

#### **Goal 4: Promote Education on the Need for Resource Protection and Preservation**

There are many unexploited opportunities for education of residents and visitors about the scenic, natural, historical and cultural resources of this region. To quote an anonymous source, "education is learning what you didn't know you didn't know." Of the five goals in this plan, education should be considered the most amenable to new ideas and methods for implementation. As such, the objectives set forth in this plan are suggestive rather than comprehensive.

There are several partner organizations that have a strong track record in promoting education on historical, natural resource and scenic values in the region. Acadia National Park has numerous educational programs in place promoting "Acadia's Classroom". Participants learn about the Acadia philosophy, explore a virtual watershed, use the resource library, watch videos, attend workshops, and visit a student gallery from past programs. Out on the trails, park rangers offer numerous educational lectures, hikes and restoration activities.

History buffs can turn to another byway partner, the MDI Historical Society which provides museum activities, lectures and conduct research on regional history. People who want to go further back in history can visit the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor that is devoted to Native American and prehistory of the region. There are other groups that have worked to educate residents and visitors including the Bar Harbor Historical Society, College of the Atlantic, Friends of Acadia, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Mount Desert Bicycle Association. There are dozens of outdoor excursion companies that feature kayaking, cycling, canoeing and other low impact, outdoor educational activities.

- A) Identify historical landmarks and create interpretive signage in conjunction with the MDI Historical Society and the Abbe Museum.
- B) Identify natural resources and create interpretive signage in conjunction with Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia.
- C) Provide interpretive information at scenic turnouts on scenic, historic and cultural assets
  - 1) Conduct a Historic Resources Survey of the entire corridor.
  - 2) Use survey results to inform interpretive signage
  - 3) Create an audio cassette to use while driving the byway or riding the Island Explorer
- D) Provide public forums and workshops for education about resources along the byway

Some education must also be directed towards better development and driving practices in the region. This education isn't always as much fun as learning about history and natural resources, but it is very important.

- E) Management and regulation
  - 1) Drivers

## Acadia All American Road – Corridor Management Plan

### Goals and Objects

- (a) Use signs and traffic calming efforts that encourage a slower pace for drivers
- (b) Communicate safe driving techniques - especially to teens and truck drivers
- 2) Utilities
  - (a) Provide education and sensitivity training for better placement of poles, wires, substations, and other infrastructure
- 3) Businesses
  - (a) Provide collaborative training for property owners and businesses encouraging voluntary agreements and designing structures that are consistent with natural and historic environments
- 4) Commercial traffic
  - (a) diversion programs
- 5) Increase sensitivity of RV drivers to their impact on communities and fellow travelers.
- 6) DOT - ways to design artfully, ways to work with towns

### **Goal 5: Promote Sustainable Economic Development and Tourism Management**

Development of all sorts has been brisk on much of Mount Desert Island during the late 1990's. Tourism has seen annual increases in number of people visiting and number of dollars spent. Marketing programs sponsored through the Chambers of Commerce and other business coalitions have been strong and national name recognition for Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor is high.

The Island economy has diversified significantly in the last decade with Jackson Laboratory, College of the Atlantic and Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory creating a strong base for high-tech marine and biotechnology employment. Other businesses on the island and in Trenton include other forms of light manufacturing, marine-based employment and retail and service enterprises.

The towns of Trenton and Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park are concerned that the current level of tourism and pace of growth are not sustainable. Problems associated with current high levels of tourism include traffic congestion, deterioration of air quality, unsafe roads, erosion along hiking trails and unacceptable levels of nuisance for many property owners.

Given the strong track record of the region for attracting diversified economic growth, this plan seeks to emphasize sustainable development and sustainable tourism rather than non-selective pursuit of growth. The goal is not to stifle creativity and initiative but to encourage change that enhances the historical and natural assets of the region and improves the quality of life for residents.

Acadia All American Road – Corridor Management Plan  
Goals and Objects

- A) Support sustainable tourism activities of local business, the chamber of commerce and tourist information offices.
  - 1) Provide the local organizations and businesses with information about the Byway to be incorporated in their educational materials
  - 2) Encourage local businesses to invest in low impact and educational tourism in the region, such as eco-tourism
  - 3) Emphasize education about the byway within the immediate region to assist visitors who are already here rather than external promotion to attract visitors.
- B) Support education around historical and natural resource assets to encourage ecological awareness among residents, tourists and investors
  - 1) Develop interpretive signage along the byway describing historical and natural resources and educating readers about the ways to help preserve these assets.
  - 2) Provide information to businesses interested in locating or expanding on the byway with information about low-impact design options.
- C) Advocate for transportation alternatives for tourists to reduce automobile congestion
  - 1) Work with the Towns and the Mount Desert Island Bicycle Association to design and market safe bicycle tours on the byway and connected roads.
  - 2) Support construction of infrastructure and operations of the Island Explorer bus system and promote inter-modal facilities.