



National Park Service

Spring 2023 Natural Resource Quarterly

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Natural Resource Quarterly | Spring 2023

Newsletter of Natural Resources in the National Capital Region



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Forest Regeneration's Early Progress



Tree seedlings and small saplings are still in short supply in National Capital Region national parks. The latest look at forest regeneration capacity based on monitoring data from 2022 is now available. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Seedling recovery, seen here at Catoclin, is an early step toward rebuilding forest regeneration capacity. Credit: NPS

A Forest Monitoring Cycle Like No Other



What if your office was the woods? Your break room a mossy log? This is the reality for members of the Inventory & Monitoring forest vegetation crew. The team has collected data on forest health in NCR parks every year since 2006 and recently completed the fourth cycle of forest vegetation monitoring (2018-2022). Learn what staff biologists and technicians have to say about their experiences in the field these past five years. [Read more.](#)

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Photo: The 2022 forest crew leaps in triumph at a plot in Prince William Forest Park. Left to right: Camilla Fishtahler, Andrejs Brolis, Lindsay Ashley, Galen Oettel, and Audrey Kauppila. Credit NPS/Claire Hassler.

Northern Long-Eared Bat Notes

The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is an endangered species as of March 31, 2023. Interim guidance on Section 7 consultation for this species will apply until April 1, 2024.

The Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) will hold several training sessions in April demonstrating the Northern long-eared bat determination key and the Northeast Endangered Species Determination Key. Anyone may join these **Training sessions**:

- Monday, 4/10, 10 am-12 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday, 4/13, 2-4 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Monday, 4/17, 1-3 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday, 4/20, 1-3 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Drop-in question sessions:

- Wednesday, 4/12, 1-2 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday 4/18 11 am-12 pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Visit the Fish & Wildlife Service pages on [northern long-eared bats](#) and [information for planning & consulting](#) to learn more or contact regional NPS Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator Diane Pavek for further information.

Marsh Elevation



Since 2002, the NPS Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) team has been tracking the elevation of freshwater tidal wetlands in the National Capital Region including those at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve in George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and Kenilworth Marsh and Kingman Lake in National Capital Parks-East (NACE).

New resource briefs on marsh elevation at [Dyke Marsh](#) and [Kingman Lake/Kenilworth Marsh](#) summarize [a new 2023 report by Tredennick et al.](#) analyzing marsh elevation monitoring data from 2002 to 2019.

Photo: NPS staff measuring marsh elevation using a surface elevation table (SET) device. Credit: NPS

Food for Thought: Two-Eyed Seeing

Etuaptmuk is the Mi'kmaw word for Two-Eyed Seeing. It refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

The concept of two-eyed seeing has been adopted throughout Canada and the U.S., and is discussed in depth in the recent journal article:

Smith, C., Diver, S., & Reed, R. (2023). [Advancing Indigenous futures with two-eyed seeing: Strategies for restoration and repair through collaborative research](#). *Environment and Planning F*, 0(0).

Celebrate Amphibian Week May 7-13



Revisit this [article series for the latest updates on amphibian populations for each NCR park](#). And find out [what species will emerge next this spring](#).

Amphibian Week [guidance and themes for public outreach](#) is available (NPS internal site).

Photo: Wood frog. Credit: USGS/L. Pekurny

Nature News, ICYMI

In Case You Missed It (ICYMI), here's a roundup of nature news and resources from the last quarter that may be of interest to those working with natural resources in the National Capital Region. This includes NPS press releases, new NPS web and social media content, and articles from InsideNPS (available to NPS only).

[Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists \(CAFMS\) newsletter](#). (CAFMS: 3/28/2023)

[Piney Branch Parkway brush fire extinguished](#) (NPS News Release: 3/22/2023)

[Aggressive animals reported near Lock 34](#) (NPS News Release: 3/21/2023)

[Why the return of Anacostia River's apex predator, the otter, is a good sign](#) (WTOP news: 3/14/2023)

[Prescribed fire scheduled for Prince William Forest Park](#) (NPS News Release: 3/13/2023)

[Greenbelt Park to reopen hiking trails and picnic areas for spring camping season - National Capital Parks-East](#) (NPS News Release: 3/8/2023)

[Prescribed fire planned this month at Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park - Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park](#) (NPS News Release: 3/7/2023)

[Prescribed fire planned at Monocacy National Battlefield in March](#) (NPS News Release: 3/3/2023)

[Could one of our most important trees disappear with barely a whimper? A mysterious](#)

[disease aided by an apathetic bureaucracy could doom the American beech](#) (Nature Beat: 2/22/2023)

[National Park Service Releases the Third Edition of the Green Parks Plan](#) (InsideNPS: 2/22/2023)

[2023 Interagency Fire Year Themes and NPS Wildland Fire Key Messages](#) (InsideNPS: 2/16/2023)

[Harpers Ferry National Historical Park announces seasonal closures to protect peregrine falcons - Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#) (NPS News Release: 2/10/2023)

[National Park Service removes thousands of tires from Anacostia Park - Anacostia Park](#) (NPS News Release: 2/10/2023)

[Scientific Integrity Policy](#) (InsideNPS: 1/27/2023)

[National parks in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia to reduce white-tailed deer populations this winter - Catoctin Mountain Park](#) (NPS News Release: 1/18/2023)

Calendar

APRIL

5. Grassland birds benefit from agricultural management within national battlefield parks. 9:00 – 10:00 am. NCR Science Forum: Presenter Megan Massa. Contact Diane Pavek at NPS email for meeting link.

10. Northern long-eared bat and Northeast Endangered Species Determination Key Training. Fish and Wildlife Service-sponsored training session of particular use for those working with consultants. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

12. Work Zone Safety for Short Duration Work Activities. Learn how NPS work zone safety requirements apply to all disciplines including natural or cultural resource management. 1:00 - 3:00 pm ET. [Registration Link](#)

22. Earth Day.

22-30. **National Park Week.** [Learn how NPS is celebrating!](#)

MAY

4. Joint Meeting of the Natural Resource Advisory Team (NAT) and Cultural Resource Advisory Team (CAT). 10:00 am - 12:30 pm.

7-13. Amphibian Week.

13. World Migratory Bird Day. [World Migratory Bird Day](#)

17. Endangered Species Day

JUNE

4-7. [International Urban Wildlife Conference](#). Washington, DC.

JULY

13. Natural Resource Advisory Team (NAT) Meeting. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Contact Brittany Grouge at NPS email for meeting link.

The *Natural Resource Quarterly* provides updates on the status of natural resources and science in [National Capital Region](#) parks.

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