

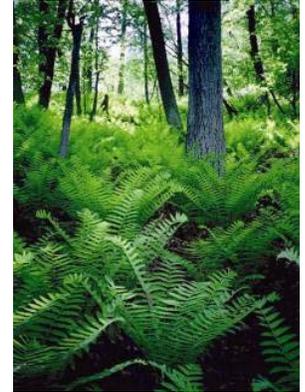


Name That Open Space

Do you recognize the natural communities in the pictures below?
Each type is found somewhere in Andover.

Upland Forest

Northern red, white, or bur oak dominate mesic* stands of oak forest. They have tall, straight, single-stemmed trees that lack spreading lower branches. The understory typically includes fire-sensitive species like basswood, green ash, bitternut hickory, bigtoothed aspen and butternut. Dry oak forest tends to have pin oak, bur oak, and white oak more common as canopy trees.



Tamarack Swamps

Tamarack swamps are a kind of lowland forest. They occur on muck and shallow peat along rivers and in shallow lake basins, and on nutrient poor peat in basins or large peatland systems. Tamarack is either the only canopy species or is mixed with other species like black spruce, birch, white ash or American elm.



Mesic Oak Savanna

The characteristic trees of mesic* oak savanna are bur oaks and northern pin oaks, with a shrub layer of chokecherries, low juneberries, and dogwoods. Prairie grasses dominate between the tree groupings. Spacing of the trees range from evenly spaced to strongly clumped. The land is gently undulating or mildly sloped.



Floodplain Forests

Floodplain forest is a seasonally wet forest that occurs on the flood plains of major rivers and their tributary streams. The canopy is dominated by flood-tolerant deciduous trees. The trees can be either a single tree species or a mixture. Silver maples, black willows and cottonwood are most common.



Oak Woodland/Brushland

Oak woodland-brushland occurs on dry to mesic* sites. The principal species in the tree canopy are various kinds of oak, but aspens may form up to 70% of the tree canopy cover. The brush layer ranges from sparse to an impenetrable thicket. It is most commonly composed of various berries, dogwoods, cherries, hazelnuts, ashes, and oak or quaking aspen sprouts. This type of community is maintained by fire – in the absence of periodic fires, it develops into oak forest.



Dry Oak Savanna

Dry oak savanna consists of small, gnarly, open-grown bur or northern pin oaks that are widely but evenly spaced or perhaps clumped. The shrub layer is usually sparse and consists of grub oaks, chokecherry, American hazel, smooth sumac, and prairie willow.



Cattail Marsh

Cattail marsh is an emergent marsh dominated by cattails. They occur most commonly along lake margins and in shallow basins, although they are sometimes present in river backwaters. The highest quality cattail marshes contain a variety of species including broad leaved cattail and a native variety of narrowleaved cattail.



Wet Meadow

Wet meadow is composed of dense, closed stands of wide-leaved sedges (lake, tussock, water, beaked and Hayden's sedge) or grasses like Canada blue joint or northern reed grass. Wet meadow occurs on wet mineral soil, muck, or shallow peat. Standing water is present in the spring and after heavy rains, but the water table is generally below the ground surface.



*"Mesic" is a type of habitat with a moderate or well-balanced supply of moisture.

More Information

For more detail on these plant communities, check out the City of Andover website, <http://www.ci.andover.mn.us>. Click on "Boards & Commissions," then "Open Space Advisory Commission," then "Andover Plant Communities."

