

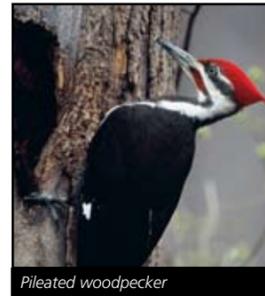
Beech-Maple Forest

Beech-Maple Forests dominated by sugar maple and American beech were the most common forest community in Northeast Ohio at the time of European settlement. Some remaining old-growth beech trees are over 400 years old. This upland forest community is characterized by a dense to moderately dense canopy of deciduous trees, an absent to sparse shrub layer, and a moderate to well-developed ground layer of non-woody, herbaceous plants. Tuliptrees also are often common in this community.

High quality remnants of this community have shrub layers dominated by plants such as maple-leaf viburnum and creeping strawberry-bush. The herbaceous layer is often diverse, typically including spring ephemerals that flower briefly in the spring before the trees leaf out. Common species include common spring beauty, common blue violet, downy yellow violet, sweet white violet, jack-in-the-pulpit, mayapple, cut-leaf toothwort, wild geranium, yellow mandarin, yellow trout lily, large-flowered trillium, squirrel corn, Dutchman's breeches, downy Solomon's seal, purple bittercress, wild ginger, and blue cohosh. One deciduous fern, New York fern, is very common within this forest. One evergreen fern, Christmas fern, is common in high quality old-growth remnants.

Large, contiguous tracts of Beech-Maple Forest in excess of 100 acres provide nesting habitat for many forest birds such as wood thrush, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, red-eyed vireo, ovenbird, hooded warbler, American redstart, cerulean warbler, barred owl, and pileated woodpecker.

Common animals include short-tailed shrew, white-footed mouse, long-tailed weasel, and eastern chipmunk. One can also find red-backed salamander, gray treefrog, American toad, black rat snake, and spicebush swallowtail butterfly.



Pileated woodpecker



Red-backed salamander



Spicebush swallowtail larva



Hooded warbler



Dutchman's breeches



Trillium



Mayapple flower



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Where to Go

- ☛ A.B. Williams Woods at North Chagrin Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks (Cuyahoga County, OH)
- ☛ Bole Woods, Holden Arboretum (Geauga County and Lake County, OH)
- ☛ Hinckley Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks (Medina County, OH)
- ☛ Swine Creek Reservation, Geauga Park District (Geauga County, OH)
- ☛ Tryon-Weber Woods Natural Area, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (Crawford County, PA)



American beech



Bedford Reservation (Cuyahoga County, OH)