



VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

Acadia National Park

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Monitoring of traffic, parking lot capacities and accessibility
- Traffic flow and spacing events to reduce park crowding

FACTS

47,000 acres
protected

4 million+
visitors per year

MORE INFORMATION

[Acadia VUM Plan](#)

SUMMARY

In 2021, Acadia National Park issued a final transportation plan that will improve visitor experiences and reduce traffic in the park. The plan includes the implementation of commercial tours, buses, and taxis that ultimately will reduce congestion on roads in Bar Harbor, Maine. The expansion of parking lots and the Acadia Gateway Center will improve accessibility for visitors as well as accommodate for busy visitation throughout the summer and fall.

MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The park's health and aesthetic has drastically improved since the implementation of visitor education and the transportation plan. With the influx of tourism, park law enforcement and emergency services have collaborated with local partners such as the Mount Desert Island Search and Rescue team, local town police, Maine State police, US Forest Service, and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Services.

Throughout the park, annual monitoring of popular tourist spots has increased and the connection of trails has also been used to disperse hiking traffic. The park's Hiking Trail Plan addresses several highly trafficked trails throughout Acadia that have been tapered to allow more foot traffic while preserving scenic viewing points and privacy on the trail. Improvements of scenic drives, interpretive activities such as guided walks, Amphitheater programs, and environmental education activities have also aided in the park's success. Spacing educational events has been an instrumental success in reducing park crowding.