

Ecological site F149BY007NY

Moist Outwash

Last updated: 5/23/2020
Accessed: 04/26/2024

General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 149B—Long Island-Cape Cod Coastal Lowland

149B—Long Island-Cape Cod Coastal Lowland

This area is in the Embayed Section of the Coastal Plain Province of the Atlantic Plain. It is part of the partially submerged coastal plain of New England. It is mostly an area of nearly level to rolling plains, but it has some steeper hills (glacial moraines). Ridges border the lower plains. Elevation generally ranges from sea level to 80 feet (0 to 25 meters), but it is as much as 330 feet (100 meters) in a few areas. Local relief is mainly 3 to 30 feet (1 to 10 meters), but it is as much as 65 feet (20 meters) in the more hilly areas. The Peconic and Carmans Rivers are on the eastern end of Long Island. The parts of this area in Massachusetts and Rhode Island have no major rivers.

This entire area is made up of deep, unconsolidated glacial outwash deposits of sand and gravel. A thin mantle of glacial till covers most of the surface. Some moraines form ridges and higher hills in this area of generally low relief. Sand dunes and tidal marshes are extensive along the coastline.

Classification relationships

USDA-NRCS (USDA, 2006):

Land Resource Region (LRR): S—Northern Atlantic Slope Diversified Farming Region

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 149B—Long Island-Cape Cod Coastal Lowland

USDA-FS (Cleland et al., 2007):

Province: 221 Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province

Section: 221A Lower New England

Subsection: 221Ab Cape Cod Coastal Lowland and Islands

Subsection: 221An Long Island Coastal Lowland and Moraine

Ecological site concept

This site consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils on outwash plains. These soils formed in a thin mantle of loamy outwash deposits overlying stratified sand and gravel. Representative soils are Mineola.

Many of the plant communities are considered maritime if influenced by salt spray from coastal storms or coastal if only influenced by the coastal climate. The representative plant communities are varied but consist largely of oaks (chestnut, black, scarlet, and white), and occasional pines (pitch, white) and red maple e.g., “oak- tuliptree forest” (Edinger et al. 2014); “coastal oak / holly forest” (Edinger et al. 2014); “coastal oak-beech forest” (Edinger et al. 2014); “maritime oak /holly” (Edinger et al. 2014); “maritime post oak forest” (Edinger et al. 2014); plus open sites include “maritime grassland” (Edinger et al. 2014); These sites are very similar to the well-drained counterpart, but are typically more diverse. Influences include development, drought, fire, and invasive plants like winged Euonymous and Asiatic bittersweet.

Associated sites

F149BY006NY	Well Drained Outwash Well-drained Outwash
-------------	---

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	(1) <i>Quercus velutina</i> (2) <i>Quercus alba</i>
Shrub	(1) <i>Ilex opaca</i> (2) <i>Ilex glabra</i>
Herbaceous	Not specified

Physiographic features

The site occurs on outwash plains. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Outwash plain
Slope	0–3%
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Climatic features

Mean annual precipitation is 47 inches and is usually uniformly distributed throughout the year. Frost free and freeze free days average 199 and 226, respectively.

Table 3. Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (average)	199 days
Freeze-free period (average)	226 days
Precipitation total (average)	47 in

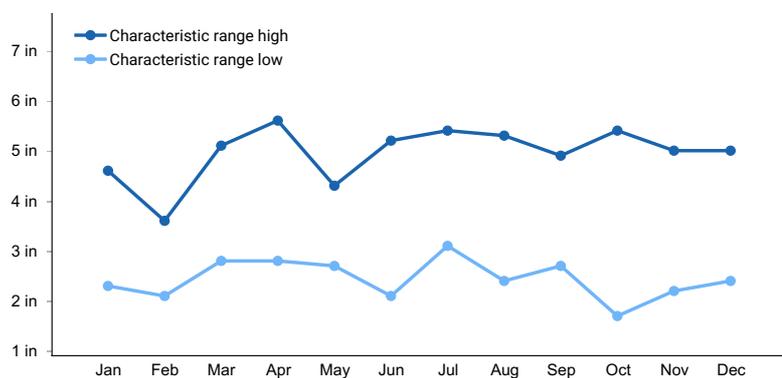


Figure 1. Monthly precipitation range

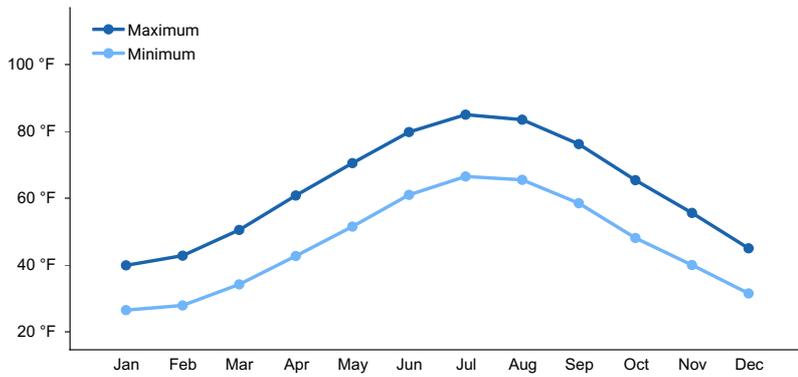


Figure 2. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

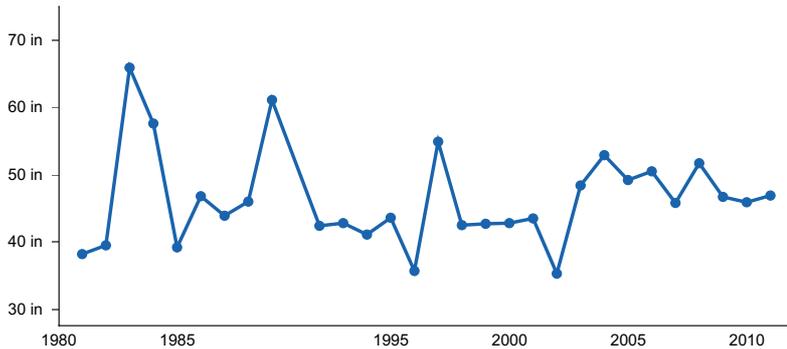


Figure 3. Annual precipitation pattern

Climate stations used

- (1) MINEOLA [USC00305377], Mineola, NY

Influencing water features

Soil features

The site consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils on outwash plains. These soils formed in a thin mantle of loamy outwash deposits overlying stratified sand and gravel. Associated soil is Mineola.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Drainage class	Moderately well drained
----------------	-------------------------

Ecological dynamics

[Caveat: The vegetation information contained in this section and is only provisional, based on concepts, not yet validated with field work.*]

The vegetation groupings described in this section are based on the terrestrial ecological system classification and vegetation associations developed by NatureServe (Comer 2003). Terrestrial ecological systems are specifically defined as a group of plant community types (associations) that tend to co-occur within landscapes with similar ecological processes, substrates, and/or environmental gradients. They are intended to provide a classification unit that is readily mappable, often from terrain and remote imagery, and readily identifiable by conservation and resource managers in the field. A given system will typically manifest itself in a landscape at intermediate geographic scales of tens-to-thousands of hectares and will persist for 50 or more years. A vegetation association is a plant community that is much more specific to a given soil, geology, landform, climate, hydrology, and disturbance history. It is the basic unit for vegetation classification and recognized by the US National Vegetation Classification (US FDGC 2008; USNVC 2017). Each association will be named by the diagnostic and often dominant species that occupy the different height strata (tree, shrub, and herb). Within the NatureServe Explorer database, ecological systems are numbered by a community Ecological System Code (CES) and individual vegetation associations are

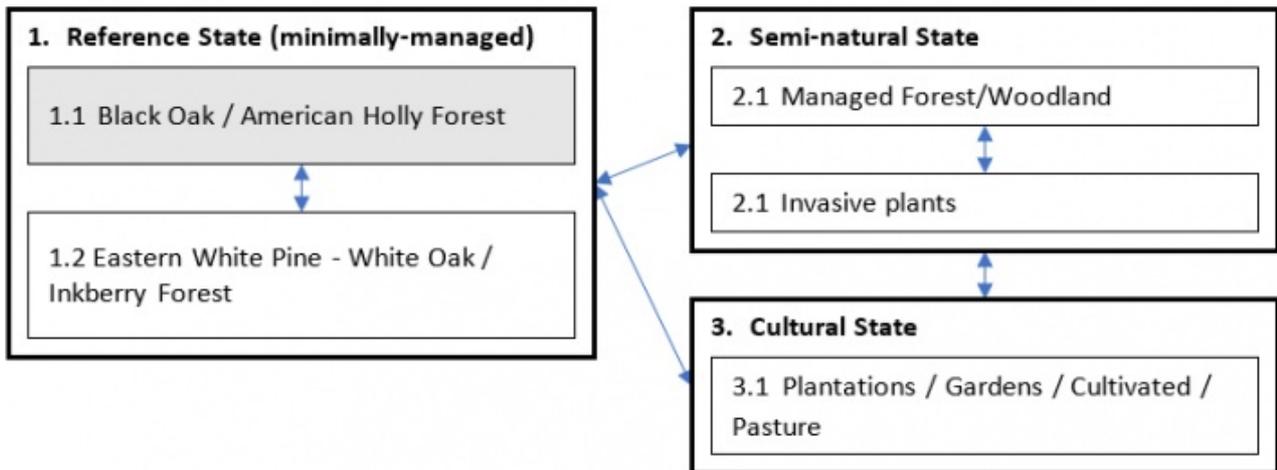
assigned an identification number called a Community Element Global Code (CEGL).

[*Caveat] The information presented is representative of very complex vegetation communities. Key indicator plants and ecological processes are described to help inform land management decisions. Plant communities will differ across the MLRA because of the naturally occurring variability in weather, soils, and geography. The reference plant community is not necessarily the management goal. The drafts of species lists are merely representative and are not botanical descriptions of all species occurring, or potentially occurring, on this site. They are not intended to cover every situation or the full range of conditions, species, and responses for the site.

The Moist Outwash ecological site, set in moderately-well-drained environments, is characterized by somewhat mesic plant communities with coastal affinities from Long Island, New York, north to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. These plant communities coincide with Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Dry Oak-Hardwood Forest system (CES203.475). The prevailing ecological processes are related to coastal influences, such as a coastal climate and storms, and if within close proximity to the coast, maritime effects of wind exposure, salt spray, and sand movement. The forest canopy is typically pines (*Pinus*) such as white pine (*Pinus strobus*) or pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), and/or Oaks (*Quercus*), including black oak (*Q. velutina*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), white oak (*Q. alba*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), and chesnut oak (*Q. montana*). American holly (*Ilex opaca*) or inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) can be present. Threats include road vehicles, and may include invasive plants such as, but not limited to, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), white poplar (*Populus alba*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Honeysuckles, (*Lonicera* spp.), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), Asiatic tearthumb (*Polygonum perfoliatum*). (Source: NatureServe 2018 [accessed 2019], USNVC 2017 [accessed 2019]).

State and transition model

149BY007 – Moist Outwash



Transition	Drivers/practices
T1-2	disturbance, invasive plant establishment
T1-3, T2-3	cutting, land clearing, plant establishment, wind erosion control
R2-1, R3-1	herbaceous weed treatment, plant removal, plant establishment, successional management
T3-2	abandonment, disturbance, invasive plant establishment
CP1.1-1.2	disturbance, greater fire frequency
CP1.2-1.1	succession
CP3.1	changing land management

State 1

Reference State (Moist Outwash)

The predominant plant communities of the Moist Outwash ecological site Reference State (miniamally-managed) include: • North Atlantic Coastal Oak / Holly Forest, (Black Oak / American Holly Forest), [*Quercus velutina* / *Ilex opaca* Forest] - CEGLO06378 • Coastal White Pine - White Oak Forest, (Eastern White Pine - White Oak / Inkberry Forest), [*Pinus strobus* - *Quercus alba* / *Ilex glabra* Forest], - CEGLO06382 • Northeastern Dry Oak - Hickory Forest, Oak (White Oak, Northern Red Oak, Black Oak) - Hickory species / Mapleleaf Viburnum Forest), [*Quercus* (*alba*, *rubra*, *velutina*) - *Carya* spp. / *Viburnum acerifolium* Forest], - CEGLO06336 (Source: NatureServe 2018 [accessed 2019], USNVC 2017 [accessed 2019]).

Community 1.1

Black Oak / American Holly Forest

North Atlantic Coastal Oak / Holly Forest, (Black Oak / American Holly Forest), [*Quercus velutina* / *Ilex opaca* Forest] - CEGLO06378 This forest occurs on mesic, moderately well-drained silts and sandy loams in low areas on the landscape that are sheltered from direct maritime influences. Canopy dominants include Oaks (*Quercus*) predominately black oak (*Q. velutina*) and white oak (*Q. alba*), as well as American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is abundant in the subcanopy. Other associated species of lessor cover include Canada serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*). Shrubs are common and include highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), American witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), smooth arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*) [= *V. dentatum* var. *lucidum*], and

mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Vines are common but not usually abundant, and include such species as poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), roundleaf greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), and grapes (*Vitis* spp.). Characteristic herbs include starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), Swan's sedge (*Carex swanii*), and New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*). (Source: NatureServe 2018 [accessed 2019], USNVC 2017 [accessed 2019]). Cross-referenced plant community concepts (typically by political state): Coastal Forest/Woodland (Swain Swain 2016) [MA] Coastal oak-holly forest (Edinger et al. 2014) [NY]

Community 1.2

Eastern White Pine - White Oak / Inkberry Forest

Coastal White Pine - White Oak Forest, (Eastern White Pine - White Oak / Inkberry Forest), [*Pinus strobus* - *Quercus alba* / *Ilex glabra* Forest], - CEGLO06382 This forest is dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and black oak (*Quercus velutina*) in the canopy with occasional pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). The shrub layer is characterized by highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), blue huckleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*), and inkberry (*Ilex glabra*). The herb layer contains wintergreens (*Pyrola* spp.), Indianpipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), checkered rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera tessellata*), and several ferns, New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*). (Source: NatureServe 2018 [accessed 2019], USNVC 2017 [accessed 2019]). Cross-referenced plant community concepts (typically by political state): Coastal Forest/Woodland (Swain Swain 2016) [MA] Successional southern hardwoods (Edinger et al. 2014) [NY]

Pathway CP1.1-1.2

Community 1.1 to 1.2

disturbance, greater fire frequency, coastal proximity

Pathway CP1.2-1.1

Community 1.2 to 1.1

succession, lessor fire frequency

State 2

Semi-natural State

Vegetation on lands somewhat conditioned by land use, e.g., managed native plant communities or invasive plant communities.

Community 2.1

Managed Forest Woodland

Community 2.2

Invasive Plant Community

White poplar (*Populus alba*), winged burningbush (*Euonymus alatus*), Japanese knotweed (*Lonicera japonica*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Pathway CP2.1-2.1

Community 2.1 to 2.2

Invasive Plant establishment

Pathway CP2.2-2.1

Community 2.2 to 2.1

Invasive Plant Management

Conservation practices

Invasive Plant Species Control

State 3
Cultural State

Landscapes heavily conditioned by land use, e.g., Plantations/gardens

Community 3.1
Plantations/gardens

Transition T1-2
State 1 to 2

disturbance, invasive plant establishment

Conservation practices

Forest Land Management

Transition T1-3
State 1 to 3

cutting, land clearing, plant establishment

Conservation practices

Brush Management
Land Clearing

Restoration pathway R2-1
State 2 to 1

herbaceous weed treatment, plant removal, plant establishment, successional management

Conservation practices

Brush Management
Restoration and Management of Natural Ecosystems
Native Plant Community Restoration and Management
Forest Land Management
Invasive Plant Species Control
Monitoring and Evaluation

Transition T2-3
State 2 to 3

cutting, land clearing, plant establishment

Conservation practices

Land Clearing
Invasive Plant Species Control
Herbaceous Weed Control

Restoration pathway R3-1

State 3 to 1

herbaceous weed treatment, plant removal, plant establishment, successional management

Conservation practices

Brush Management
Restoration and Management of Natural Ecosystems
Native Plant Community Restoration and Management
Invasive Plant Species Control
Monitoring and Evaluation
Herbaceous Weed Control

Transition T3-2

State 3 to 2

disturbance, invasive plant establishment

Additional community tables

References

- Cleland, D.T., J.A. Freeouf, J.E. Keys, G.J. Nowacki, C. Carpenter, and W.H. McNab. 2007. Ecological Subregions: Sections and Subsections of the Conterminous United States. USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report WO-76. Washington, DC. 1–92.
- Comer, P., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Evans, S. Grawler, C. Josse, G. Kittel, S. Menard, M. Pyne, M. Reid, K. Schultz, K. Snow, and J. Teague. 2003. Ecological Systems of the United States: A Working Classification of U.S. Terrestrial Systems. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia..
- Edinger, G.J., D.J. Evans, S. Gebauer, T.J. Howard, D. Hunt, and A. Olivero. 2014. Ecological Communities of New York State, Second Edition: A revised and expanded edition of Carol Reschke's Ecological Communities of New York State. New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY..
- FGDC [Federal Geographic Data Committee]. 2008. National Vegetation Classification Standard, Version 2. Federal Geographic Data Committee, Vegetation Subcommittee, Washington DC..
- NatureServe. 2018 (Date accessed). NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://explorer.natureserve.org>.
<http://explorer.natureserve.org>.
- Swain, P.C. 2016. Classification of the natural communities of Massachusetts, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife,.
- USNVC [United States National Vegetation Classification]. 2017 (Date accessed). United States National Vegetation Classification Database V2.01. Federal Geographic Data Committee, Vegetation Subcommittee, Washington DC.

Contributors

Nels Barrett, Ph.D.
Michael Margo

Approval

Nels Barrett, 5/23/2020

Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

Author(s)/participant(s)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	04/26/2024
Approved by	Nels Barrett
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:**

2. **Presence of water flow patterns:**

3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:**

4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):**

5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:**

6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:**

7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):**

8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of**

values):

9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):**

10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:**

11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):**

12. **Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):**

Dominant:

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):**

14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):**

15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):**

16. **Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site:**

17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:**
