities.

The carriage roads are like no other trails anywhere in the northeast.

Preservation and link to natural beauty that is quickly disappearing all around us.

Unique environment. Geological and biological diversity. History.

A wonderful place where the mountains and ocean unite.

Great! One of the best.

The natural beauty unlike anywhere else in the country.

Mountains and the amazing seashore. Preserving these from commercialization and urbanization.

Experience that ---- our appreciation of the environment and the need to protect it.

It preserves the rugged natural beauty unique to this coast and this country.

Natural beauty of the nation. Freedom to explore nature.

One of a kind-very special!

The beauty, pristine, cleanliness.

Conservation and preservation of America's natural beauty.

Great ocean views.

Opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, education provided on landscape and history of area.

It is a beautiful reminder how life should be.

Can't wait to come back and learn more about how this park will continue.

Historical and geographical.

Enable the public to access and appreciate the natural environment.

Fantastic. What a great tribute to the state.

Great beautiful area, breath taking visual.

All of the park educational, national landscape the ---- trails, hiking operations.

It's pretty.

It's beauty.

Very significant because of its many varied views. Preservation of natural beauty of area and still allow public access.

It preserves our countries natural ----.

History-nature-news are spectacular.

Mountains running into the sea.

Amazing to preserve things and didn't sell everything on the island preservation of nature.

Ocean along with park and biking for carriage trails.

Beautiful scenery.

To preserve the beauty of America.

Most beautiful landscape on eastward.

For people worldwide to see our gorgeous country.

Geology with big tides should be noted more.
Preserved ---- shoreline.

Beauty, ---- history, geology.
Heritage and nature blending together and
remaining of national pride.

Keep the beauty.
It's natural beauty, the view, the fact that you are
the highest up ---- and most Eastern in the US.
Preservation of public land.

Yes.

It is a beautiful example of an unspoiled ----.
Preservation of natural resources.

Preserving the beauty of nature.
Nature and accessibility to see the nature.
Beautiful, natural resource-learning about
geological history-natural history-all around
amazing.
This is a great place for families to see the beauty
of nature.
Very important.
It is a unique landscape. Also the history of the
island and the trails is important to our country. It
is important to have our natural areas preserved.
America the beautiful!
Please make annual park passes more widely
available as a lot of places did not sell them. Also
v. difficult to get through on telephones to find out
if ranger program was on ---- to ----. Please
improve tel. access. Also would like the program
on trees back on the program.

The only reason I drove from Phila. was to visit the
park. So it is significant to me.
Example of Northern rocky shoreline-non
commercial beauty.
Very good, we need areas protected from
development.

East Coast beauty/history of settlement of area.
Preserving and experiencing nature.

Very important!

Keeping nature nature.
Preservation of beautiful natural environment.
Opportunities for people to learn, enjoy and
protect natural wonders. Plus man made paths
are beautiful.

Showing the beauty of the NE Coast.
East Coast resource.

Great opportunity to see Northeastern nature!
Preserving a beautiful area so that it would not
be commercialized.
A wild and beautiful park on the East Coast.
Protecting the natural beauty of the area.
Educational opportunities for children and adults.
Nature preservation.

Recreational ----

Unique nature characteristic of ---- part of US.
Unique opportunities for hiking near the ocean.

Preserve and ---- w/ younger generations unique.
Nature preservation.

If offers an insight into the beauty and
significance of the preservation of nature.
A natural paradise preserved despite
global/national over development. Acadia:
essence of Maine.

Not sure!
Beauty of nature.

The landscape history of this area.

Preservation of the New England Coastline.
Therapy.

Very picturesc views-love the bike trails.
Appreciating nature and it's a great experience to
get away from the City.
Protected natural resource.

It's beautiful.

Natural beauty.
Preserving the beauty of nature.

Preserved and recreation. National treasure.

Beauty of landscape. Trails-horse roads.
Natural beauty, plus history of American wealth
post-industrial revolution makes for a unique
experience.
The first place to see daylight on the east coast.
The highest peak on the east coast.
Nature!

Allows citizens to appreciate nature.
Beautiful and well preserved.

The trails and ----. ----. Night ---- program.

Significant-a gem. recognition of ---- of nature. ----
glacier history, Maine.
Very critical for all people to have access to
beauty.

Preservation.
Beauty.

The history and beauty.
Acadia helps to preserve a natural environment
that is rapidly disappearing from the planet.

It's priceless for our youth to understand and
appreciate. We LOVE it here!

The land.

Preserving the forest is essential to the country.
We need green space!

Tops.

Very significant.

Nature, rock ---- history ---- ----.

Great.

This park preserves beautiful scenery for all to
enjoy. Excellent park!

The area is unique as it offers pristine
diversification and recreational opportunities.
Access to wonderful hiking trails and wilderness.
Exceptional representatives of one of our most
precious ---- and beautiful natural resource.

History ----

Very significant-always important to preserve
areas of national beauty.

Beautiful scenery

Very significant. Everyone needs to come see it.
Last of the pristine wilderness on the eastern
seaboard.

Very beautiful.

I ---- of what this area was like long ago. Our
children ---- this area.

It provides the opportunity for people to learn
about the environment and appreciate the need
for conservation.

Outdoor recreation, historical value, nature.
Access to a diverse, beautiful and ecologically
significant areas in nature, habitat and history.
Gifts ---- and challenges concepts of people as
part of and in ---- with nature.
Great park culture fan time.

The significance is immense!

We love national parks.

Wildlife, natural beauty, biking and hiking, carriage roads.

Respecting nature and making accessible safely.

Availability for everyone.

A fantastic preservation of the wilderness and a testament to the preservative powers of super rich oil barons.

Very important to know northeast area.

Lakes and mountains, coastline.

It's wonderful, ---- too low conserved area, like to have one on the last ---- significance in every way. A wonderful refuge from the ---- a ---- of the East Coast

Maine's only national park! To enable all to experience Maine's natural beauty. Also ---- carriage roads are unique.

Shows numerous Eastern environments. Not many places like it.

Very significant.

Whaling history and cultural significance in ---- Preservation of natural resources.

Open to all people.

To be enjoyed by public and off limits to more vehicles.

The costal experience is unique, combining sight seeing, hiking, watching of wildlife.

Acadia is one of the most beautiful and accessible parks in the nation.

Beauty, trails are great.

Trees, rocks nature.

Save for all to see in the future.

Preservation of Coastal areas and Habitat.

The preservation of land and its natural beauty.

Unique Oceanside experience.

Preservation.

High-historic tradition.

Landscape, history, coast.

Carriage trail system provides amazing accessibility, and the Island Explorer is amazingly helpful.

It's a beautiful place that should be preserved. This exemplifies the beauty of the original US.

Historic and natural.

It displays our country's pride, beauty, and natural wonder.

It's beauty needs to be preserved. Push for less cars.

The preservation of a unique natural habitat.

Protection of eastern shoreline.

Maintains the coastal environment for all.

The natural beauty of the surroundings.

Our natural resources are limited, and beautiful, and must be protected and used wisely.

Would love to have more parking available in Acadia!