Great Lakes Region scarp woodland

This community type is specific to the extremely steep, actively eroding lakeshore-bluff and creek-wall slopes along Lake Erie. The dominant aspect is that of a woodland (between 10% and 60% cover by trees over 5 meters tall), although some sites are forested and others are more open. Physiognomic differences generally reflect different seral stages in this very dynamic system. Common woody species include *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), *Carpinus caroliniana* (hornbeam), *Ostrya virginiana* (hop-hornbeam), *Juniperus virginiana* (red-cedar), *Salix* spp. (willows), *Rhus typhina* (staghorn sumac), *Cornus rugosa* (round-leaved dogwood), and *Amelanchier arborea* (shadbush). Herbaceous species include *Aster cordifolius* (heart-leaved aster), *Thalictrum dioicum* (early meadow rue), *Dryopteris marginalis* (marginal wood fern), *Equisetum arvense* (common horsetail), and the exotic species *Tussilago farfara*I (coltsfoot). This community type has a somewhat different species composition on bluffs that front Lake Erie than on creek-wall scarps (Charles Bier, personal communication). More data are needed to determine if they warrant separation. This community type is part of the "Great Lakes Region scarp complex."

Related types: The lake sediment scams also contain areas where the substrate is saturated by groundwater seepage. These areas are actively "slumping" and support a combination of herbaceous and woody vegetation. These small wetlands are described in the palustrine section under "Great Lakes Region scarp seep."

Range: Great Lakes Region.

Selected references: Kline 1993, PNDI field surveys.

[Crosswalk: Smith's "Eastern Great Lakes Bluff/Cliff Community," TNC - no crosswalk, SAF - no crosswalk.**]**

Vascular plant nomenclature follows Rhoads and Klein (1993). Bryophyte nomenclature follows Crum and Anderson (1981). Species not native to Pennsylvania are indicated by a superscript "I." The aggressive species *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary-grass) and *Phragmites australis* (common reed) are marked with a superscript "(I)", as their native status is unclear. Pennsylvania species of special concern are indicated by a superscript "S."