



**CEDARBURG BOG WETLAND TYPES**

*Kate Redmond*

**Coniferous bog, coniferous swamp, fen, lowland hardwood swamp, marsh, shrub carr, ephemeral pond, patterned peatland**

OZAUKEE COUNTY



# CEDARBURG BOG

**Property Owners:** University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WDNR  
**Recognitions & Designations:** WI State Natural Area, WI Land Legacy Place, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area, WI Bird Conservation Initiative Important Bird Area, National Park Service National Natural Landmark

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.

## ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Cedarburg Bog is the least disturbed large bog remaining in southern Wisconsin. This wetland complex was once part of a large glacial lake; today six lakes of varying size and depth, all with high water quality, remain. The site's 2500 acres support a number of different wetland plant community types and an associated diversity of plants, including many species that are regionally rare and are at the southern limits of their range here. This Wetland Gem also supports significant wildlife diversity including many amphibians, mammals and hundreds of birds.

## FLORA & FAUNA

This diverse wetland complex consists of extensive coniferous bog with a canopy of tamarack and black spruce trees over a mat of sphagnum moss with areas of open bog, coniferous swamp dominated by northern white cedar, lowland hardwood forest, and fen. Surrounding the site's lakes are areas of marsh vegetation ringed by shrub carr habitat. The heart of Cedarburg Bog features a patterned peatland (also known as a "string bog"), an unusual wetland type that is rare in Wisconsin and is typically found much further north. The patterned peatland is characterized by

low strips of open sedge mat alternating with peat ridges of bog birch, leatherleaf, white cedar and tamarack. Plants common at the site include cranberry, bog birch, narrow-leaved sedge, bogbean, water horsetail, arrowgrass and orchids as well as insectivorous plants like round-leaved sundew, purple pitcher plant and bladderwort. More than 35 plant species at Cedarburg Bog are at or near the southern extent of their range in Wisconsin.

Cedarburg Bog provides excellent habitat for both breeding and migrating birds. Nearly 300 species of birds have been documented in the area, including 19 species that are near the southern extent of their range in Wisconsin. Breeding birds include Acadian Flycatcher, willow flycatcher, hooded warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, Canada warbler, northern waterthrush and white-throated sparrow. Amphibians include wood frog, spring peeper, chorus frog and American toad.

## THREATS

Increased residential and recreational development in surrounding areas may impact the health of the site's wetlands. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. Several invasive species, including buckthorn, threaten native wetland communities at this site. Climate change may facilitate population growth and outbreaks for some insect pests including the larch sawfly, which can seriously damage tamarack stands.

## ACCESS

Trails and a boardwalk allow visitors to see the heart of the bog without harming sensitive vegetation. For details, visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna) and the Friends of Cedarburg Bog website: [www.bogfriends.org](http://www.bogfriends.org).



*Pitcher plant flower — Kate Redmond*

## Sources:

- Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
- Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
- The Prairie-Forest Border: An Ecoregional Plan (TNC)
- Wisconsin Important Bird Areas (WBCI)
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station
- Friends of Cedarburg Bog