



ERICKSON CREEK PEATLANDS WETLAND TYPES

Open bog example — Eric Epstein

Open bog, coniferous bog, sedge meadow, coniferous swamp, alder thicket, fen, marsh

DOUGLAS COUNTY



ERICKSON CREEK PEATLANDS

Property Owner: Douglas County
 Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site

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ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This Wetland Gem features more than 2000 acres of peatlands surrounding Erickson Creek just upstream of its confluence with the Amicon River, a tributary to Lake Superior in Douglas County. This landscape is diverse in terms of both natural communities, with high quality wetland and upland habitats, as well as species composition. These wetlands are relatively undisturbed; past disturbance such as logging and fire in upland forest inclusions have increased the site's diversity. Erickson Creek Peatlands supports a large number of rare plant and animal species, particularly birds and butterflies.

FLORA & FAUNA

A large open bog flanked by coniferous bog is the key feature of this wetland complex. Sphagnum moss carpets bog areas, with tamarack and black spruce dominating in coniferous bog habitat. The wetland complex also includes extensive sedge meadow along the creek and pockets of coniferous swamp dominated by northern white cedar. Islands of high quality upland

habitats, including boreal forest and other northern forest types, contribute to the diversity and habitat value of this landscape. The site supports several rare plants, including dragon's mouth orchid and the endangered small shin-leaf, which in Wisconsin is found only in Douglas and Bayfield Counties.

Erickson Creek Peatlands is rich with abundant and diverse wildlife and supports many rare species of birds and butterflies. Birds using these wetlands include the state threatened red-shouldered hawk, three-toed woodpecker, boreal chickadee, Swainson's thrush, Le Conte's sparrow, great gray owl, northern harrier, Connecticut warbler, Cape May warbler and black-throated blue warbler. Rare butterflies include bog fritillary, freija fritillary, frigga fritillary and titania fritillary.

THREATS

Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. Increased motorized recreation or road construction in the area could degrade the wild character of this remote area.



Freija fritillary — Mike Reese

ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.

Sources:
 Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
 Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
 Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Program (WDNR)