



Maintaining Maine State Parks and Historic Sites

In 2021, Maine's State Parks and Historic Sites drew a record of 3.3 million visitors, surpassing the prior visitor record of 3 million in 2020. These visitors and their activities contribute an estimated \$100 million to the state's economy.

To enable Maine's parks and historic sites to continue to welcome more visitors and to support the recovery of the vital tourism and outdoor economy, Governor Janet Mills is investing \$50 million through her Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to make important infrastructure improvements at State Parks and Historic Sites.

Types of infrastructure investments will include:

- **Enhancements to the visitor experience**, such as repairing restrooms and shower facilities, expanding Wi-Fi, and renovating visitor centers and overnight shelters.
- **Improvements to public safety and environmental management**, such as upgrading boat launches, refurbishing playgrounds to meet safety standards, restoring masonry on historic sites, upgrading septic systems, and mitigating erosion on recreational trails.
- **Structural upgrades and deferred maintenance**, such as addressing structural deficiencies in bridges and roads, redesigning park entrance stations, making facilities more accessible, and modernizing equipment at park headquarters.

Examples of specific needs expected to be addressed with Jobs Plan funds:

Camden Hills State Park: Camden Hills State Park provides year-round access to outdoor activities, outstanding hiking trails, and camping. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) plans to use the funding to pave the summit road to Mount Battie, improve grading and drainage of water, replace or renovate trails to improve ADA access, and expand electric hook-ups and water access in the campground.

Reid State Park: Acquired in 1946, Reid State Park is the first state-owned ocean beach in Maine. At 770 acres, Reid is now one of Maine's most treasured State Parks. DACF plans to use the fund to upgrade the bridge to Griffith Head. Poor conditions currently restrict larger vehicles, including school buses, because of safety concerns.

Aroostook State Park and Cobscook Bay State Park: Water supply, plumbing, and septic systems at Aroostook State Park and Cobscook Bay State Park are outdated and

struggling to keep pace with current levels of visitation. DACF plans to use funding to redesign, replace, and overhaul these systems to be able to provide sustainable, safe, and clean supply of water for Mainers and visitors for years to come.

Maine State Parks

Source: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, June 2022

