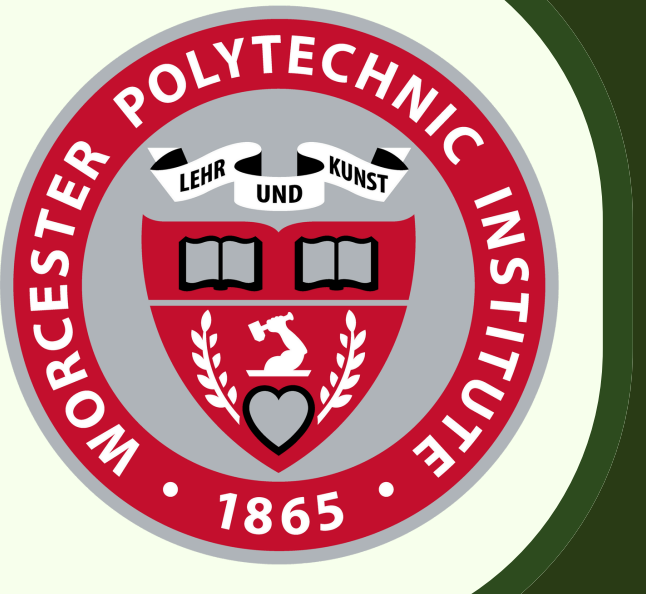




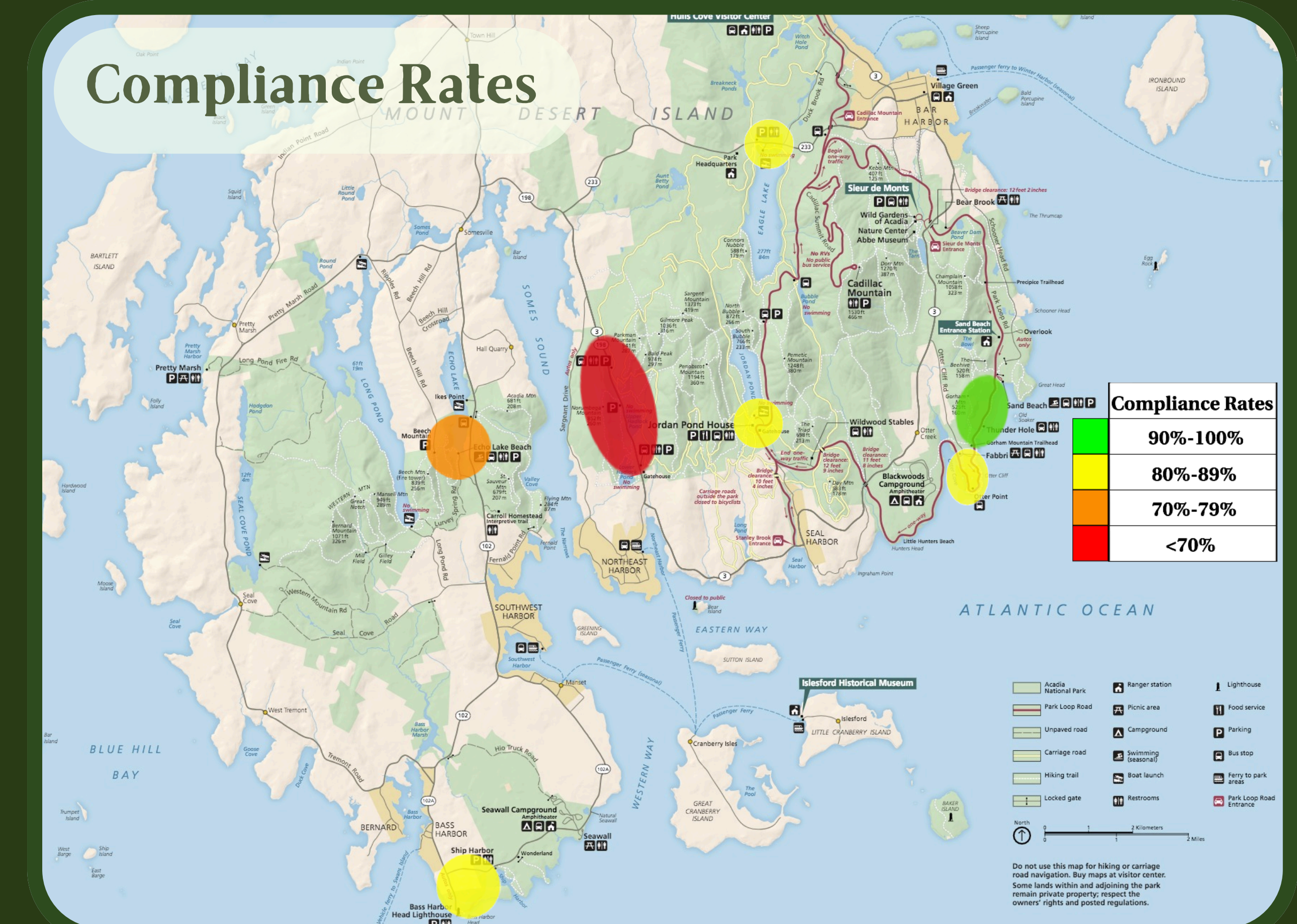
Acadia's Issue of Entrance Fee Non-Compliance

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The Compliance Issue

The National Park Services' operation of Acadia National Park costs a lot, with around 60% of the funding of Acadia coming from entrance fees. The goal of our project has been to get a grasp on non-compliance of the park's entrance fees with over four million people traveling to Acadia each summer. With this, there are unique challenges that Acadia faces compared to other parks that make compliance a tricky task. Acadia lacks the defined entrances seen in other large parks due to its more porous borders. Many visitors enter from the park loop road where they check passes to gain access to the popular spots, however when entering from any other point in the park there is nothing other than sparse signage that indicates a pass is required.



Methods

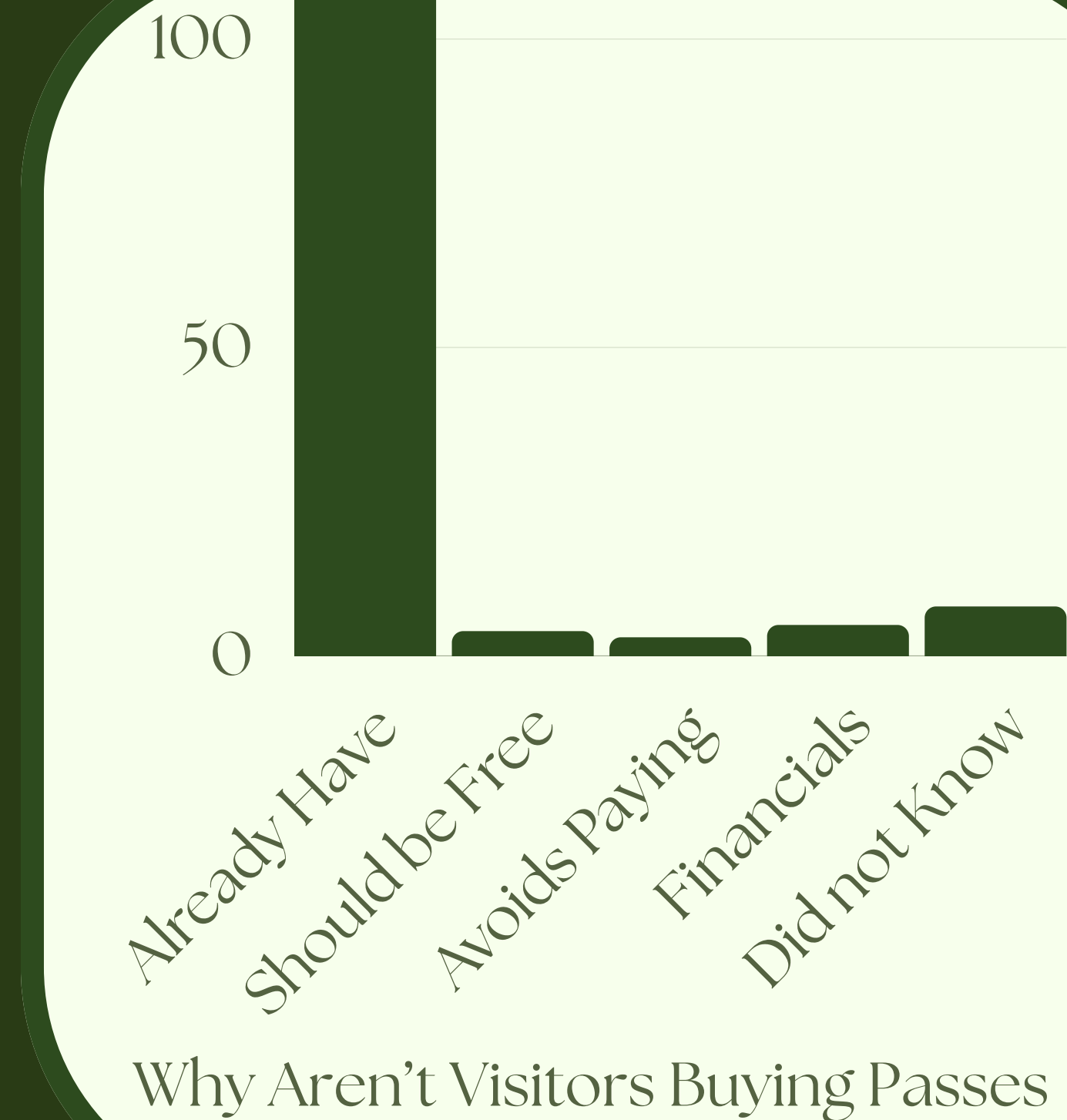
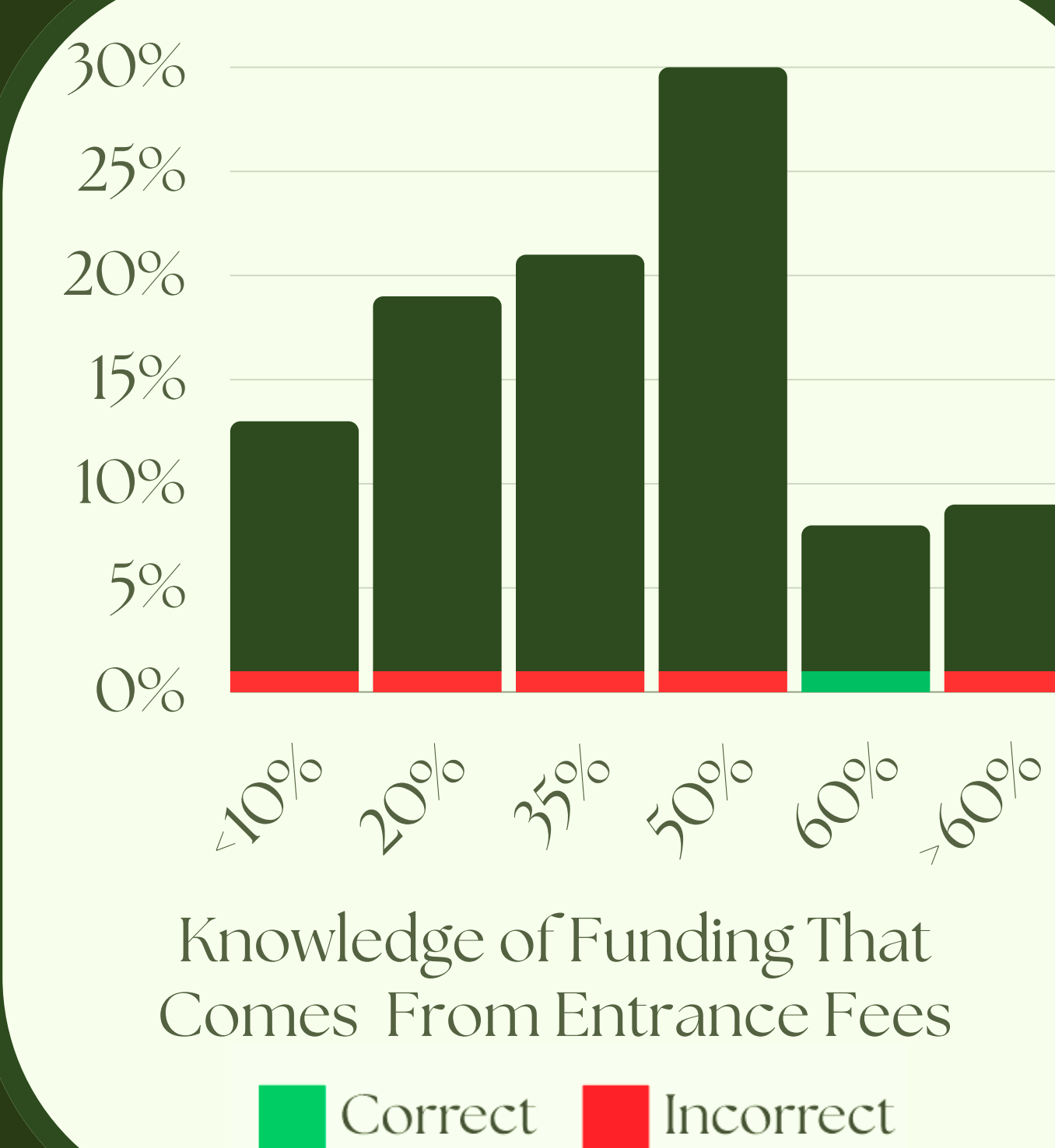
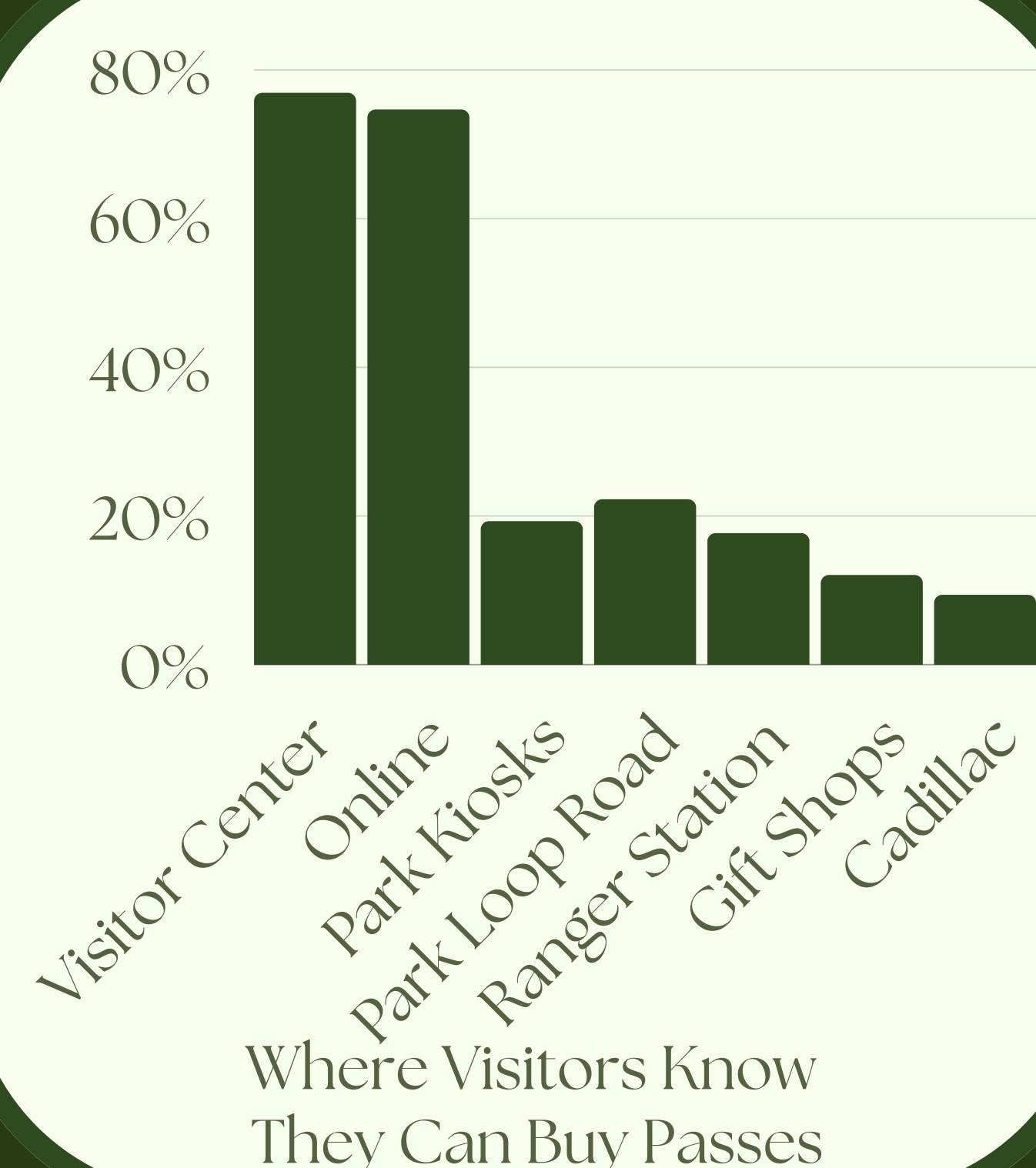
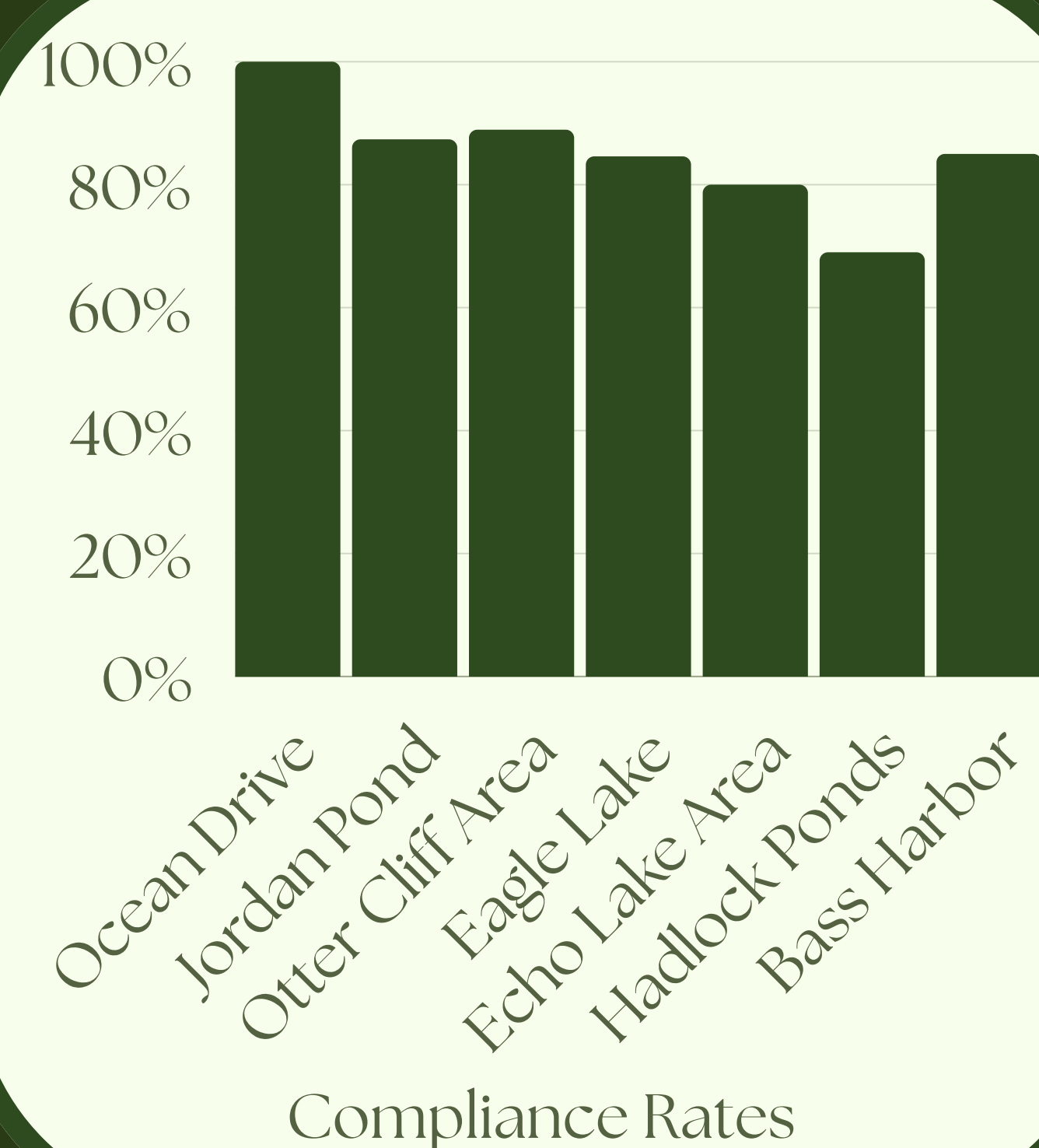
- Focusing on 7 different locations, we checked 10,235 cars to determine the compliance rates of cars within the park.
- Through 18 five to ten-minute, semi-structured interviews, we developed our surveys.
- We used 373 surveys in tandem with our observation data to formulate our final recommendations for the Park Service.

Findings

- While the overall compliance rate is 82.43%, the compliance on the western side of Mount Desert Island was much lower.
- People are unaware about how entrance fees benefit Acadia National Park.
- Visitors have little knowledge about park passes.

Recommendations

1. Improve and enhance signage about the importance and need for a park pass, especially on the western side.
2. Further research into potential solutions, including:
 - Automated Ticket Dispensers
 - QR Code Gates
 - Toll Booth Relocation



Further Information

