

## NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION BRIEF # 7

### VEGETATION INVENTORY

In order for sound resource management to occur, a thorough understanding of the resources with which we are working is essential. The fundamental approach for gaining this understanding is to identify all components of the natural world within a park. Once we know what resources are in a park, we can begin to develop relationships between those resources, in turn, a greater level of understanding of resource problems is formulated. A vegetation inventory is one piece in the puzzle.

During the past two years, the park has supported a contract through which almost all park vegetation was identified. The final products from this project are threefold:

1. A checklist of all flora in the park was developed.
2. A baseline collection of plant specimens has been prepared.
3. A vegetation map of the park is being prepared.

The next logical step is to ask where we go from here. Following is a list of projects the Resources Management Staff plans to work on during the next year.

1. Our checklist will be entered on our computer for analysis purposes.
2. The checklist will also be submitted to the Washington Office for inclusion in the NPFLORA Database.
3. An analysis of exotic plant species will be done.
4. A checklist of common wildflowers found in the park will be prepared for visitor use.
5. Work will be started on comparing current vegetative patterns with those of 1862.
6. Further inventory work will be started to identify rare and uncommon flora of the park.

You should be aware that collection of natural history objects in the park is prohibited unless such collecting is associated with a park sponsored research or management program. All specimens collected under these circumstances must be turned into the park. The contractor was required to obtain a specimen collection permit from the Superintendent prior to collecting any plant specimens.

Similar inventory projects are anticipated for other flora and fauna groups.

Here are some interesting facts about the vegetation of the park:

- Total number Taxa - 210
- Total number Exotic Taxa - 69 (33%)
- Total number Native Taxa - 141 (66%)
- Total number of families - 71
- Largest family - Compositae
- Smallest family - 33 families are represented by one species
- Number of specimens collected but not fully identified - 5