Acadia National Park and the Efforts of George Bucknam Dorr: How the Preservation Frontier Moved East and the Challenges for Acadia's Second Century

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Abstract
Through the intrepid efforts of George Bucknam Dorr and the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (HCTPR), Acadia National Park fostered a preservation frontier in the Eastern United States. As a trustee organization, the HCTPR was one of the first in the world to gather lands together with the express mission of preserving them for public use and recreation. While summer residents had more than enough money and legal right to divide up the island between themselves in private ownership, through a distinctive philanthropic effort they donated land and funds to the creation of a shared public space. Federal protection arrived on Mount Desert Island when Sieur De Monts was created as a National Monument, saving a unique natural space in the midst of a rapidly industrializing world. The arduous process of shepherding land from National Monument to National Park was driven by Dorr's passion and tenacity, making Acadia the first National Park east of the Mississippi River. Finally, as the park approaches its centennial, its future is uncertain due to political happenings and environmental change. Its appreciation and protection is of paramount importance.

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to be an "urban park" like Cuyahoga in Ohio or Hot Springs in Arkansas, as the park grounds are interspersed amongst private residences. Dorr persuaded the Trustees to purchase lands on Mt. Desert Island and gift the property to the US Government thus creating Sieur de Monts National Monument. His dedication to the preservation of this landscape helped influence John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to donate 11,000 acres of the island to the Trustees. For his efforts, Dorr was appointed to be the first superintendent of Sieur de Monts National Monument which later became Acadia National Park.