

NPS Water - Survey Protocol

These measures are designed to rate access, availability, and certain aspects of quality for free plain drinking water in national parks. This includes plain drinking water that comes from water coolers, fountains, spigots, and filtration devices. For the National Parks survey, all drinking water that is delivered in restaurants, stores, concession stands/snack shops or vending machines are excluded.

Definitions:

Water fountain – A stand-alone device that dispenses water for immediate consumption or into a water vessel

Water cooler – A water jug visible on top of a water dispenser

Water bottle refill station – A spigot attached to a larger backboard for refilling water bottles

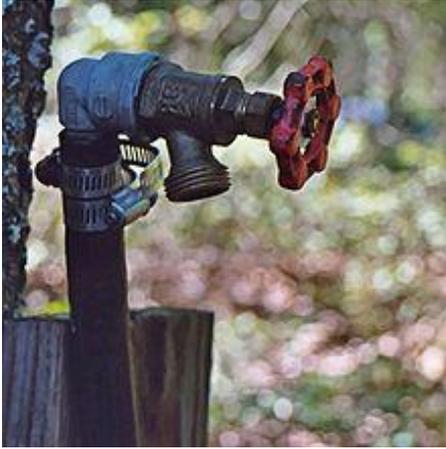
Water spigot – A stand-alone water faucet that dispenses drinking water



Cooler (above)



Water fountain (above)



Water spigot (above)



Water bottle refill stations (above)



Water bottle refill station (Grand Canyon - above)

In these protocol instructions, each section of the survey is shown, followed by instructions for completing that section.

Water Access Policies and Promotion

Complete this page at the end of your last day in the park to ensure that you have a good sense of what is available/accessible in the park.

Water Access Policies and Promotion (excluding restaurants, vending, concessions, stores)

1. Is water consumption promoted? (mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by parks <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by vendors (e.g. Aramark) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by manufacturers (e.g. Coca Cola) <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Is water consumption promoted as a “healthy choice”? (mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by parks <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by vendors (e.g. Aramark) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, by manufacturers (e.g. Coca Cola) <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Does the park have water containers available near water fountains or dispensers? (excluding restaurants/stores/concessions) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for purchase <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for free <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Mark whether water consumption (in general) is promoted via signs, displays, advertisements, radio/audio messages or videos. Water may be promoted by the park or park service, by vendors such as Aramark (choose Yes, by vendors) or by manufacturers such as Coca-Cola or Poland Spring (choose yes, by manufacturers). You may pick all that apply (among the yes choices).

2. Mark whether water consumption is promoted as a “healthy choice” via signs, displays, advertisements, radio/audio messages or videos.

- Examples: “Hydrate for health”
“Water – the smart choice!”
“Pure clean drinking water – the zero-calorie thirst quencher!”

Water may be promoted as healthy by the park (choose Yes, by parks) by vendors such as Aramark (choose “Yes, by vendors”) or by manufacturers such as Coca-Cola or Poland Spring (choose “Yes, by manufacturers”). You may pick all that apply (among the yes choices).

3. Mark whether the park has water containers available for free or for sale near (within approximately 100 feet, or 1/3 of a football-field) water fountains or dispensers. Water containers may include disposable or reusable cups, bottles or bladders. Water containers can be available for free or sale in a visitor center, gift shop, concession booth or another venue. If water containers (of any type) are available for sale, choose “Yes, for sale” and/or if available for free, choose “Yes, for free”. You may pick all that apply (among the yes choices).

4. Is there NPS staff or volunteers in the main visitor center who can direct you to multiple water access points?

- Yes
 No

5. Is there a map available in the main visitor center that depicts water access points?

- Yes
 No

6. Please list the names and locations of any major (frequently visited, highlighted on maps or drives) sights or structures (e.g. scenic vistas, visitor centers, bathrooms, etc) that do NOT have any functioning water fountains or spigots.

4. Mark whether there are any National Park Service staff or volunteers in the main visitors center who can direct you to multiple free plain drinking water access points (e.g. fountains).

5. Mark if there are maps available in the main visitor center that depict water access points (typically marked with an icon of a small drinking cup).

6. Please list ANY names/locations of major sights or structures that do NOT have any functioning drinking water access. These may be scenic vistas, trailheads, bathrooms, or anywhere else that you think having drinking water would be helpful.

Sources of Free Drinking Water in Parks

This section involves taking objective measures of free drinking water access in the parks (again, not in restaurants, stores, or snack shops/concessions stands). These may include water fountains, water coolers, filtration devices, bottle refill stations, spigots, etc.

In small national parks, a census of all drinking water sources may be possible (and is preferred).

In large national parks a census of free drinking water sources is not possible.

The following **sampling strategy** should be used:

1. Rate all drinking water access points near (visible from) restaurants, stores, snack shops/concession stands and vending machines that are already being rated.
2. Obtain a park map that depicts the locations of bathrooms, visitor centers, and other physical structures
3. Determine the feasible distance that the rater can travel from the arrival point at the park (example: 20 miles by car from the parking lot/main visitor center)
4. Seek out all major physical structures within the feasible distance, including visitors center, museums, bathrooms, exhibits and look for/rate drinking water access points.
5. Seek out trail heads, shuttle stops, and scenic vistas and look for/rate drinking water access points.
6. Rate all drinking water access points labeled on the map (typically with a small drinking cup) that are within the feasible distance.

Rating Water Sources:

Sources of Free Drinking Water in Parks

WF = water fountain

WS= water spigot

WB = water bottle refill station

WC=water cooler

(Circle or list appropriate information for each source of free drinking water)

Type of source	Date	Time	Operating?	3 oz. filling time	Temp	Photo	In/Out	Appearance of Device	Relative Accessibility	Proximity (<20ft)	GPS Coordinates, Location Descrip. & Comments
1. WF WS WB WC			Yes No			<input type="checkbox"/>	Inside Outside	Satisfactory Visible Dirt /Rust Not draining Otherwise unappealing	Visitors Center Campground Trail Scenic vista Other populous area	Vending Bathroom Building N/A	
2. WF WS WB WC			Yes No			<input type="checkbox"/>	Inside Outside	Satisfactory Visible Dirt /Rust Not draining Otherwise unappealing	Visitors Center Campground Trail Scenic vista Other populous area	Vending Bathroom Building N/A	

Circle type of source:

Water fountain (WF), water bottle refill station (WB), water spigot (WS), or water cooler (WC)

* Please do NOT evaluate water from bathroom or other sinks

Date of evaluation: Please write the date that the rater completes the evaluation (ex: 9/10/2011)

Time of evaluation: Please write the time, including am/pm that the rater starts the measurement (e.g. 1:00pm, 10:15am)

Operating: Please circle yes if the source is functioning at the time of rating, or no if the source is not functioning (i.e. water comes out of the source when button/switch pressed)

3 ounce filling time: Please indicate the amount of time (in seconds) it takes to fill a 3 ounce cup. If a 3 ounce cup is not available, please use a graduated cup with a 3 ounce hash mark. For this measure, it helps to have two people (one timer, and one cup filler) – though possible with one person. Please round up/down to the nearest whole number, as appropriate.

Temperature: Using a thermometer, preferable digital (please note, a human thermometer will not work because it does not measure below 94° Fahrenheit), measure the temperature of the water that is in the 3 ounce cup, immediately after filling it.

Photo: Check the box if a photograph (time and date stamped) was taken. If your camera cannot time/date stamp – then please take a photo of a watch/clock/phone displaying time and date immediately before taking the photo of the water source.

Appearance of device: Circle the responses that best describe the appearance of the drinking water device (e.g. water fountain). If the appearance is satisfactory, circle that response only. If the appearance is unsatisfactory, circle any of the following that

apply: Visible dirt/rust, Not draining, or Otherwise unappealing (ex: filled with garbage or moldy).

Relative Accessibility: Assess whether the water source is near (within 100 feet or 1/3 of a football field) any of the following, then circle whether any of the following apply: Campground, Trail, Scenic Vista, Picnic area or Other populous area (where visitors frequent).

Proximity: Circle whether the water source is within 30 feet of: Vending machines, Bathrooms, another Building (any type) or None of the above (N/A)

Comments: Please write the GPS coordinates, if possible, and any comments about the function, location, accessibility or performance of this water source