



North Kingsville Sand Barrens (Ashtabula County, OH)

Black Oak Savannah / Midwest Sand Barren

This community is characterized by widely scattered black oak trees, sassafras and blackgum. Historically it occurred from Sandusky through Cleveland to western Pennsylvania on the sandy beach ridges and relict dunes of prehistoric glacial lakes, such as the Lake Warren beach ridge followed by Detroit Road west of Cleveland and U.S. 20 east of Cleveland into Pennsylvania. The community was also common within oak-chestnut forests on the glacial sand ridges and knobs within the glacial topography that covers a broad belt from Ravenna and Kent in Portage County, OH, to Akron in Summit County, OH, and Canton in Stark County, OH. The community is now quite rare due to natural forest succession, changes in the natural fire frequency, invasion of other tree species, gravel/sand mining, agriculture, and development of the region's ancient beach ridges.

Sandy openings between trees are vegetated sparsely by sedges, several panic grasses, fall witch grass, wild lupine, racemed milkwort, several species of clubmoss, rough bush-clover, bracken fern, common dewberry, horse nettle, common milkweed, and various mushrooms. Common shrubs within the community are lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and common dewberry. This habitat is also home to brown snakes, tiger beetles, and antlions.



Wild lupine



Narrow-leaved blue curls



Burrowing wolf spider



Northern red salamander

Where to Go

- ☞ Erie Bluffs State Park (Erie County, PA)
- ☞ North Kingsville Sand Barrens of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Ashtabula County, OH)
- ☞ Portage Lakes State Park (Summit County, OH)
- ☞ Presque Isle State Park (Erie County, PA)
- ☞ Singer Lake Bog of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Summit County, OH)



Chestnut-sided warbler