

# Saratoga National Historical Park

Stillwater, New York

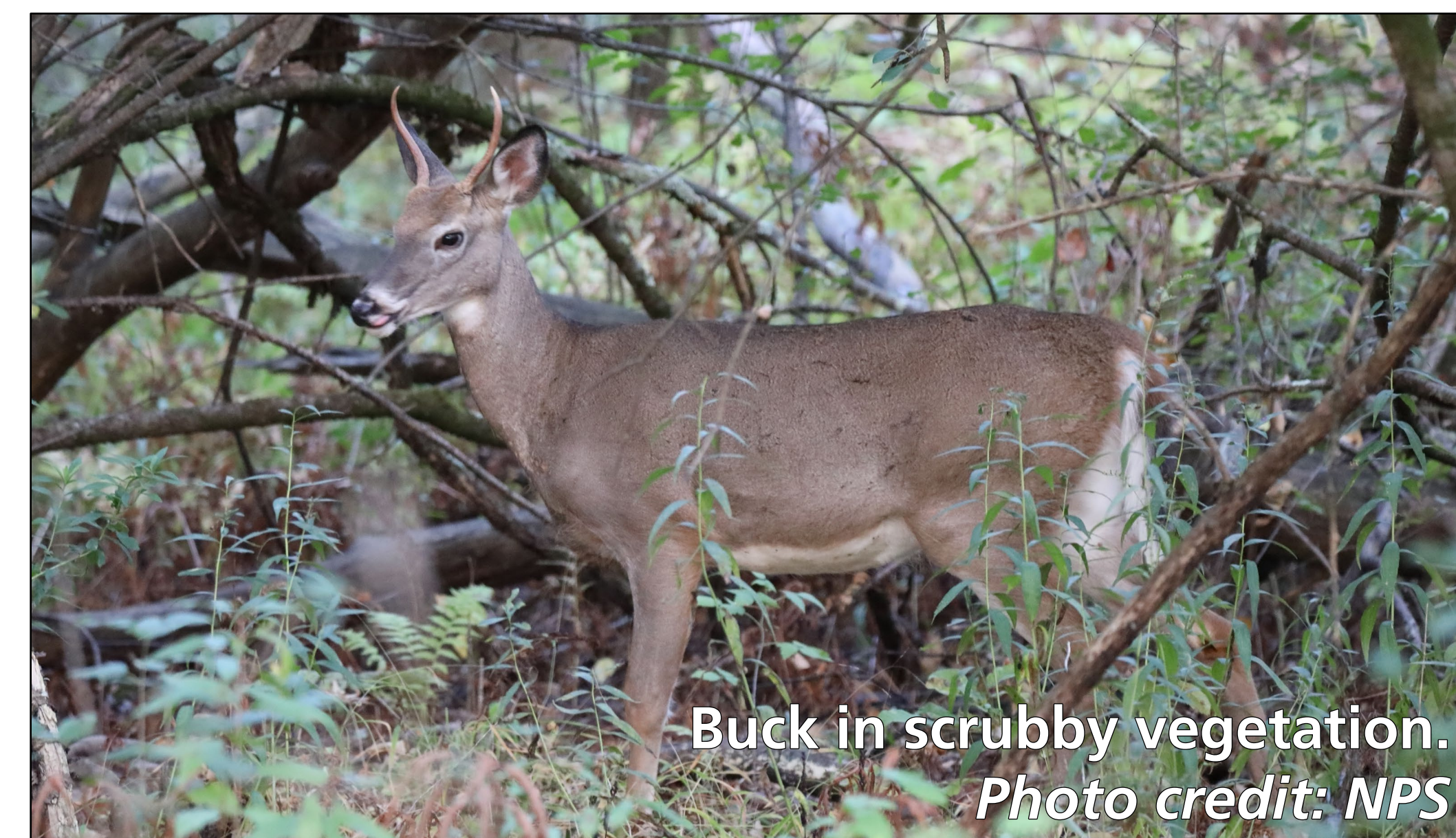
Adaptive White-tailed Deer Management Plan

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior



## What changes have you noticed in the deer population and vegetation at Saratoga National Historical Park over the years?

A viable white-tailed deer population is needed for a balanced ecosystem. The park's deer population density is higher than the ecosystem can support.



Buck in scrubby vegetation.  
Photo credit: NPS

## Native Vegetation and Vegetation Communities

An overabundant deer population increases browsing pressure on native vegetation, allowing invasive species to spread.



Bluebird on a branch.  
Photo credit: NPS



Forest with diminished understory.  
Photo credit: NPS



Adult and juvenile turkeys.  
Photo credit: NPS



Invasive Japanese knotweed.  
Photo credit: NPS

Deer overbrowse changes vegetation structure and composition, which decreases habitat and food for other native wildlife.

## Forest Regeneration



Forest with diminished understory.  
Photo credit: NPS



Forest with barren understory.  
Photo credit: NPS

Saratoga National Historical Park's forests are at risk of imminent failure. The lack of forest understory due to deer overbrowse of native seedlings and saplings threatens forest regeneration and diminishes the character-defining features of the Saratoga Battlefield cultural landscape.

We want to hear from you!  
Comment period closes July 17, 2026.

