POLICY AND GOVERNANCE OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM: A CASE STUDY OF FIRST STATE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ALONG THE BRANDYWINE RIVER

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APRIL 12, 2017

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How are water resources science and policies managed in watersheds in the National Park System?

How does water resources policies and management vary among Valley Forge, Harpers Ferry, and Minute Man National Historical Parks as compared to First State National Historical Park?

OUTLINE

- 1. National Park Service Overview
- 2. First State National Historical Park
- 3. Water Quality of First State National Historical Park
- 4. Water Management and Policies of the National Park Service
- 5. Comparative Analysis of Water Resources in Nat'l. Historical Parks
- 6. Summary/Conclusions/Recommendations

1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OVERVIEW

Mission:

To preserve "the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future

generations."

NPS System:

417 sites, covering over 84 million acres/131,250 mi² At least 19 different designations



1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OVERVIEW

| Date | Act/Event | Description |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1872 | Yellowstone National | Established Yellowstone |
| | Park Act | as the country's first |
| | | national park |
| 1906 | Antiquities Act | Allowed for the |
| | | protection of lands |
| | | containing historic |
| | | landmarks, structures, |
| | | or objects as national |
| | | monuments |
| 1916 | National Park Service | The National Park |
| | Organic Act | Service was established |
| 2013 | First State National | The First State became |
| | Historical Park | Delaware's first unit in |
| | | the National Park |
| | | System. |
| 2016 | Centennial | The National Park |
| | | Service celebrated its |
| | | 100 th anniversary on |
| | | August 25, 2016 |

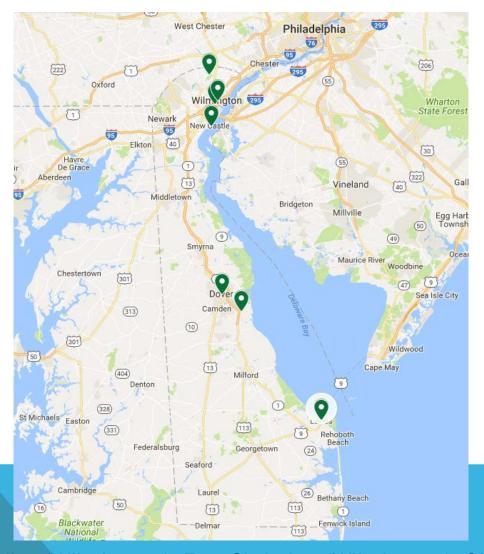
Historic Timeline of NPS

1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OVERVIEW

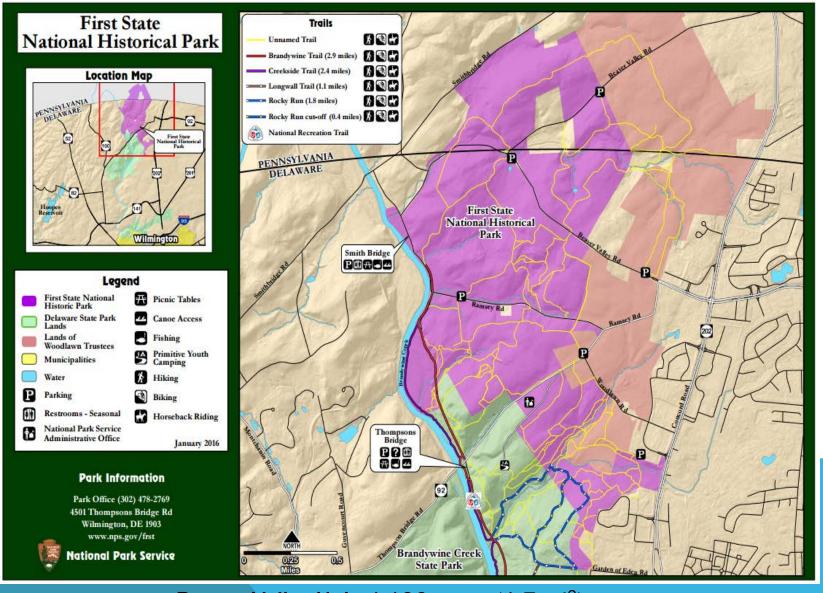
Water Resources:

The Water Resources Division of the National Park Service's Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate in Fort Collins, CO is authorized to manage 11,000 miles of coast, 2.5 million acres of ocean and Great Lakes waters, including coral reefs, kelp forests, glaciers, estuaries, beaches, wetlands, historic forts and shipwrecks, 100,000 miles of perennial rivers and streams, and over 2.3 million acres of lakes and reservoirs in the National Park System





7 units: Beaver Valley (Wilmington), Fort Christina (Wilmington), Old Swedes Church (Wilmington), New Castle Court House, The Green (Dover), John Dickinson Plantation (Dover), and Ryves Holt House (Lewes)

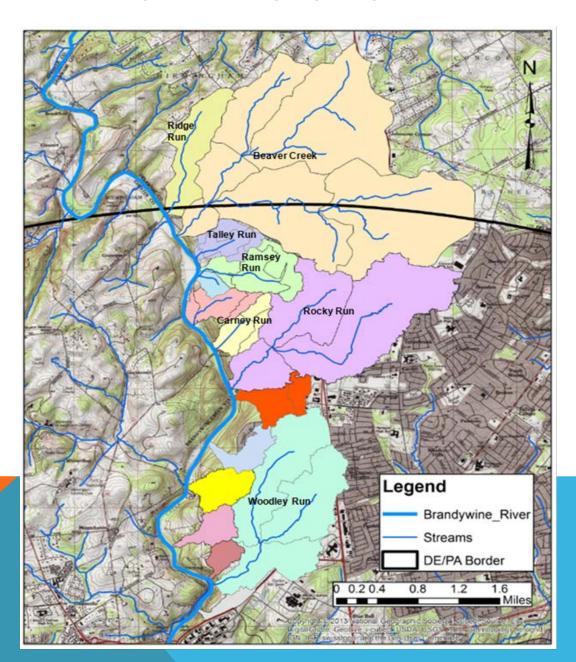


Beaver Valley Unit: 1,100 acres (1.7 mi²)
Established: 2013 (National Monument), 2015 (Historical Park)

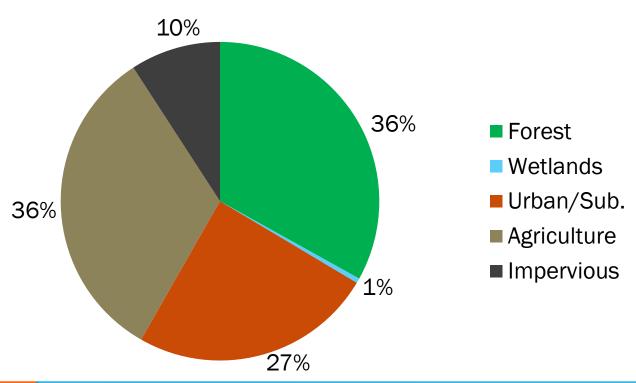
HYDROLOGY

6 subwatersheds of Brandywine **Piedmont** Watershed

Drainage Area: 4,485 acres/7 mi^2



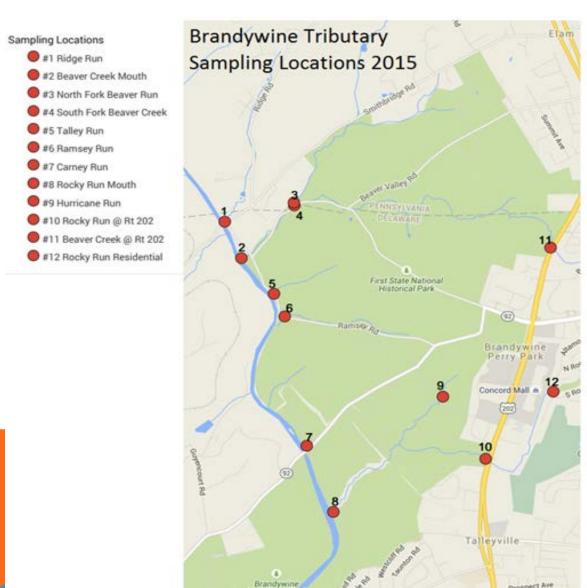




36% forest, 1% wetlands, 27% urban/suburban, and 36% agriculture. Impervious cover 10%

Most developed: Rocky Run (19% imp. and 40% urban/sub.) and Beaver Creek (9% imp. and 28% urban/sub.).

Least Developed: Ridge Run, Talley Run, Ramsey Run, and Carney Run



WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

When:

Map data ©2015 Google

Jun, Jul, Oct, Nov, Dec 2015 Mar-Oct 2016

Parameters tested:

2015: pH, conductivity, water

temp., turbidity, DO

2016: conductivity, turbidity

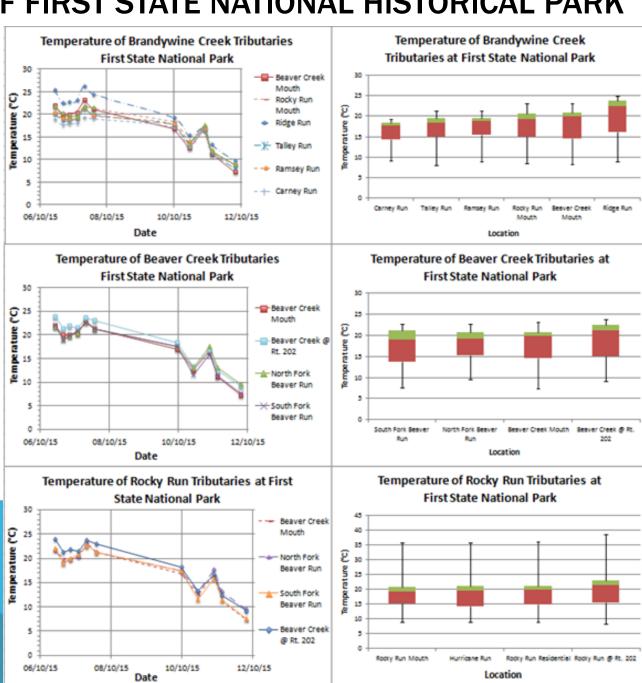
Standard:

Max. daily temp.: 82°F (27°C)

All streams meet standard.

Highest:

Ridge Run= 22.5°C (72.5°F) Rocky Run at Route 202= 21.5°C (70.7°F)



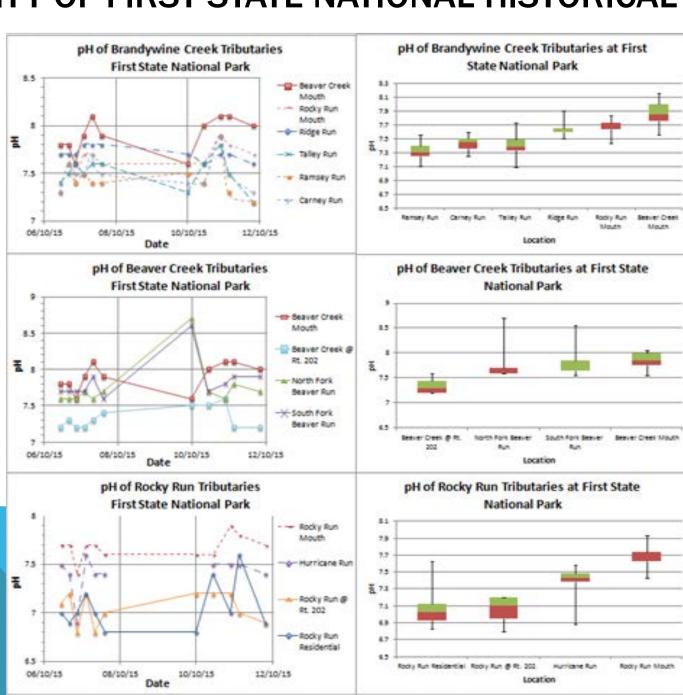
PARK

Standard: 6.5-8.5 pH

All streams meet standard.

Lowest: Rocky Run Residential (7.0 pH)

Highest: Beaver Creek Mouth (7.9 pH)



Standard: Max. 10 NTUs.

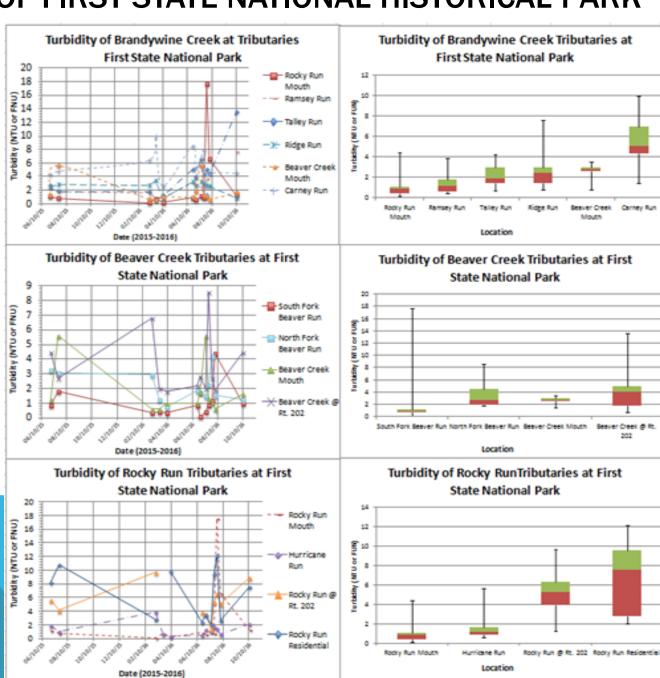
Highest:

Rocky Run Residential= 7.53 Route 202= 5.25

Lowest:

Rocky Run Mouth= 0.847

Therefore, there is little concern for turbid water entering the Brandywine Creek



Standard: Min. 5.5 mg/L

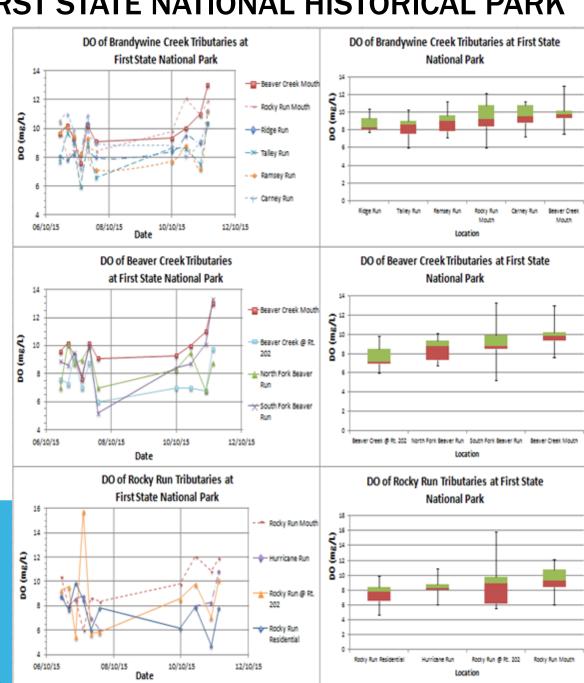
All streams meet this standard.

Lowest: Beaver Creek at Route 202=7.15 mg/L

Highest: Beaver Creek Mouth=9.8 mg/L)

Range: 4.7-15.8

Rocky Run at Route 202 had three instances of coming within 0.2 mg/L of the standard in the month of July 2015, which may indicate an area of concern for the urban tributary but not for the Brandywine.



Standard:

 $150\mu S$ - $500\mu S$ (ideal) $50\mu S$ - $1500\mu S$ (normal range)

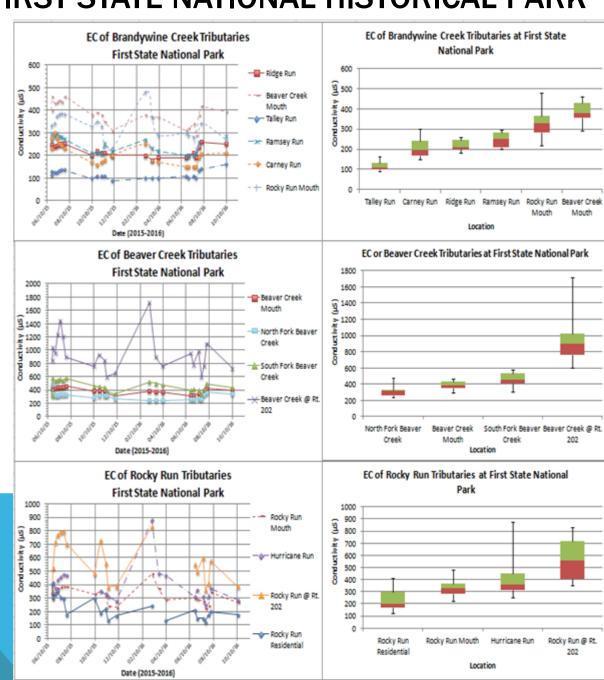
Highest:

Beaver Creek at Route 202= 899µS.

Lowest: Talley Run= 110µS

Conductivity to chloride: Cl=(sc-310) * 0.28

Beaver Creek: 164.9





4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

I&M NETWORKS

Mid-Atlantic Network:

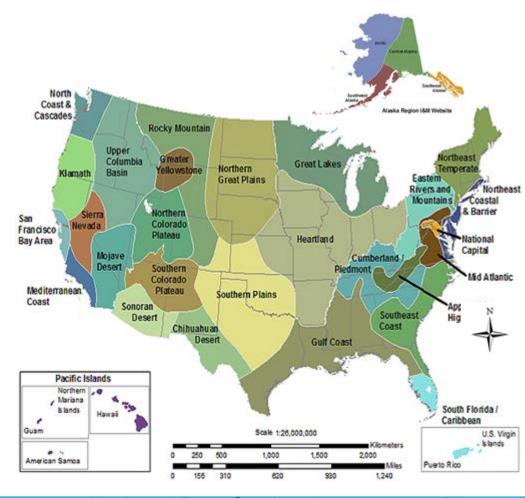
Valley Forge is one of 10 park units in this network. The First State will eventually be added to this network.

National Capital Region Network:

Harpers Ferry is one of 11 park units in this network.

Northeast Temperate Network:

Minute Man is one of 13 park units in this network



National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program Networks

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

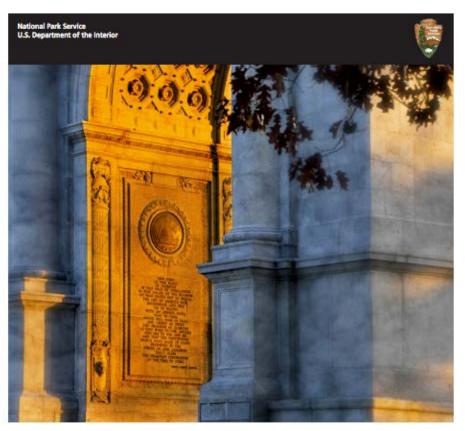


Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Natural Resource Condition Assessment

National Capital Region

Natural Resource Report NPS/HAFE/NRR-2013/746





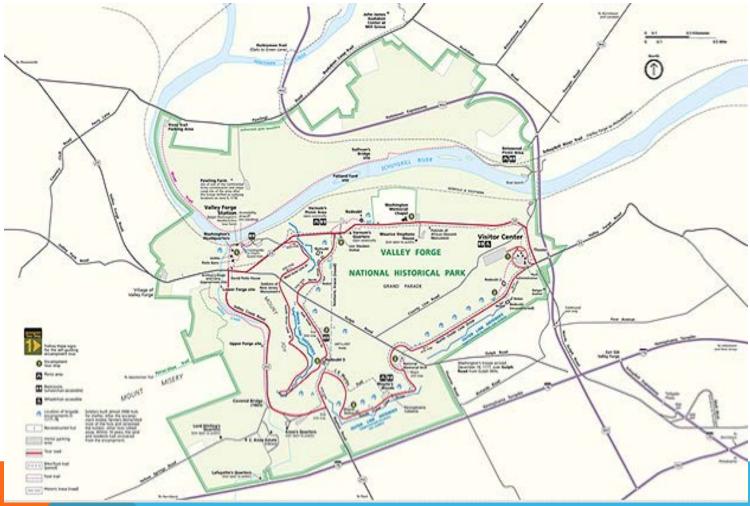
STATE OF THE PARK REPORT

Valley Forge National Historical Park Pennsylvania 2015

Natural Resource Condition Assessment and State of the Park Report

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK

SERVICE



VALLEY FORGE

Size: 3465.6 acres/5.415 mi²

Location: 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Purpose: Educate others about the people, events, and legacy of the American Revolution, as well

as preserving the cultural and natural resources within the park

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| Water Quality | Reference Condition | Source |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Parameter | | |
| рН | 6.0-9 | PA Code, 1993 |
| DO (mg/L) | 7-day avg. 6.0 mg/l; min. 5.0 mg/l | PA Code, 1993 |
| Water Temperature (°F) | Range: 38°F-66°F | PA Code, 1993 |
| Alkalinity (mg/L) | Min. 20 mg/l as CaCO3 | PA Code, 1993 and Botts, W., 2005 |
| Specific conductivity (µS/cm) | Range of 15-500 μS/cm | United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2009a |
| Nitrate (mg/L) | Max. 10 mg/l as nitrogen | PA Code, 1993 |
| Total phosphorus | < 0.1 mg/L = Good Condition > 0.1 | Correll, D.L., 1998 |
| (mg/L) | mg/L = Significant Concern | |
| Total Dissolved Solids | 500 mg/l max. as a monthly avg. value; and max. 750 mg/l | PA Code, 1993 |
| Ammonia (mg/L) | ≤ 0.02 mg/L | Murphy, K. J., 2002 |
| Chloride (mg/L) | < 250 mg/L | Pennsylvania Code, 2001 |

Valley Forge National Historical Park

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Valley Forge National Historical Park State of the Park Report

| Condition Status | | Trend in Condition | | Confidence in Assessment | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Warrants Significant Concern | Î | Condition is Improving | \bigcirc | High |
| | Warrants Moderate Concern | \$ | Condition is Unchanging | | Medium |
| | Resource is in Good Condition | Û | Condition is Deteriorating | () | Low |

| Name of Creek/River | Indicators of Condition | Condition Status/Trend |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Valley Creek | Water Quality | ① |
| Schuylkill River | Water Quality | |

0-33 Red (Significant Concern) 34-66 Yellow (Moderate Concern) 67-100 Green (Good) 3 or greater (Trend improving), -3 or lower (Trend Deteriorating), -2 – 2 (trend unchanging)

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK

SERVICE



HARPERS FERRY

Size: 3660.8 acres/5.72 mi²

Location: At the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers in the state of West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland.

Purpose: Established in 1944 to be a public national memorial commemorating a diverse number of historic people and events that influenced the course of our nation's history at or near Harpers Ferry.

■. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Natural Resource Condition Assessment

Table 4.12a. Categorical ranking of reference condition attainment categories for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, acid neutralizing capacity, specific conductance, nitrate, and total phosphorus.

| Attainment of reference condition | Natural resource condition |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 80-100% | Very good |
| 60-<80% | Good |
| 40-<60% | Moderate |
| 20-<40% | Degraded |
| 0-<20% | Very degraded |
| | |

Table 4.12b. Categorical ranking of the reference condition attainment categories for the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity and the Physical Habitat Index.

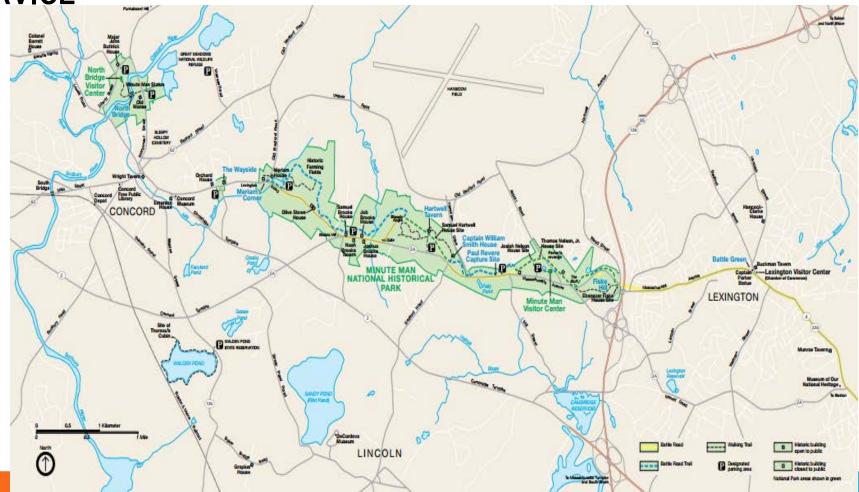
| Reference conditions | Attainment of reference condition | Natural resource condition | Reference conditions | Attainment of reference condition | Natural resource condition |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Benthic Index of | Biotic Integrity (BIBI) | | Physical Habitat | Index (PHI) | |
| 4.0-5.0 | 100% | Good | 81-100 | 75-100% (scaled) | Minimally degraded |
| 3.0-3.9 | scaled | Fair | 66-80 | 50-75% (scaled) | Partially degraded |
| 2.0-2.9 | linearly | Poor | 51-65 | 25-50% (scaled) | Degraded |
| 1.0-1.9 | 0% | Very poor | 0-50 | 0-25% (scaled) | Severely degraded |

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| Water Quality | Reference | Source | Observed | % Attainment | Condition |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Parameter | Condition | | Median | | |
| pН | $6.0 \le \text{pH} \le 9$ | State of West | 8.2 | 100 | Very Good |
| | | Virginia, 2008 | | | |
| DO (mg/L) | ≥ 5.0 | State of West | 8.4 | 96 | Very Good |
| | | Virginia, 2008 | | | |
| Water Temperature | ≤ 30.56 May- | State of West | 19.1 May- | 100 | Very Good |
| (°C) | Nov; ≤ 22.78 | Virginia, 2008 | Nov; 7.4 | | |
| | Dec-Apr | | Dec-Apr | | |
| Acid Neutralizing | ≥ 200 | MBSS | 4,820 | 100 | Very Good |
| Capacity (µeq/L) | | | | | |
| Specific | ≤ 500 | Buchanan et al., | 660 | 2.9 | Very Degraded |
| conductance | | 2011 | | | |
| (µS/cm) | | | | | |
| Nitrate (mg/L) | ≤ 2 | MBSS | 4.1 | 7.2 | Very Degraded |
| Total phosphorus | \leq 0.01 | U.S. EPA | 0.14 | 0 | Very Degraded |
| (mg/L) | | Ecoregional | | | |
| | | Nutrient Criteria | | | |
| | | (2000) | | | |
| Benthic Index of | 1.0-1.9; 2.0-2.9; | MBSS interpretation | 2.8 | 45 | Poor |
| Biotic Integrity | 3.0-3.9; 4.0-5.0 | of the BIBI | | | |
| (BIBI) | | | | | |
| Physical Habitat | 0-50; 51-65; 66- | MBSS | 75 | 67 | Partially |
| Index | 80; 81-100 | | | | Degraded |

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK

SERVICE



MINUTE MAN

Size: 967.04 acre/1.511 mi²

Location: 22 miles outside of Boston within the towns of Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord, Massachusetts

Purpose: Celebrates the opening battles of the American Revolution by preserving the historic sites, structures, landscapes, and ideas embodied by these events

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Table 1. Rating categories and numerical scores used in the assessment of condition, trend, and data reliability.

| Condition | Icon | Numerical Score |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | Condition midpoint score (range) |
| Good | | 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) |
| Caution | | 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) |
| Significant concern | • | 0.16 (0 to 0.33) |
| Unknown condition | 0 | No value given |
| | | Trend midpoint score (range) |
| Improving trend | ^ | 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) |
| Stable trend | \leftrightarrow | 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) |
| Declining trend | • | 0.16 (0 to 0.33) |
| Unknown trend | 0 | No value given |
| | | Data reliability midpoint score (range) |
| Good data | • | 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) |
| Satisfactory data | • | 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) |
| Limited data | • | 0.16 (0 to 0.33) |

Minute Man

Natural Resource Condition Assessment

| Current Condition: | Water quality – Concord River, Elm Brook, Mill Brook | Significant concern | 0.16 |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|------|
| Trend: | Water quality | ◆ Declining trend | 0.16 |
| | | | |
| Reliability: | US EPA water quality assessment data | Good | 0.84 |

4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| Water Quality Parameter | Reference Condition | Source | Results |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| рН | 6.5-8.3 | MA state standard | All values were between the upper and lower Massachusetts water quality standards |
| DO | Min. 6 mg/L | MA state standard | Most measurements were above the standard except the June and July measurements from Mill Brook and July measurement from Concord River |
| Water Temperature | Max. temp 28.3°C- warm water; 20°C- cold water | MA state standards | Most measurements were within the standards except in July at Mill Brook and Elm Brook |
| Acid Neutralizing Capacity | >100 μeq/L= well-buffered < 0 μeq/L= acidic waters | (Stoddard et al. 2003) | All values exceeded the standard |
| Turbidity | 0-10 NTU | U.S. EPA (1999) | All values fall within this range |
| Nitrogen | 0.71 mg/L | EPA Region criterion | All but 1 value were above the criterion of 0.71 mg/L |
| | | (non- regulatory) | |
| Total phosphorus | 31.25 µg/L | EPA Region criterion (non- regulatory) | All values were above the criterion of 31.25µg/L |

Minute Man

5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WATER RESOURCES IN NAT'L. HISTORICAL PARKS

5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WATER RESOURCES IN NAT'L. HISTORICAL PARKS

| Parameter | Unit | Water Quality Standard | Attainment (%) | Condition |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Temperature | °C | Max. 27.7°C | 100% | Very Good |
| рН | standard pH unit | 6.5-8.5 | 98% | Very Good |
| Turbidity | NTU | Max. 10 NTUs | 97% | Very Good |
| Dissolved Oxygen | mg/L | Min. average 5.5 | 98% | Very Good |
| Electrical Conductivity | μS | 150-500μS | 84.1% | Very Good |
| Enterococci Bacteria | #/100mL | 925/100mL | 71% | Good |

First State National Historical Park

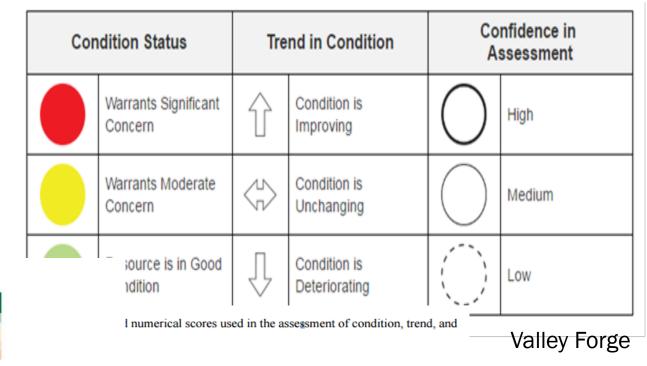
5. Comparative Analysis of Water Resources in Nat'l. Historical Parks

| | Minute Man National | Harpers Ferry National | Valley Forge National Historical | First State National Historical |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Historical Park | Historical Park | Park | Park |
| Water Quality Parameter | Criteria | Criteria | Criteria | Criteria |
| рН | 6.5-8.31 | $6.0 \le pH \le 9^3$ | 6.0-9.0 ⁷ | 6.5-8.5 ¹⁰ |
| DO (mg/L) | ≥ 6 mg/L cold water; ≥ 5 mg/L warm water ¹ | $\geq 5.0 \text{ mg/L}^3$ | Min. daily avg. 5.0 mg/L; min. 4.0 mg/L (Warm Water). Min. daily avg. 6.0 mg/l; min. 5.0 mg/l (Cold Water) ⁷ | Avg. $\geq 5.5 \text{ mg/L}^{10}$ |
| Water Temperature (°C) | Max: 28.3°C- warm water; 20°C- cold water ¹ | No standard | Max.: 38°F- 66°F | Max. daily mean temp.: 82°F (27°C) Daily max. temp.: 86°F (30°C). Max. increase above natural conditions shall be 5°F (-15°C). 10 |
| Total Nitrogen | \leq 0.71 mg/L ² | \leq 0.31 mg/L ⁴ | ≤0.69 mg/L ⁸ | ≤0.69 mg/L ¹¹ |
| | | $\leq 10 \text{ mg/L}^5$ | \leq 10 mg/L ⁵ | $\leq 10 \text{ mg/L}^5$ |
| Total phosphorus | ≤31.25 μg/L ² | $\leq 10 \ \mu \text{g/L}^4$ | $\leq 36.56 \ \mu g/L^8$ | ≤36.56 μg/L ¹¹ |
| Bacteria | No standard | Max.: 200/100 mL Max: 400 /100 mL | Max. Fecal coliforms/ 100 ml: 200/100 mL Max. 400/100 mL. Max. 2,000/100 mL | Max.: 2,400 organisms/100 mL o Max. 1,000 organisms/100 mL |
| Turbidity | ≤3.04 FTU ² | ≤ 1.7 FTU ⁴ Max. :10 NTU | ≤5.7 FTU ⁸ Max.:100 NTU (Potable water supply, warm water fishes, migratory fish). ⁹ | ≤5.7 FTU ¹¹ Max.: 10 NTU or 10 FTU ¹⁰ |

5. Comparative Analysis of Water Resources in Nat'l. Historical Parks

| Historical Park | State of the Park Report | Natural Resource Condition Assessment | Water Quality Parameters | Condition/Trend |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| First State | | | Water temp., pH, turbidity, DO, conductivity, enterococci | |
| Valley Forge | ✓ | ✓ | Water temp., specific conductance, alkalinity, turbidity/total dissolved solids, ammonia, chloride, nitrite/nitrate, phosphorus, pH, DO, boron, and macroinvertebrate and fish sampling | Traffic-like symbols |
| Minute Man | | √ | Specific conductance, DOC, bacteria, turbidity, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, water temp., | Traffic Like Symbols |
| | | | DO, pH, and ANC, chloride, and sulfate | |
| Harpers Ferry | | ✓ | pH, DO, water temp., ANC, salinity/specific conductance, nitrate, total phosphorus, BIBI, and PHI | Percent Attainment |

5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WATER RESOURCES IN NAT'L. HISTORICAL PARKS



condition attainment categories for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, acid neutralizing capacity, specific conductance, nitrate, and total phosphorus.

Attainment of reference condition

80–100% Very good

60–e80% Good

40–<60% Moderate

20–<40% Degraded

0–<20% Very degraded

Table 4,12a, Categorical ranking of reference

Icon Numerical Score Condition midpoint score (range) Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BIBI) Physical Habitat Index (PHI) 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) 3.0-3.9 Fair 66-80 50-75% (scaled) Partially degraded scaled 2.0-2.9 linearly Poor 51-65 25-50% (scaled) 0.16 (0 to 0.33) 1.0-1.9 Very poor 0 No value given Unknown condition Harpers Ferry Trend midpoint score (range) 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) Improving trend Stable trend 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) Declining trend 0.16 (0 to 0.33) Unknown trend No value given Data reliability midpoint score (range) Good data 0.84 (0.68 to 1.0) Satisfactory data 0.50 (0.34 to 0.67) Limited data 0.16 (0 to 0.33)

Minute Man

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

- 1. NPS Units: The National Park Service is authorized to manage 417 units that contain 100,000 miles of perennial rivers and streams, and over 2.3 million acres of lakes and reservoirs in the National Park System.
- 2. The 400th unit of the National Park System, First State National Historical Park contains 6 sub-watersheds of the Brandywine Piedmont Watershed that capture a drainage area of 4,485 acres/7 mi².
- 3. Water quality testing in FSNHP indicates that standards are met for pH, temperature, and DO, but there are concerns for high turbidity and conductivity levels in headwater streams.
- 4 & 5. The reporting and water quality standards for each of the historical parks vary. Some historical parks use traffic symbols, while others use percent attainment to display the status and condition of the parks water resources.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

- 1. Water Quality Criteria: First State National Historical Park should manage its water resources as Valley Forge, Minute Man and Harpers Ferry National Historical Parks.
- 2. Condition Assessments: The First State National Historical Park should prepare natural resource condition assessments and state of the park reports and communicate water resources condition and status using traffic symbols and percent attainment of Harpers Ferry, Valley Forge, and Minute Man National Historical Parks.
- **3. Water Quality Monitoring:** It is recommended that First State National Historical Park continue monthly monitoring of the existing parameters of the 12 sampling sites in the park to assess spatial and temporal trends of existing parameters.
- **4. Expanded WQ Monitoring network:** It is suggested to expand the water quality network to include other parameters such as nutrients, such as nitrogen, and phosphorus, and metals, such as zinc copper, and lead, and pathogens such as E .Coli and Enterococci bacteria.
- 5. BMP Implementation: Provide recommendations for BMP in the First State National Historical Park, including reforestation in the upper parts of the watershed, and establishing stream buffers in residential and urban areas outside the park boundaries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the University of Delaware Institute of Public Administration and Water Resources Center for allowing me to carry out this research.

Thank you Dr. Gerald Kauffman, Martha Narvaez, and Dr. Afton Clarke-Sather for your guidance and support.