



April 2021

Dear Mackinac Associates Members:

We are excited that the 2021 season for Mackinac State Historic Parks' sites is finally here! The past year has been challenging at best and, even though some safety precautions will still be in place, we look forward to a more normal year. There are a variety of new things to see and experience this season at park sites, thanks in large part to the support of members like you. With your help, we are on a mission to make sites more accessible for all.

The historic nature of sites will always present challenges when it comes to accessibility. While much has been done over the last several decades, we know more can be done. Recent improvements include an adult changing table at Fort Mackinac and access videos for the tower and second floor at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.

Our focus for the upcoming season is to purchase mobility devices that can deal with the sandy terrain that often thwarts regular wheelchairs at Colonial Michilimackinac. With its location at the water's edge and with wind off the Straits of Mackinac it is sometimes a challenge to keep the fort entrance and main walkway passable for individuals using assistive devices. These units would be available for checkout at the Visitor's Center and are designed to work on the terrain of the site's outdoor terrain and will fit through doorways.





Future improvements as outlined in the Mackinac State Historic Parks strategic plan include continuing to make improvements to restrooms by providing universal access fixtures. We also hope to provide alternative experiences for visitors who are unable to access certain resources or programs. This may include additional written materials to accompany interpretive programs, more closed captioning of video programs, and improved remote video viewing for interpretive programs occurring at locations with accessibility challenges.

We appreciate your past support of Mackinac Associates and Mackinac State Historic Parks and hope you will help us fund accessibility upgrades.

We also hope you will visit Mackinac State Historic Parks often this season, to enjoy our programs and see for yourself how your contributions have helped. Thank you for your support, which makes history come alive for all of us.

Sincerely,

Harriet K. McGraw, President
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