

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE & FRIENDS OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS
ACCESS FOR ALL INITIATIVES
A TIMELINE OF SUCCESS

2024
 With your help, Friends will support the NPS with \$325,000 donation towards the construction of the Meyers Beach Accessible Ramp

NPS seeks matching \$325,000 from the Centennial fund for the construction of the Meyers Beach Accessible Ramp

2022
 Friends receives John R. Flanagan Charitable Foundation grant for strengthening the "Access for All" campaign

Friends works to redesign website for full accessibility
 NPS extends boardwalk to Hansen Farm on Sand Island

2020
 NPS installs beach access pad at Little Sand Bay

2018
 Friends funding supports construction of accessible campsites on Stockton Island

Friends "Wilderness Accessibility Fund" supports site viewing platform addition at Little Sand Bay
 Friends receives major donation from the Black Spruce Fund to kick off "Wilderness Accessibility Fund"
 Braille Jr. Ranger booklets added

2014
 Accessible campsite #1 completed on Stockton Island

Nine hundred linear feet of boardwalk, accessible fire pits, and elevated tent pads constructed at Quarry Bay on Stockton Island
 Little Sand Bay docks equipped with accessibility ramps

2010
 Audio devices added in NPS Visitors Center

The future sees a strong and growing partnership between the NPS and Friends of the Apostle Islands in creating a park that is accessible for all.

2023
 Friends launches Access for All Campaign

2021
 Stockton Island Amphitheater completed
 Five new privies added (Stockton, South Twin, Otter, Rocky Island)
 Accessible features added to Sand Island dock
 NPS website made fully accessible
 Friends receives major new donation to support the NPS in continued construction of the Sand Island boardwalk toward the lighthouse

2019
 Friends funding supports Stockton Island Amphitheater construction

Friends funding supports the Meyers Beach access feasibility study
 Audio and tactile script added to interpretive displays at Little Sand Bay

2016
 Accessible campsite built on Sand Island
 Two elevated campsites and fire pits completed
 Started on a major, multi-year boardwalk project on Sand Island at East Bay
 Audio and tactile script added to interpretive displays at Michigan Island
 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore wins NPS "Accessibility Excellence" Award

2012
 NPS conducts Accessibility Self Assessment and Transition Plan

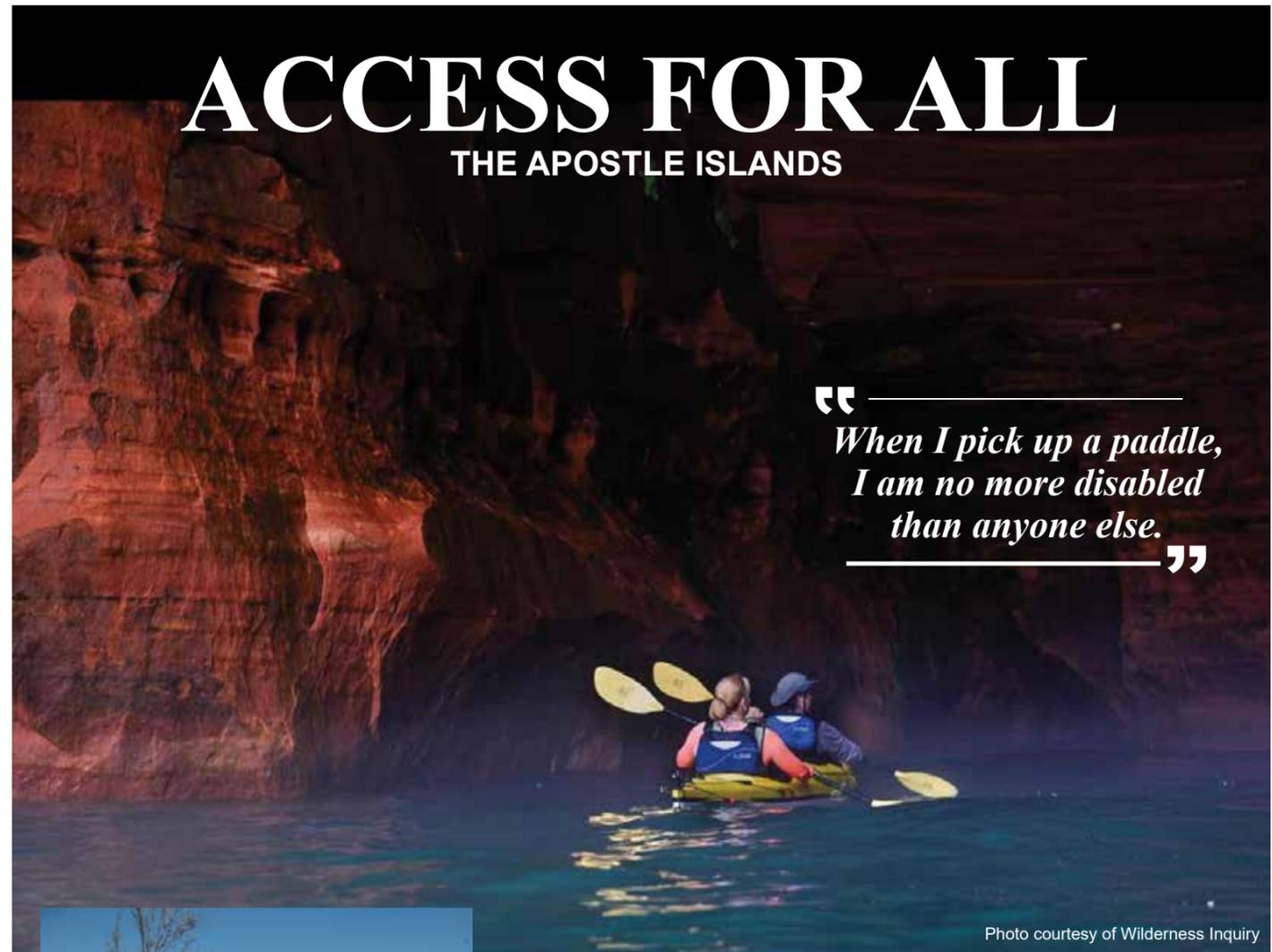
2008
 First privy built to accessibility standards on Basswood Island. Thirteen more added on various islands from 2008-2014



Friends of the Apostle Islands
 P.O. Box 1574, Bayfield, WI 54814
 (715)449-6900 • friendsoftheapostleislands.org

ACCESS FOR ALL

THE APOSTLE ISLANDS



“When I pick up a paddle, I am no more disabled than anyone else.”

Photo courtesy of Wilderness Inquiry



Current Meyers Beach access.

Tracy Tabaka looks out at the blue horizons of Lake Superior. There, just beyond the Meyers Beach parking area, lie the green jewels of the wild Apostle Islands, the famous sea caves. She smiles, thinking of the freedom she will feel with a paddle in her hands, the wind in her face.

She has been dreaming of this moment for years. But that smile

fades as she looks down at the barrier before her – 45 steps tumbling down the 23-foot bank to the launching area below – and then at her wheelchair.

“When I pick up a paddle, I am no more disabled than anyone else,” she has said of that moment. “The only real difficulty is all those stairs.”

You can help change that.



“ALL THOSE STAIRS”

National lakeshores, like the Apostle Islands, belong to all of us. Yet for the **1 in 5 Americans like Tracy who live with mobility challenges**, “all those stairs” can spell the difference between the adventure of a lifetime and a lifetime of being left behind. You can make the difference.

THE FIRST STEPS

A 2012 Accessibility Self-Evaluation made clear both the challenges and opportunities facing Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in its effort to become more accessible. Since then, the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with Friends of the Apostle Islands, has made much progress:

- A wheelchair accessible overlook and viewing scope on the dock at Little Sand Bay.
- Accessible campsites, restrooms, and more than a mile of boardwalk on Sand Island.
- An accessible amphitheater and campsites on Stockton Island.
- Audio and tactile interpretive exhibits at visitor centers.
- See the “Timeline of Success” on the back page for even more progress.



Amber Mullen/Wilderness Inquiry

“
As a wheelchair user, I believe I am a more proud, knowledgeable, happier, and a braver person through this integration of living and learning through our national parks. Access to the Apostle Islands is an experience all should be able to see, breath in, and feel.

- Janet Badura

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Julia Schweitzer/Wilderness Inquiry

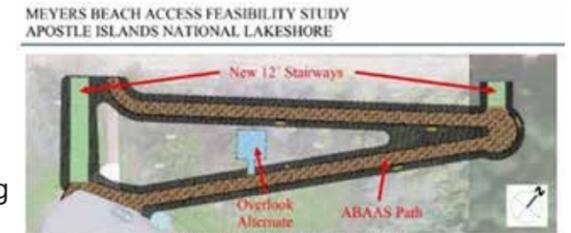


Annie Hickman/Wilderness Inquiry

THE FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. YET MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

With the establishment of the **Access for All** campaign, Friends of the Apostle Islands, the official philanthropic partner of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, seeks to increase its support of the projects making our park more accessible to everyone. Our goal of \$325,000 in our **Access for All** campaign will strengthen the park’s ability to implement projects that may otherwise go unfunded for decades, opening key areas of the park for use by a wider range of visitors, removing “all those stairs” as a barrier.

The main focus of **Access for All** is a proposed a 520-foot accessible ramp gently traversing the hillside leading to a scenic overlook and providing access to the kayak launching area at Meyers Beach and beyond.



With Friends raising \$325,000 to leverage a match by the National Park Service, we will make one of the most beautiful and popular areas of the lakeshore easy for everyone to access and complete one more accessibility milestone in this **Access for All** campaign.

But there are “all those stairs” kinds of barriers in other places as well. Your support will help the park as it continues construction of boardwalks on Sand Island, builds more accessible campsites and docks, and increases access to vital park interpretive information for those with hearing or vision challenges both in the park and online.

With distant islands, sheer cliffs, and big blue waters, the Apostle Islands can seem impossible for some, but let’s invest in making it possible, in making the freedom and beauty experienced in these islands available to everyone. Invest in Access for All with Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Let’s make the impossible, possible for all of us.



Julia Schweitzer/Wilderness Inquiry

“
Trips like this kept me from giving up when I learned of my progressive neurological disorder. Paddling here has been lifechanging. It shows that I can still do the things I love. It is completely restorative even though I am a puddle when I am done.

- Annie Hickman

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WITH YOUR HELP

Invest in **Access for All**. Give online at friendsoftheapostleislands.org or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 1574, Bayfield, WI 54814. For even more ways to give, email info@friendsoftheapostleislands.org or call us at 715-449-6900. Every donation helps remove a barrier so that we can provide Access for All.



FRIENDS of the
APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE