



Biological Inventories at George Washington Carver National Monument

Importance of Natural Resource Inventories:

The primary role of the Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program is to collect, organize, and make available natural resource data to park managers. It also contributes to the understanding of natural resources by transforming data into information through analysis, synthesis, and statistical modeling. These efforts result in improving park management through reliance on scientific knowledge.

The Heartland Network recently completed multiple inventories of vertebrate animal and vascular plant species at George Washington Carver NM. Results of inventory projects include several reports, databases and voucher data. Non-sensitive reports, maps and data sets are available at the Heartland Network web page, <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln/inventories.cfm>.

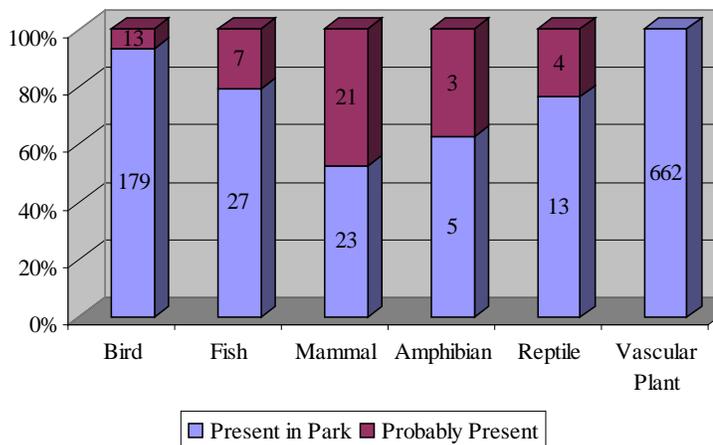


Inventory Methods:

The Inventory and Monitoring program provides twelve basic inventories for park managers, ranging from air quality inventories to lists of vascular plants and vertebrate animals within parks. Heartland Network has completed biological inventories identifying vascular plants and vertebrate animals at George Washington Carver NM. Initially, scientists listed species of plants and animals that they would expect to find, based on available habitat, normal range of the species, and historical accounts. Then they initiated uniquely designed studies that would validate these lists and discover additional species.

Inventory Results¹:

The inventories confirmed 909 species as living within the park and an additional 48 that may occur at George Washington Carver NM, but were not confirmed. Of the original species considered as potential residents, researchers could not confirm 136 as still resident. You can obtain species lists from the Natural Resource Information Portal at <http://nrinfo.nps.gov/Home.mvc>. Scientists also found that:



1. Twenty species at the monument are of conservation concern, including two confirmed species, endangered bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and endangered northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Scientists found additional state listed species of concern as well.
2. Non-native species in the natural areas comprise 114 plant species, three birds, two fish, and one mammal species with 18 of the plant species ranking as a significant threat to native plant communities.

Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program of the National Park Service. Visit <http://nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln>

... protecting the habitat
of our heritage



¹ Williams, M.H. 2009. An Evaluation of Biological Inventory Data Collected at George Washington Carver National Monument - Vertebrate and Vascular Plant Inventories. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/2009/NRTR—2009/233. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.