

National Capital Region

A growing outbreak of racoon rabies in West Virginia and Western Maryland is responsible for the implementation of an urban racoon ecology study that had been drafted by Dave Manski of the Ecological Services Lab. NPS is working with the National Zoo, the University of D.C., and the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta on the plan, which now involves trapping, radio collaring, and inoculating the racoons in Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek Park.

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Under the direction of Kay Thomas and Jim Sherald of the Ecological Services Lab, a herbicide, cacodylic acid, has been injected into Kudzu, wisteria vines, and English ivy plants in Rock Creek Park and on the George Washington Memorial Parkway in an experimental effort to control these exotic plants. Salt water treatments, flaming, cutting, and severe pruning methods also have been implemented.

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In February 1983, the National Capital Region will complete the third year of its three-year Integrated Pest Management contract. According to Dick Hammerschlag, chief of the Ecological Services Lab, what has evolved over the life of the contract is a philosophy and a personnel set-up that has moved away from a pesticide based management process and toward an analysis of alternative strategies with strong emphasis on biological controls, better site management, and improved understanding of the ecology of pests.