

**Paris Mountain State Park
Aquatic Ecology Vocabulary List**

Abiotic factors: any nonliving part(s) of an ecosystem.

Adaptation: characteristic or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment.

Aquatic: having to do with water.

Biotic factors: the living part(s) of an ecosystem.

Diversity: the variety of species present in an ecosystem.

Ecology: the study of relationships among the living and nonliving parts of an area.

Ecosystem: all the living and nonliving parts of an environment.

Habitat: the place where an organism lives.

Invertebrate: an animal that does not have a backbone.

Larva: an immature organism that experiences complete metamorphosis.

Metamorphosis: To change during growth or formation from an immature organism into adulthood.

Niche: the role of an organism in the environment.

Nymph: an immature insect that experiences incomplete metamorphosis.

pH: the amount of acid in a solution. The measurement of acidity or alkalinity of a substance. The pH scale ranges from most acidic (1) to most basic (14).

Pollution: Substances added to water, air, or soil that are harmful to living organisms.

Population: all the organisms of one species in a community.

Predator: an animal that kills and eats other animals.

Prey: an animal that is killed and eaten by other animals.

Temperature: a measurement of the amount of energy in an object.

Watershed: land area that drains water to a stream, river or lake.