



The Great American Outdoors Act is providing crucial funding – up to \$6.65 billion over five years – to fix our national parks’ crumbling roads, decaying buildings, outdated water systems and many more repair needs. This bill, along with other funding sources, is ensuring our parks can continue to welcome millions of visitors each year and protect the natural and cultural resources that tell our nation’s history.

Acadia NATIONAL PARK



Hugging the coast of Maine and protecting the natural beauty of the highest rocky headlands along the Atlantic, Acadia National Park is one of the country’s top-ten most visited national parks.

In 2019, the park supported about \$380 million in economic contributions to the state’s economy. Visitors, who stay an average of three to four days, have access to 27 miles of historic motor roads, 158 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of carriage roads. They kayak and canoe, enjoy boat cruises and evening amphitheater programs, swim at saltwater and freshwater beaches, and experience the park’s natural and cultural diversity. They delight in wildlife sightings, including peregrine falcons and raptors.

Located on Mount Desert Island, due west of Nova Scotia, the park has seen a spike in visitation in recent years—more than doubling in the last decade. Acadia welcomed more than four million visits in 2021. Between June and October, parking lots typically fill up before 9 a.m.

THE CHALLENGE: Unsound, undersized and inadequate maintenance facility at one of the nation’s busiest parks

Acadia’s maintenance building, a cinderblock structure constructed in 1963, is the backbone of the park’s facility management operation. It houses the tools and cars needed to take care of park roads, bridges, restrooms, and campgrounds. Within the facility are the carpentry, plumbing, and electrical shops; two automotive repair bays with lifts; cold storage for snow removal equipment and bulk supplies; and office space.

The building is not sufficient to support the park’s current visitation in a safe way. It was deemed “structurally unsound” more than a decade ago: Its flat roof has deteriorated, and it does not meet accessibility, fire, egress, and code compliance

BY THE NUMBERS:



\$19.9 million

investment from the GAOA to repair projects



\$380 million

in annual economic output



4 million

annual visitors in 2021



158 miles

of hiking trails



27 miles

of roads

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requirements. The facility lacks universal accessibility, has a single restroom for more than 65 employees, and is highly energy inefficient. The existing 14,728-square foot building, out-buildings and associated trailers are woefully undersized for Acadia's operations. More than 20 employees are located in the three temporary trailers and up to 30 are assigned to a garage bay converted to a trails shop. Power tool work areas don't have adequate safety zones or proper ventilation. The potable water is unsafe due to petroleum fuel contaminants.

Addressing the problems in the current facilities would exceed the cost of replacement. Already, those facilities impact operational efficiencies and present risks. Among the concerns: structural failures that could potentially harm employees or damage equipment, and valuable work time spent chasing behind-the-scenes problems like sewage failures, roof leaks, wiring faults, furnace quirks, and false fuel alarms.

THE PROJECT

Through an investment that is approximately \$19.9 million, the Great American Outdoors Act will fund the construction of a new maintenance operations complex at McFarland Hill Headquarters and demolition of more than 20,000 square feet of unsafe, out-of-code, substantially undersized park

“This is a once-in-a-career opportunity for all of us in the national park service to really address these deferred maintenance issues,” said Acadia superintendent Kevin Schneider. “These are America’s treasures. These are the most sacred places in our nation.”

structures. The new maintenance building will be approximately 27,000 square feet with 305,000 square feet of site improvements, including parking, roads, storage, utilities, and septic. The park expects to award the construction contract by the end of fiscal year 2022 and break ground in late 2022 or spring 2023.

THE IMPACT

Demolition of the outdated structures will address over \$4.4 million of deferred maintenance associated with these facilities. The replacement facilities will improve workplace efficiencies; decrease costs of heating, cooling, and other annual operating costs; decrease fuel consumption; protect equipment investments from the elements; address critical health and safety concerns; and improve universal access. The project will also reduce unscheduled emergency and corrective maintenance and other time that

staff could spend in the field, and it will better protect employees and increase morale and retention. This project will move the park's fueling and hazardous materials storage out of the Eagle Lake watershed (the primary drinking water supply for Bar Harbor), reducing the



risk of a potential fuel spill. The new building will also be out-of-sight from scenic overlooks on Cadillac Mountain. When complete, all maintenance trades will be consolidated into one building, including masonry, plumbing/electrical, paint, carpentry, auto repair, carriage road, welding, and trails; support space for storage, foremen/supervisory office space, and restrooms; and bays for auto and truck repairs, automotive storage for parts and tires.

The Great American Outdoors Act is successfully repairing infrastructure at hundreds of parks across the country. However, with a nearly \$22 billion backlog, much more is needed. We urge Congress to extend the Legacy Restoration Fund for an additional five years.

Preserving Our Past.



Protecting Our Future.