

42510 – Town of Alban; Village of Rosholt

Northern Mesic Forest

This forest complex covered the largest acreage of any Wisconsin vegetation type prior to European settlement. Sugar maple is dominant or co-dominant in most stands, while hemlock was the second most important species, sometimes occurring in nearly pure stands with white pine. Beech can be a co-dominant with sugar maple in the counties near Lake Michigan. Other important tree species were yellow birch, basswood, and white ash. The ground layer varies from sparse and species poor (especially in hemlock stands) with woodferns (especially *Dryopteris intermedia*), bluebead lily, clubmosses, and Canada mayflower prevalent, to lush and species-rich with fine spring ephemeral displays. After old-growth stands were cut, trees such as quaking and bigtoothed aspens, white birch, and red maple became and still are important in many second-growth Northern Mesic Forests. Several distinct associations within this complex warrant recognition as communities, and draft abstracts of these are currently undergoing review.

Lake- -Soft Bog

Description not available

Northern Wet-Mesic Forest (revised from Curtis, with Northern Hardwood Swamp split out)

This forested minerotrophic wetland is dominated by white cedar, and occurs on rich, neutral to alkaline substrates. Balsam fir, black ash, and spruces are among the many potential canopy associates. The understory is rich in sedges, orchids, and wildflowers such as goldthread, fringed polygala, and naked miterwort, and trailing sub-shrubs such as twinflower and creeping snowberry. A number of rare plants occur more frequently in the cedar swamps than in any other habitat.

Open Bog

These non-forested bogs are acidic, low nutrient, northern Wisconsin peatlands dominated by *Sphagnum* mosses that occur in deep layers, often with pronounced hummocks and hollows. Also present are a few narrow-leaved sedge species such as, cotton-grasses, and ericaceous shrubs, especially bog laurel, leatherleaf, and small cranberry. Plant diversity is very low but includes characteristic and distinctive specialists. Trees are absent or achieve very low cover values as this community is closely related to and intergrades with Muskeg. When this community occurs in southern Wisconsin, it is often referred to as a Bog Relict.

Stream- -Fast; Hard; Cold

Description not available

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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