



VISITOR SATISFACTION AND VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK: 2016



Near Thunder Hole, July 2012

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SUMMARY

The response rate for the visitor survey card in 2016, our fourth year with lock boxes and on site surveys, was 97%.

Acadia National Park scored 100% 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 99% 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 87% for rest rooms and 84% 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 89% on visitor understanding of the significance of the park.

Sixty-one percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 27% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. These percentages are low compared with previous years. Sixteen percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 14% knew it was significant for its natural resources. Nineteen 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 = 31%). Recognition of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources is much less common, though much improved over 1998, with means of 15% each.

2016 was an incredibly busy year at Acadia with a record 3.3 million visits. There have been sharp increases in visitation for each of the past three years. In 2016, the Cadillac Mountain Summit Road was closed ten times because of traffic back-ups and the Ocean Drive twice. It appears that this has been reflected in an increased number of comments in the surveys about, parking, congestion, and traffic. This is a very coarse measure, but the counts of these types of comments for the past several years were: 2011-4; 2012 - 3, 2013 - 7; 2014 - 10, 2015 -13; and 2016 -18.

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Some Significance Comments

World class hiking opportunities and carriage trails unrivaled.
Mountains and ocean=beautiful.
Nature, beauty, wildlife, preservation, care for the earth, importance, value of HEALTH and taking care of our bodies.
Conservation of environmental and cultural heritage.
To have fun on vacation and enjoy the use of the park. We like to bike the trails in search of the famous water truck. You park it in a different spot each year. It's fun to find.
The unique biozone of mountains to ocean.
Perfect blend of sea, tides and birds. Enjoyed the night sky.
Landscape, wildlife, nature preservation.
A scenic landscape that should be preserved as natural as possible for public enjoyment and inspiration.
Aesthetics-inspiration. Biology. History. Geology.
Conservation. Enjoying nature. Maintaining health and well being.
We live on the Island and love the park and all the business it brings to the island.
This park is a great example of the life and culture of Maine and New England. The rocks/sights to see are not like anything else I have ever seen! I love this park!
Awesomeness.

Some General Visitor Comments

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. I counted 18 loves, 9 wonderfals, 5 awesomes, and one amazing.

Like what was done to Thunder Hole to make it more accessible
 Wider shoulders on roads would be great
 Disappointed with change of management at Jordan Pond House
 More parking although we understand the limitations of that
 To many cars parked on road ways (loop road near here)
 Bubble Pond should be accessible to all
 Please again look at parking spaces
 Parking at some of the busiest areas was very difficult! It hindered our ability to enjoy some of the park
 We traveled with a small RV and it was difficult traveling around
 Getting crowded. We need a North Woods Nat'l monument
 Wonderful place but bus service is over crowded. Many people left behind, not right
 More access to naturalists
 Want more opportunities to learn about the history and creation of ANP
 Rangers are always nicest and most helpful people

INTRODUCTION

In 2016, 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. PCG sends an Excel spreadsheet with all the Significance data. 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/DROP 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. Within a few years we began to use cardboard drop boxes instead of lock boxes, and we simply empty the boxes and mail the completed surveys ourselves. Visitor responses remain anonymous.

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 slightly as shown in Table 1, in due to inclement weather and/or low visitor traffic. Surveys were evenly distributed between weekdays and weekends. At two sites, we had to return a second time to complete 50 survey cards. The protocol is to return as soon as possible on the next weekday or weekend day.

TABLE 1: LOCATION, DAY, AND TIME FOR 2016 GPRA CARD DISTRIBUTION.

Location	Date/Day	N	Time	Frequency
Eagle Lake	8/02/16, Tuesday	25	0830 – 1015	every group
Brown Mountain	8/02/16, Tuesday	13	0830 – 1130	every group
Brown Mountain	8/03/16, Wednesday	12	0900 – 1140	every group
Blackwoods CG	8/06/16, Saturday	25	0800 – 1015	every site
Seawall CG	8/06/16, Saturday	25	0800 – 1200	every site
Beehive Trail	8/07/16, Sunday	25	0815 – 1215	every group
Bubbles Trail	8/07/16, Sunday	25	0810 – 1145	every group
Jordan Pond Area parking lots	8/11/16, Thursday	50	1200 – 1700	every group
Sieur de Monts	8/12/16, Friday	50	1200 – 1630	every group
Ship Harbor/Wonderland	8/14/16, Sunday	50	1300 – 1630	every group
Sand Beach/Thunder Hole	8/15/16, Monday	50	1300 – 1630	every group
Echo Lake Beach	8/20/16, Saturday	37	1300 – 1630	every group
Echo Lake Beach	8/21/16, Sunday	13	0900 – 1130	every group

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.

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 listed below from the Acadia National Park Government Performance and Results Plan (GPRA) (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, we provided PCG with a key word list and they conducted a computer word search analysis on it. Scores were lower than previous years in 2014 and 2015 because our key word list was not exhaustive. This list now includes all permutations, versions, synonyms, tenses, plurals and more for each of the above Significance statements and 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 97% (387/400 survey cards) thanks to the drop boxes. There are some costs to this that will be described below.

The respondents were 60% female and 40% male. Sixty-seven percent were between the ages of 41 and 60. There were 39 refusals to participate, 20 males and 19 females. Some of the reasons given were: no time; not interested; live here; and small children. Three claimed a language barrier. We estimated that 18 of the refusals were age 41 or over and 21 were 40 or under. Based on the gender and age of refusals versus the respondents, results should be interpreted with caution.

VISITOR SATISFACTION (GPRA GOAL IIA1)

The most important result was that 100% of visitors were satisfied overall with the quality of appropriate facilities, services, and recreation opportunities. Table 2 shows these overall scores and the combined facilities, combined services, and combined recreation opportunities scores for 1998 – 2016. The three combined evaluation criteria scores for 2016 were 99%, 97%, and 99% respectively.

Table 3 shows the scores for each of the individual criteria from 1998 – 2016. In 2016, visitor satisfaction with restrooms and commercial services had the lowest overall evaluation scores (4.3 and 4.2 on a scale of 1 to 5 respectively). Their associated satisfaction measures (good and very good combined) were 87% for rest rooms and 84% 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 387 returned surveys, 296 responded to the Significance question and 263 of these had relevant and usable responses for a score of 89%. Verbatim answers for Significance are in Appendix 4.

The percentage of surveys with one, two, three, or four matches from 1998 – 2016 is shown in Table 4. In 2016, 28% 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 – 2016. The word search function for Significance is messy. I have found inevitable errors but they are few in number and not worth the effort of correction and confusion. The figures reported here are those reported by PCG.

In 2016, sixty-one percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its scenery and 27% percent knew it was significant for its recreation opportunities. Sixteen percent of visitors knew Acadia was significant for its cultural heritage and 14% knew it was significant for its natural resources. Nineteen 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 = 31%). Recognition of the park's cultural heritage and natural resources is much less

**TABLE 2: RESPONSE RATE, OVERALL VISITOR SATISFACTION RATING
AND RATINGS FOR COMBINED FACILITIES, COMBINED VISITOR SERVICES, AND COMBINED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES 1998–2016.**

			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
2016	97	387	100	4.8	99	4.7	97	4.7	99	4.9
Mean	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	98	4.76	92	4.53	92	4.56	97	4.74

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 1998–2016.

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
2016	98	4.7	95	4.5	87	4.3	99	4.8	97	4.6
Mean	95	4.61	91	4.41	82	4.22	98	4.77	92	4.53

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 1998–2016 (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
2016	98	4.8	92	4.6	95	4.7	84	4.2	97	4.7
Mean	96	4.71	91	4.54	94	4.63	85	4.26	94	4.67

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 1998–2016 (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				
2016	97	4.6	100	4.9				
Mean	93	4.52	99	4.85	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, 1998-2016.*															
# 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=297	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%	89%											92%
At least 2 matches	30%	21%	18%	28%											33%
At least 3 matches	3%	1%	2%	2%											4%
At least 4 matches	0%	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, 1998-2016.*															
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=297	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%	61%											70%
Recreation	29%	18%	22%	27%											31%
Cultural Heritage	17%	13%	8%	16%											15%
Natural Resources	20%	14%	11%	14%											15%

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

common, though much improved over 1998, with mean scores of 15% each. Over the 19 years of data collection, the difference between the highest and lowest Significance scores varies from 15% to as much as 30%.

It appears that the changes in how the Visitor Survey card is administered (drop 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 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. See the preface of this report for a few of the more interesting Significance 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. Many “other comments” can also be found in Appendix 4 which has all the Significance comments, some of which are unrelated to significance. Remember these are qualitative comments and should not be construed as representative of all park visitors. Having said that, this year there were many more comments (n=18) about parking, traffic, and crowding. This may be due to the time of survey administration at just one or two sites (perhaps Jordan Pond in the afternoon?), but may well be indicative of what happens on other days.

Facilities and Maintenance. Keep up the great work-especially trail maintenance; The trails are excellent and well marked!; The trail signage is terrible. Need distance and clear markings for all trails from roads; Washrooms are nice and clean; Some trail markings are not well visited; There was a problem on 1 trail imported, it was fixed in 2 days!; Signs are good!; Beech Mt some signs were confusing; Like what was done to Thunder Hole to make it more accessible; Trails on s. west side not marked as well; Cleanest, most wonderful trails, well marked; Trails are extremely well marked and maintained; Trails are well marked but in places Poison Ivy grows close to sides and too many roots and rocks on many; Like the additional bathrooms; We love the natural appearance of the trails, they are all so beautiful and look as though they are part of the landscape; Trails are well marked and well maintained; More bathrooms for trails; Great trail condition; Change Jordan Pond path sign posts. Confusing with Jordan Ponds and Bubble Trail; Restrooms could use updating; Facilities are so clean; Great bathrooms, excellent roads and signing.

Facilities and Services Needed. Clean the bathrooms more of them; Long Pond-bathroom; More signage entering park; Wider shoulders on roads would be great; picnic and restroom areas could be larger;

Concessions. Disappointed with change of management at Jordan Pond House; Make popovers more readily avail.; Improve commercial services; We prefer the Acadia corporation; JP house seems to have gone down hill slightly (service, quality of food, etc) otherwise love Acadia;

Campgrounds. no showers; Don't like sharing a camp site which is split in half; It would be nice to have paid hot showers in the campground; Very clean campgrounds; Please do not sell out reservations of park to a foreign country like at Yellowstone; Showers in camp ground; Bathrooms should have showers-charge and will pay for themselves in a few years!; Only suggestion is better signage for camp sites, but that's really nitpicking; Would love hot showers. Shower would be great; Camping in Sea wall-gravel at sites are huge. (Loud and uncomfortable); Otherwise good; Bathroom water needs to be run longer. The faucets turn off too quickly; Would like some sites with electricity and level; The fire places are world class; We'd love to see showers in the camp ground; Showers would be great. Been coming here for over 20 years; Please ask people to not run cars at the camp site (I think they are charging phones). Bar at camp to lock bikes, method of hanging laundry; Showers in the campgrounds.; It's nice to have sea wall as a quieter option to camp at; Difficult to book camping thru Internet;

Resource Management.

Congestion/Crowding/Visitor Experience. Parking is difficult; Difficult traffic, but bus appreciated; I live the ability to get out and exercise when on vacation; More parking although we understand the limitations of that; Increase the number of parking spots near bubbles; More parking space; Please again look at parking spaces; Too many cars parked on road ways (loop road near here); Need more parking; Very busy; Somehow expand parking; Getting crowded. We need a North Woods Nat'l monument.; Need more parking. Enforce parking. Bubble Pond should be accessible to all; Traffic flow could be improved....; More parking; Great work handling peak season; Parking in summer!; Do you like one-way loop?; Too ---- not enough parking; Parking at some of the busiest areas was very difficult! It hindered our ability to enjoy some of the park; We traveled with a small RV and it was difficult traveling around (in camp with other parks). And sometimes people told different audio; Cell service would be good to communicate plans; cell phone signals; Great hiking; Hiking is awesome; Wonderful place for families to escape modern day distractions!; Upper lot at Sand Beach should not be a dead end; Dangerous for bikes; biking opportunities; No reservation system; The hiking trails have inspired me to pursue mountains; Short hikes, would like longer hikes; Ship Harbor Trail a very easy walk for almost all dogs/---- to have trails with different ----; I loved the rock climbing; Beehives ----SHOULD BE ONE WAY!; Thunder Hole was tricky-more warning; Keeping the carriage ; trails car free is awesome; Fun jumping on the rocks; The water is really pretty and cold!; Road - --- in Echo Lake is too loud, you could limit the speed to 25 mph.

Fees. Single pay passes please.

Buses. The Shuttle Bus is a live saver!; more shuttles; Great job-more buses; Shuttles are great!; On busy days some more buses to loop routes would help; More runs of shuttle to Sea Wall!; Wonderful place but bus service is over crowded. Many people left behind, not right; I think everything is sufficient, adding shuttle services certainly beneficial; bus service helpful. Bike express people very helpful and great service!; Buses are excellent; Kudos on the bus.

Interpretive Services. More information about fauna and flora; H2O, wild flower ----, cool facts; The 2 rangers who gave talks on National Park Thurs. and Bats: on Friday. Excellent job! Thank you; Keep the ranger programs going! But bring back the Bemer Log!; Road map needs to be clearer; Great family program; You should add more detail in the map; More access to naturalists; Better map at Visitor Center; Ranger programs for stars-more days; Brochure not well marked for trail head; Service at the visitor centers was great!; Better map with more details; Add mileage to park map; Put island map back in visitor center; Want more opportunities to learn about the history and creation of ANP; More Ranger Programs; History; Hand out food trail map when entrance in park; No free hiking brochure. We have always used them in the NPS. What happened?; Better trail pictures on actual trail; Ranger activities for kids used to be more excessive (e.g. geological hike to bubble rock).

Employees. All the Rangers are nice; Great job Ranger Ben; Everything here is extraordinarily beautiful, nicely maintained and staffed with friendly and knowledgeable people; Rangers, Ridge Runners-so very helpful!; Beautiful, well maintain educated and friendly employees; Great knowledge/expertise from volunteers and rangers; Every one was very helpful-my husband has had MS for 25+ yrs; All of the employees were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. Thanks!; Rangers are always nicest and most helpful people.; Becca was nice!

General Impressions. Love biking the ---- and trails; Friends of Acadia are wonderful. Great 100th anniversary celebration; Love it all. Grew up here and visit often; Love it here; It's wonderful!; Wonderful here; We love it!; Awesome!; It's a great place to visit. Do an info video, put it on a Massachusetts Things To Do, Chronicles; It is wonderful; Please keep the focus on preserving green spaces, over expansion of commercial ventures; It's a super place and the U.S. ---- value and fund!; Love it!; We love the park!; We will be back; Everything is gorgeous!; Thanks!; Awesome; Love it here; 1st visit-we'll be back; Keep up the good work!; Thank you for all you do!; Great area; Doing great job!; It is totally wonderful; Very friendly; Thank you!; Amazing park!; Great job!; Excellent, been coming 25 years and we still not finished, so many trails to explore; Wonderful!; Awesome!; Great experience!; Very nice experience. Came twice in summer 2016; Very good; Loved it; Beautiful park and well maintained; We enjoy coming once a year; Love it here!; Beautiful park, very well kept, quite impressed on our first trip here!; Outstanding!; Been coming for 20+ years. Always visit Acadia Park; Thank you for your work; Keep up the outstanding work. Preserving this place is important; Fabulous place; It was a great trip; We all cherish our National Parks. May we pass them on as good or better than we received them; It's great can't wait to come back; Organized and clean; Great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors; Excellent. Never had a bad NPS experience; I love this place!; We loved it; All great; Outstanding try to return each year for over 20 years; It's heaven on earth; Keep it up!; We love living here and raising our little girl here; They were great! Thanks so much; Great park; Thank

you!; Great experience-hope to come back!; Wonderful experience-loved Baker Island; We've been visiting for over 30 years and love ANP. Biking carriage roads, hiking, kayaking!; Keep it up. This park is beautiful!; It's perfect!; Great park; Second year here. We love it. Safe, fun and super clean; Keep up the good work!; Nope! Everything has been really great so far. Thank you for all your hard work!; It was a great experience on our journey through the New England States; We absolutely love it here. Thank you!; Keep up the good work!; Had a great time! Will come back; Loved it all!; We love Acadia!; God's country; This is one of our country's jewels; Everything is great here!; Beautiful and clean; Happy Centennial!; Fantastic recreational opportunities; Everything here is great!; We absolutely love it. Thank you!; Acadia is my favorite National Park! Fantastic, clean, great trail; They deserve your support. Please make kayaks available.

CONCLUSIONS

The 2016 GPRA survey showed that Acadia National Park could not do better than its score of 100% for the overall quality of visitor services, facilities, and recreation opportunities. Eighty-nine percent of visitors were able to identify at least one component of the four significance statements based on the key word lists. 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 the significance of cultural heritage and natural resources has improved substantially since 1998, it is still relatively low.

With the completion of the Foundation Document for Acadia National Park (2016), the significance of the park is now stated in a more detailed manner than the significance statements developed and articulated in 1998 for GPRA. However, the key word lists are exhaustive and a review of them suggests that they capture all the ideas expressed in the Foundation Document.

2016 was an incredibly busy year at Acadia with a record 3.3 million visits. There have been sharp increases in visitation for each of the past three years. In 2016, the Cadillac Mountain Summit Road was closed ten times because of traffic back-ups and the Ocean Drive twice. It appears that this has been reflected in an increased number of comments in the surveys about, parking, congestion, and traffic. This is a very coarse measure, but the counts of these types of comments for the past several years were: 2011- 4; 2012 – 3, 2013 – 7; 2014 – 10, 2015 -13; and 2016 -18.

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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.

National Park Service

- 2016 Foundation Document, Acadia National Park, Maine. U.S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. September. 74pp.

APPENDIX 1: PCG REPORT

Acadia NP 2016 Visitor Survey Card Data Report



Introduction

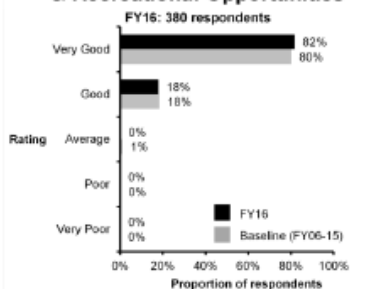
To assist the National Park Service in complying with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), a visitor survey was conducted in 335 units of the National Park System in FY16. The survey was developed to measure each park unit's performance related to NPS GPRA Goals IIa1 (visitor satisfaction) 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 FY16 data (shown in black) with a ten-year baseline data (FY06-15) 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 FY16 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 97% with 387 total visitors responding to the survey.

Overall Quality of Facilities, Services & Recreational Opportunities

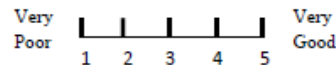


FY16: Satisfaction measure: 100%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

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 FY16 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.

FY16 GPRA Reporting Measure for Goal IIa1

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

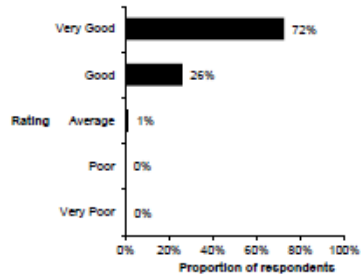
100%



Acadia NP Park Facilities

Visitor Center

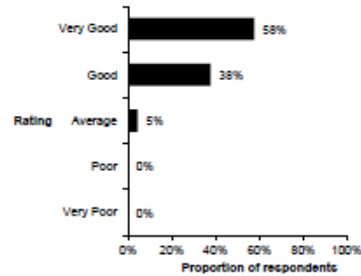
FY16: 312 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Exhibits

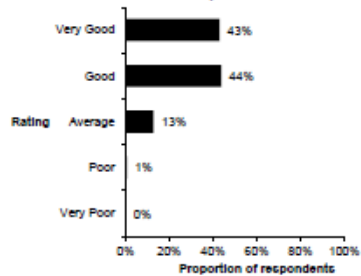
FY16: 288 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Restrooms

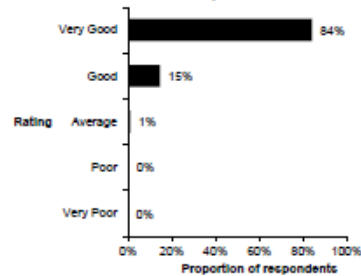
FY16: 352 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 87%
Average evaluation score: 4.3

Walkways, Trails, and Roads

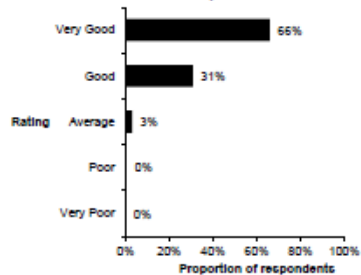
FY16: 383 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Campgrounds and/or Picnic Areas

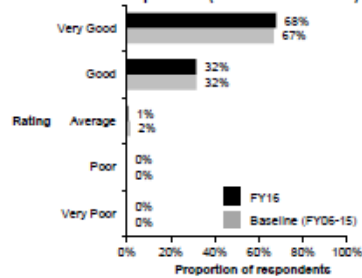
FY16: 202 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Combined Park Facilities

FY16: 354 respondents (based on 5 indicators)



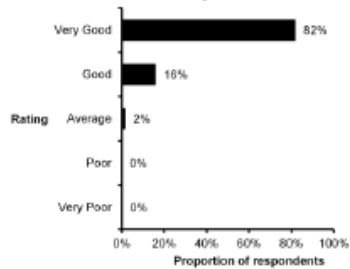
FY16: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.7



Acadia NP Visitor Services

Assistance from Park Employees

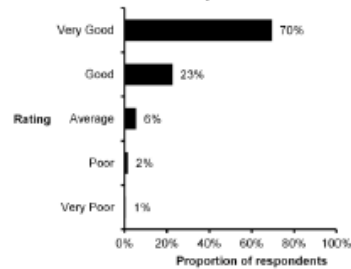
FY16: 360 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 98%
Average evaluation score: 4.8

Park Map or Brochure

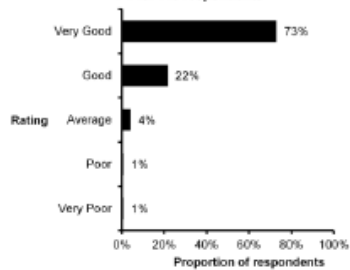
FY16: 362 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 92%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Ranger Programs

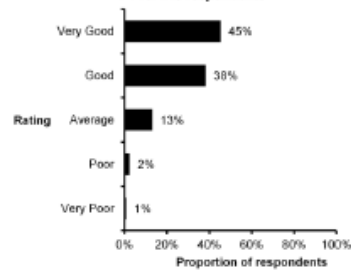
FY16: 148 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 95%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Commercial Services in the Park

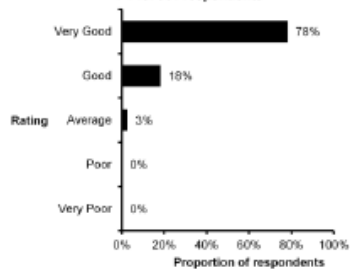
FY16: 245 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 84%
Average evaluation score: 4.2

Value for Entrance Fee Paid

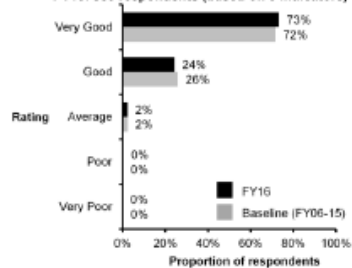
FY16: 361 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Combined Visitor Services

FY16: 355 respondents (based on 5 indicators)



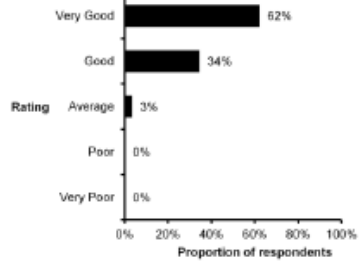
FY16: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.7



Acadia NP Recreational Opportunities

Learning about Nature, History, or Culture

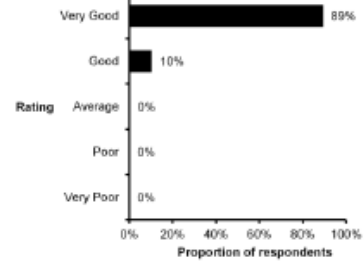
FY16: 293 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 97%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Outdoor Recreation

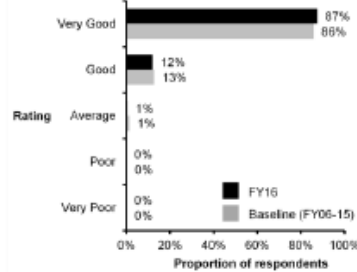
FY16: 367 respondents



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 100%
Average evaluation score: 4.9

Combined Recreational Opportunities

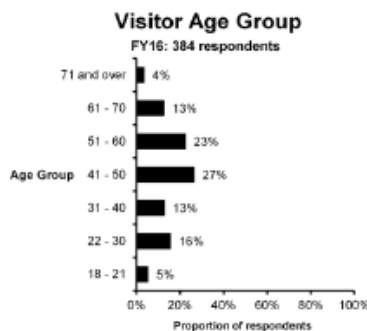
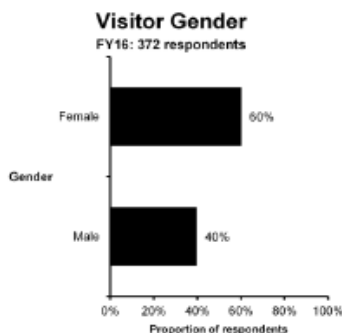
FY16: 375 respondents (based on 2 indicators)



FY16: Satisfaction measure: 99%
Average evaluation score: 4.9



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 - 21, 2016. 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 $\pm 9\%$ with 95% confidence. This means that if the different samples had been drawn, the results would have been similar ($\pm 9\%$) 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 Beruria Novich at Pacific Consulting Group
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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



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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

Natural beauty.	
Top tier outstanding.	
Beautiful views of Atlantic coast.	Conservation! Outdoors!
	1st National Park East of Mississippi Beauty.
It's outstanding natural beauty.	Preserves beauty of Maine coast.
It's important that our country maintain it's open spaces.	World class hiking opportunities and carriage trails unrivaled.
It's a great place to preserve the beauty of this country and get away from the masses.	The preservation and conservation of beautiful Easter coast line.
The national parks are a gift to our nation.	
	Wilderness camping is our nations link to our history and ourselves. Personally our yearly visit here allows me to ret. after a year of not so good work like balance.
Beauty, recreation for all to enjoy! And much hard work to maintain.	
Preservation of national resources, beauty. Availability to visitors.	Only park in NE beautiful views and mix of hiking.
Very significant-great views and shows beauty of our nation.	So much topography in a small area.
It exemplifies perfection in nature.	To show everyone the beauty of Acadia and Maine and to get people to appreciate the outdoors.
Mountains and ocean=beautiful.	
	Preservation of Maine's coastline.
	That is preserves the natural beauty of Maine's coast.
Nature, beauty, wildlife, preservation, care for the earth, importance, value of HEALTH and taking care of our bodies.	The park offers unique views and trails. We also had the opportunity to see a porcupine crossing the road.
	Freedom.
Conservation of environmental and cultural heritage.	The most beautiful corner of the nation.
A chance to enjoy nature in its unchanged purity.	To preserve the natural spaces in US, increase recreational, ---- and spiritual opportunities.
Preserves national wonder.	To show the East Coast.
	It's the first and only East Coast national park.
	It's 100 years old. It was also the first established national park.
To preserve the natural beauty and recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy.	
Very important to treasure and protect for future visitors.	History, recreation.
To have fun on vacation and enjoy the use of the park. We like to bike the trails in search of the famous water truck. You park it in a different spot each year. It's fun to find.	Historical value and opportunity to see Maine's beauty.
	It's an important part of Maine's culture and keeping it natural and beautiful.
The prettiest park, natural vistas I've ever visited.	The national significance is to also recognize that this was once native land-and the need to preserve the land.
The unique biozone of mountains to ocean.	It's a beautiful spot on the US coast.
Gives a place for people all over to visit and enjoy nature and history.	
Very important.	
Beauty.	
	Great park.
Unique natural environment (North Atlantic coast, with mountains and green space, trails).	Maintaining a natural space.
The greatest spot in the East! Love it.	Keeping the beauty of the area preserved for educational and natural opportunities and pursuits.
Shows our commitment to the earth and our environment.	National treasure, preserving nature.
	Preserves nature which of natural significance to the country.

Representative of the area's natural gifts.	The cultural and natural uniqueness of the island and it's surrounding waters.
Preserves unique coastal landscape and way of life.	One of the most famous in US.
I have been coming to the part for 40 years but many people ask for directions because number marks are complicated.	Protect the beauty of these natural areas.
Incredibly important!	Rugged, undisturbed beauty.
Perfect blend of sea, tides and birds. Enjoyed the night sky.	Every preserved nature area has national significance by virtue of it's very existence.
	Gorgeous scenery and wonderful hiking opportunities.
It's an exceptionally beautiful and unique landscape that I hope remains intact for future generations.	It is a gem and we will always come here. It preserves what our nation started with, looked like and should always be preserved.
	Natural resources-ability of people to get out and enjoy how most of Maine used to be.
How beautiful the nature is! It is a pristine, gorgeous land that deserves to be preserved.	Since it's the closest to huge population of people, it's the most important national park. HIGHEST priority.
It is beautiful and national monument.	To preserve this unique land.
Such beautiful place belongs to everyone, so everyone can enjoy beautiful nature of ----	That it is preserved for all people.
Beautiful nature great trails/history.	Historic value and unique beauty, no landscape quite like it.
Maintaining the rocky coast of Maine and surrounding scenic areas, trails, etc.	All views.
The ---- of our nation is indicated in the beauty of this park.	Beauty and uniqueness of natural site.
Wonderful opportunity to enjoy coastal Maine and Down East.	Very important and enjoyable.
	The natural resources-fantastic, ----, mountains, etc. Cultural-generations of native Americans, ---- etc.
First settlers.	
Easy access for everyone to enjoy.	It allows many people to enjoy it's beauty and significance.
This national park is a connection between the efforts of private citizens and the government-Rockefeller to present day.	Beauty of park and ocean.
Protecting nature's wonder.	Teaches that ---- of parks and beauty need to be preserved.
	Outdoor beauty of the US and a place to be active.
	Protect for future generations. Socioeconomic ---- to keep it accessible.
Provides necessary public outdoor space and activities.	The Eastern U.S. was beautiful lands. It's not only the West.
To give access to nature to everybody.	
An opportunity to protect nature and preserve the outdoors for all to enjoy.	For everyone to use and share.
The beauty of nature.	
Keeps the sea shore and mountains open to "we the people".	Coastal beauty and fauna/plants.
The history of establishing Acadia sets an example for philanthropic engagement for everyone.	
To explore the jewel of the area.	No opinion on this issue.
Natural beauty.	Exploring nature.
	Great need.
	Preserving a natural wonder.
A fantastic, beautiful place to help people appreciate natural beauty while recreating.	The natural beauty and buffer area between inhabitant areas and the ocean.
One of the few East coast National Parks with Ocean and Mountains.	Important to emphasize the beauty of U.S.A.
	Beauty, rich history-if researched.
The beauty of Maine.	
28 48 a family tradition to spend a week here. It began in the 80's.	Wonderful!
Preserving the habitats of the Northeast for future generations.	

	Beauty of the park.
Great ---- for generations to come.	Easily accessible to families.
It is a quiet place for people and animals, an example of the effort we should all make to take care of our planet.	Economy of Maine.
Maine culture and Industry.	Landscape, wildlife, nature preservation.
Preserving a natural state for all to enjoy.	Great place for varied experiences.
	Roosevelt, ----, history.
Allowing people to see nature undisturbed.	One of the first National Parks in the Country-also, what amazing trail work!
It holds the tallest mountain in the east, so it is important that US citizens have access.	Oceans rule-unique island mixed with Mts.
Natural ---- to preserve gorgeous scenery.	Preserving our natural land.
Nice to have national park in Northeast.	Natural beauty.
It provides a retreat in nature with preserved vegetation and animal life.	Scenery, history. Park is unique.
Preserving the wild life and beauty of Acadia is a vision kept alive from the times of Theodore Roosevelt.	
Reserved/protected space for people to enjoy.	I'm not a National so can not comment.
We have not been here long enough to give a definite answer, but is definitely one of the most beautiful parks on the East coast.	The different climates and environments all bundled in one Park.
Preservation of natural wonder for all and future.	The continued preservation of this beautiful area and the wildlife in it.
Pristine natural beauty.	It's protecting nature as well as presenting accessible nature for all lots of people.
Rated overall best park in USA for a reason. I've been to most-yes, most. This rates my best.	Pretty significant.
	Conservation of our land resources, and beauty are all important to the Nation.
Preserve nature.	A scenic landscape that should be preserved as natural as possible for public enjoyment and inspiration.
	Aesthetics-inspiration. Biology. History. Geology.
All national parks are significant to the beauty of their country.	The protection of nature itself. The boardwalk on Jesop Path is beautiful and gives plenty of chances to see some animals.
East Coast version of Utah Rockies, great trip great opportunities for outdoor fun.	Very important.
	Preservation of environment, historical significance of pre-WWII established Park and Native American education.
Because we need to protect and preserve such beautiful places, please no commercial signs.	
A treasure for all Americans.	Preservation of the Northeastern landscape.
It represents Maine nature and beauty in it's purist manner.	Ocean and mountains together, the preservation of older historic buildings.
Brings foreign tourists. Also wonderful way to spend vacation.	
It is a gem and a national treasure. So beautifully maintained and so gorgeous to have LOVED every single hike here and hope to come again.	French Explorers (who eventually founded Detroit and NOLA). Eco system of down east.
Very high.	
	To preserve and protect our recreational resources for future generations.
Very beautiful area.	Mountains and Sea combination.
It is unique, beautiful.	It is critical we maintain special places where humans can interact with nature, as undisturbed as possible.
It was set aside for people to enjoy.	It's unique surroundings.
Beauty! Conservation.	
Preservation of land.	Conservation, education and leisure.
Critical. It must be preserved.	To preserve nature and historical areas.
Preserving natural beauty of Acadia for future generations.	Keeping a large area for nature and preservation.
Very important in preserving nature areas for visitors.	It preserves the beauty of the Maine Coast and the Native American culture.

	Keeping the ability for people to learn about our history and natural resources, especially with changes due to climate. The educational opportunities are very good.
	(1) Recreation. (2) Preservation.
Great way to experience our Nation!	Conservation.
I don't know! Do I fail the quiz? It is on the quarters.	Conservation. Enjoying nature. Maintaining health and well being.
Highlights and preserve America's natural beauty.	To preserve a piece of Maine's natural beauty.
	To show the importance of saving our environment.
Really rich Robber Barons needed-tax break and, ----, we all benefit from this flintiness.	Very significant! Great value and trails-unique features.
Of utmost significance.	
First Eastern Park!	
The natural beauty!	National parks are part of our heritage. Their beauty is extraordinary.
Rugged coastline, natural beauty, relaxing feel, unplugged from busy lives.	Its beauty alone justifies its existence. Don't know enough about the history to comment further.
Beauty.	One of the first in nation.
Beautiful place.	Preserve nature.
To enjoy our heritage, nature, relax. We enjoy freedom to have/maintain such beauty, a privilege.	Exceptional natural landscape worthy of preservation.
Very important, critical to our national identity.	Nature conservation.
First national park in the East.	
Pride of USA.	Beauty and clean water-so many trails.
Important for the preservation of natural spaces on the East coast.	Beauty of the Maine.
Preserving the sea shore and nearby environment is very important. I love racoon's!	
Appreciate outdoors, wildlife, nature.	Eastern ocean environment worth retaining for all of us!
	Rockefeller/Carnegie families turned over to government.
Very important natural resource.	
One of our countries most quintessential places for natural beauty, social history, accessibility.	
Combination of natural, historic phenomena, mountains, forests, sea, ----.	East Coast accessibility and the beauty!
Freedom.	
Marine and geological presentation.	Beautiful. Nature is extremely valuable. Scenery, educational opportunities.
Preserving history and nature.	
Get out to see, experience USA natural beauty.	
Gorgeous testament to nature, and value of public/private ----.	
We live on the Island and love the park and all the business it brings to the island.	National treasure.
	A stunning piece of land that has both wilderness and coastline.
Natural resources, beauty.	Beautiful scenery and wildlife.
It is great that it is open and available to all. We love to meet people from all over the country.	History and nature.
Very good!	Natural beauty. Well maintained.
A national treasure! An important part of the NP system as a whole.	Seeing the landscape before it was developed.
National treasure because of the sights.	Significant examples of northeastern forest and seashore as well as life in down-east Maine.
To get Americans to see the natural beauty of their country, and to provide a great escape.	We read about the petition to the White House when it was gifted. Total love of country.
	So sweet climbing and easy accessible hiking.

Lets us see unreal nature.	Excellent East Coast learning opportunity.
Inestimable!	Great East Coast NP.
Unique natural resources, things to see.	The beauty of the ocean and mountains, carriage roads and bike trails and hike trails. Lakes for swimming.
	Only national park in New England in our area.
Parking-Zion system is best.	Preserve the beauty of the coast, educate about the history of Mount Desert.
Excellent park! Great nature opportunity for all ages.	To showcase natural beauty of the Nation! I told some friends who live in other countries and they were jealous that USA had National Parks to begin with.
Very much so.	I'm not sure.
Beautiful area that needs protection. The park is an amazing and breathtaking view all around.	The natural beauty and the efforts clearly to preserve what is here.
Great for clean, healthy environment.	I'm from the Netherlands, I can't answer this one.
Unique beauty of the island-mountains, ocean, lakes, carriage paths. Every one should have the chance to appreciate its unique beauty.	This park is a great example of the life and culture of Maine and New England. The rocks/sights to see are not like anything else I have ever seen! I love this park!
Historical and preservation of land.	Everyone needs to promote conservation-for everyone's future ability to experience nature.
Acadia NP preserves the variety of habitats for animals and nature on the coast.	The wealthy folks who donated this treasure for the rest of us to enjoy can not be understated or under appreciated.
	Awesomeness.
It's a wonderful place to experience nature.	Mountain trails by the ocean.
The preservation of much of the island by Rockefeller.	History of Acadia illustrates early stages of national park system and importance of public philanthropy (would be nice revive).
What a wonderful preservation of such a nice nature resource.	Awesome coastline, pristine forests.
Accessible and beautiful land forever conserved for the enjoyment of all.	The parks are very important part of our national indemnity.
Huge!	A place to reflect an our nation's beauty! a haven, a retreat.
National seashore.	Preservation of wild lands.
Beauty and naturalness i.e. animals in wild.	Preserving the natural beauty of such a gorgeous park.
Pristine America at it's finest, for ALL to enjoy.	
Extra ordinary landscape should be preserved for future generations.	
	All of our national parks are a great asset, and this the most beautiful. -- -- ----.
	Cadillac Mountain.
Necessary and important.	The nature, truly the nature.
Treasure to be enjoyed.	
Nature, wild life, environment.	
A beautiful park. We always enjoy spending time here.	
Nature composition.	
Educating people of outdoors activities and preserving natural resources. Spending time with family and friends.	
Beauty, hiking, nature.	
It's proximity and unique ---- to the Atlantic ocean. It's well preserved old ---, and unique trail system and ----.	
Pristine environment.	
Nature.	