



Inventory & Monitoring Program

# Northeast Temperate Network

## What are the Inventory & Monitoring Program and the Northeast Temperate Network?

National parks are our national treasures, and today they face many challenges. Air and water pollution, invasive species, increasing visitor usage, and climate change are just some of the issues park managers must deal with. To best be able to protect and steward our nation's most significant natural and cultural resources, knowledge of the overall health of park ecosystems and the major issues that impact them are required.

To help with this endeavor, the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program organized parks with substantial natural resources into a family of 32 networks nationwide based on geography and ecological similarity. Partnering with parks, other agencies, nonprofits, and universities the Northeast Temperate Network (NETN) is helping parks meet today's challenges and plan for those of tomorrow.

### Contact Us



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National Park Service  
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Northeast Temperate Network



# INVENTORY & MONITORING



Natural resource inventories are extensive *point-in-time* surveys to learn about the location and condition of plants, animals and other resources like air, water, soils, landforms, and climate.

Inventories, which involve both the compilation of existing information and the gathering of new data, allow for the comparison of existing conditions to the natural or desired state of parks. Inventories provide the foundations upon which long-term monitoring programs are built.



NETN worked directly with parks to identify their top priorities for natural resource long-term monitoring. Where possible, common interests between parks and other networks were used to build interconnected and efficient monitoring systems. Today, these “vital sign” monitoring programs provide the site-specific yet regionally grounded information needed to maintain, enhance, or restore park ecosystems. This information also helps resource managers measure the success of restoration efforts and efficacy of management practices.

Monitoring results are delivered to parks, other scientists, and the public in a variety of ways. National reports, peer-reviewed publications, conferences, and several internet sources allow for easy access for all interested parties. For more information on NETN’s park vital signs, and to download monitoring reports and resource briefs, visit our website.

## What we do

*NETN collects and organizes natural resource monitoring information using consistent and scientifically sound practices in 13 northeastern national parks. Park scientists and managers can then make better-informed decisions, plan for the future, and educate visitors. NETN stewards and provides universal access to the data it collects, helping to develop a deeper understanding of the environment and our special national park places.*

**Parks of the Northeast Temperate Network**

- Acadia National Park
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
- Saratoga National Historical Park
- Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites
- Minute Man National Historical Park
- Weir Farm National Historic Site
- Morristown National Historical Park
- Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
- Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Northeast Region  
National Park Service  
U.S. Dept. of Interior

## Current vital sign monitoring programs:

- coastal and interior birds
- forest health
- weather and climate
- water quality
- land cover/land use
- air quality
- invasive species
- phenology
- rare plants
- rocky intertidal community
- fresh and saltwater wetlands

