



BLACK ASH SWAMP WETLAND TYPES

Emmet Judziewicz

Lowland hardwood swamp, coniferous swamp, coniferous bog, floodplain forest

KEWAUNEE/DOOR COUNTY



BLACK ASH SWAMP

Property Owners: multiple private landowners
Recognitions & Designations: WI Land Legacy Place, WI Coastal Wetland Inventory Primary Site, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area, Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance Landscape of Opportunity

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Wisconsin Wetlands ASSOCIATION

wisconsinwetlands.org

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Black Ash Swamp spans the border of Door and Kewaunee Counties five miles inland from the Lake Michigan coast. The site is one of several large inland swamps dominated by black ash and red maple in the southern part of the Door Peninsula. These wetlands are important for their roles in supporting area streams with clean and abundant water; Black Ash Swamp includes an undeveloped reach of Silver Creek, a tributary to the Ahnapee River. The site is also important as a one of few remaining large, diverse lowland forests in this region and thus provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife.

FLORA & FAUNA

Black Ash Swamp is made up largely of lowland hardwood swamp and coniferous swamp vegetation with species representative of both northern and southern parts of the state. Black ash, white cedar and paper birch dominate in the northern part of the swamp while red maple, silver maple, green ash and black ash dominate in the south. Pockets of cedar and tamarack stands and other areas dominated by silver maple provide added diversity. The groundlayer is relatively open in most parts of the swamp, though the small yellow lady's slipper, a species of special concern in Wisconsin, is abundant.

WDNR believes that a number of rare species may occur in Black Ash Swamp and ranks this site as a high priority

for future field surveys, pending landowner permission, to more fully document the swamp's biodiversity. A small population of the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly has been documented at this site. Roadside birding efforts have documented broad-winged hawks, pileated woodpecker, winter wren, brown creeper, red-breasted nuthatch, Canada warbler and other locally uncommon species.

THREATS

Invasive species are a serious problem in the Black Ash Swamp. Reed canary grass in particular has had a significant adverse effect on native understory species. Future invasion by the emerald ash borer beetle threatens the site's ash stands. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifers. Low density rural development and agriculture on adjacent lands may also impact the quantity and quality of water in these wetlands.

ACCESS

These private lands are not open to the public.



Hine's emerald dragonfly — Kathryn Kirk



Yellow lady's slippers amidst white cedar — Emmet Judziewicz

Sources:

Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes (WDNR)
 Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
 Great Lakes Ecoregional Plan (TNC)
 Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance
 Glacial Lakes Conservancy