



Natural Resource Quarterly | Spring 2024



Nortrup, Megan
Integrated Resource Program Manager

3 min read

Newsletter of Natural Resources in the National Capital Region

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NCR's Inventory & Monitoring forest team in 2023. Credit: NPS/Brolis

Forest Regeneration Update

There are many ways to assess *your* health (temperature, blood pressure, weight, etc.), and there are also many ways to measure the health of a *forest*. Each year we analyze I&M forest monitoring data using a measure called the Stocking Index because that measure is used in the deer management compliance documents for all NCR parks.

The latest (2023) NCR forest monitoring data shows tree seedlings and small saplings are slowly increasing in National Capital Region national parks. [READ MORE](#)



Spotted lanternfly nymph. Credit: NPS/Brolis

Forest Pests & Pathogens

Beech leaf disease, emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, spongy moth, oak decline and oak wilt are all pests present in National Capital Region (NCR) park forests. Learn about their effects and spread based on NCR Inventory & Monitoring data, and get the heads up on elm zigzag sawfly and beech bark disease.

[READ MORE](#)



Incised fumewort in flower. Credit: KENPEI (CC BY-SA 3.0), Wikimedia

Incised Fumewort - Be on the Lookout

Incised fumewort (*Corydalis incisa*) is a "high risk" invasive plant in the mid-Atlantic US with the potential to become widespread and cause a lot of damage. Learn how to identify it, differentiate it from the native yellow corydalis (*Corydalis flavula*), and help be on the lookout for this invasive species. [READ MORE](#)



Black bear at Prince William. Credit: NPS

Bears at Prince William Forest Park

Video of a juvenile black bear weighing around 100-120 lbs was captured on a wildlife camera at Prince William Forest Park in fall 2023. The bear was one of two estimated to be living in the park then. This video comes from a year-round survey to help determine the park's bear population. Winter survey camera footage will be collected at the end of March 2024. [WATCH](#)



Juvenile peregrine falcons at Harpers Ferry. Credit: NPS/Eric Kelley

Inspiring Scientific Curiosity Videos

These videos about nature in NCR parks were designed to inspire scientific curiosity through visual imagery:

- [Gone in the Night: Conservation Efforts of the Northern Long-Eared Bat](#)
- [Monitoring Macroinvertebrates](#)
- [Peregrine Falcon: The Comeback](#)
- [The Seep Shrimp](#)
- [Timber Rattlesnakes of Catoctin Mountain Park](#)
- [Transects & Trail Cameras](#)

The videos were created through a collaboration between NPS's Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance (UERLA) and the American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking. **LEARN MORE**



Student researchers who received CESU fellowships. Clockwise from top left: Philip Warfield, Erin Geibel, Christopher Blume, and Liv Winnicki.

CESU News

2024 Student Recipients of CESU Fellowships

Meet four incredibly talented individuals who received student research fellowships in 2024 from the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. [READ MORE](#)

Up, Up, and Away! Chesapeake Watershed CESU Research Grows by Leaps and Bounds

In 2023, the Chesapeake Watershed CESU Research Network obligated more than \$23 million—an increase of nearly \$5.5 million over the previous year—forming partnerships, providing technical assistance, and helping preserve resources. [READ MORE](#)

Resilient Forest Management Resources

Thanks to everyone who presented, facilitated, and contributed to the engaging conversations during two days of the Resilient Forest Management Workshop!

If you weren't able to attend, presentations and related resources from both days are available on the [NPS Resilient Forests Initiative sharepoint](#) (NPS Only).

To learn more, read the [Managing Resilient Forests article series](#).

Nature News ICYMI

- [Interior Department Announces \\$195 Million for America's National Parks through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda](#) (DOI News Release: 2/27/2024)
- [Saw Team helps Acadia National Park clean up after major Winter Storms](#) (NPS SharePoint: 2/19/24)
- [Harpers Ferry National Historical Park announces annual closures to protect peregrine falcons](#) (NPS News Release: 2/6/24)
- [National Park Service Announces FONSI for Improvements to George Washington Memorial Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail](#) (NPS News Release: 1/26/24)
- [NPS to conduct deer population reduction operations at Fort Dupont, Fort Washington and Greenbelt parks](#) (NPS News Release: 12/20/23)
- [Three national scenic trails designated as units of the National Park System](#) (NPS News Release: 12/7/23)

Calendar

March

24. Natural Resource Advisory Team (NAT) Meeting. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters at 700 George Washington Mem Pkwy, McLean, VA 22101.

April

4. 12th Spotlight on National Park Resources in the National Capital Region. National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. Virtual attendance option through Teams. Registration forthcoming.

The Natural Resource Quarterly provides updates on the status of natural resources and science in National Capital Region parks.

[NCR Natural Resources](#) | [Previous Issues](#) | [NCR Inventory & Monitoring](#)

