NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE

Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: 38-VP-2			Date: 17 August 1999
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: A.H. K.K.	Town: Lenox County: Berkshire (Biophysical Region:)	USGS 7.5' Quad: East Lee (1:25,000)	

Mark all observation points on a copy of the topo. Add any comments or sketches here if necessary to clarify the topo.

Directions (if not obvious from topo or Maine Atlas): North of New Lenox Road along west edge of river until it makes a prominent turn to east (in 400 meters). Travel east, past large pool on left (north) to adjacent vernal pool.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: floodplain forest	Community type:	Community type:
Soil: Alluvial silt	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography: flat terrace, gently featured	Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%): 60 Acer saccharum Crataegus punctata Acer rubrum	Tree layer: Total cover (%):	Tree layer: Total cover (%):
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%) 25 Crataegus punctata Prunus virginiana	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%) 25 Cornus amomum	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)
Herb layer: Total cover (%) 85 Matteuccia struthiopteris Lysimachia nummularia Athyrium felix femina Onoclea sensibilis	Herb layer: Total cover (%)	Herb layer: Total cover (%)
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%) 5 Mosses	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)
Other diagnostic or notable species: Sagittaria cuneata	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use: Past Agriculture	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? 5.64 m Radius tree cores? yes photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

date: initials: p. ____ of ____

Observation Point 4	Observation Point 5	Observation Point 6
Community type:	Community type:	Community type:
Soil:	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____
Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____
Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

* STRATA are defined as:

TREE = canopy (if emergents present, note as "E");
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB = > 2 m tall and < 5 cm dbh: woody plants not forming tree canopy but > 2 m tall;
SHRUB = 1 - 2 m: woody plants 1 - 2 m tall;
HERB = < 1 m: all herbaceous vascular plants plus any woody plants < 1 m tall;
BRYOID = all ground-layer non-vascular plants.

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NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART II: DESCRIPTION

--> complete separate description forms for each notable natural community on reconnaissance page.

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): 38-UP-2			Obs. Pt. #
Community type: Floodplain Forest			Adjacent communities: Low Gradient Stream
Quad:	~~(Lat:)~~ northing 4695170	Size (acres) of community, EO (not site):	BE SURE TO MAP EXTENT OF COMMUNITY ON TOPO. Distinguish between portions ground-truthed vs. portions presumed to be part of community based solely on photo/map interpretation, where applicable.
(Quadcode:)	~~(Long:)~~ easting 0645945		

CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

Physiognomy (Class)	Phenology (Subclass)	Leaf type (Group)
forest	evergreen woody	broad-leaf woody
woodland	deciduous woody	needle-leaf woody
shrubland	mixed woody	graminoid
dwarf shrubland	perennial	forb
herbaceous	annual	pteridophyte
sparse vascular/nonvascular		non-vascular

(ALLIANCE:)

ADDITIONAL DATA FOR FORESTS

Tree canopy height:	Core data: ring counts (~ 5 cores) of larger trees (give sp. & dbh)	Deadwood (describe distribution, abundance, degree of decay):	
+/- 70 feet	① Ulmus americana DBH - 19 in Age - 53 height - 75 feet	Irregular, mostly small (<10 cm diameter) sticks and larger branches.	Acer saccharinum is the dominant forest tree in the area, but not in the plots (which are adjacent to the vernal pool).
supercanopy trees?	② Acer saccharinum DBH - 16.0 Age - >24 height - 71.0	③ Ulmus americanus 18 dbh, 76 feet, 68 ybp ④ Ulmus americana 13 dbh, 80 feet, 51 ybp	
no			

HISTORY (describe evidence or lack thereof; please do not leave boxes blank. indicate approximately how recent where possible.)

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
NO	NO	NO	early successional species, forest edge, field like openings, pastures in area	no

comment:

ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

List additional plant species in community not included in the plot data that follows.

Veratrum viride
Alisma triphyllum
Persicaria virginiana
UP Sagittaria latifolia
UP Sagittaria cuneata
Boehmeria cylindrica
Ulmus americana
UP Dulichium arundinaceum
UP Pontederia cordata
UP Lythrum variegatum
UP Eleocharis acicularis
UP Myosotis scorpioides
UP Cardamine pratensis
UP Lemna minor
UP Lycopus virginicus
UP Scutellaria lateriflora
UP Leersia virginica
UP Sium suave
Cicuta latifolia
Solidago gigantea
Salix nigra

Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment: Moderate survey effort

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VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: 38-VP-2 | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: Floodplain Forest | (Regional alliance/community:)

LAYER	plot #1A (vernal pool)	1B (North)	1C (southeast)	1D (southwest)
TREE list species and dbh for all trees >= 5 cm dbh; count standing dead as 1 species. note units: QUAD SIZE: note which size used 5.64 m radius for 1/100th ha 7.98 m radius for 2/100th ha use same size throughout!	N/A	Crataegus punctata 3, 3, 2, 3 Acer saccharinum 30 Prunus virginiana 3, 2,	Crataegus punctata 7, 7, 5, 5, 4, 6, 6, 5 Malus sylvestris 9, 6	Acer rubrum Fraxinus Crataegus punctata 2, 7, 5, 5, 3
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB cover class by species of: trees > 2 m tall but < 5 cm dbh; and shrubs > 2 m tall QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	N/A	Crataegus punctata 9 Cornus amomum 3 Prunus virginiana 3	Crataegus punctata 9 Acer rubrum 3 Acanthostis lobata 1	Cornus amomum 9 Toxicodendron radicans 3
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	N/A	Cornus amomum 3 Ulmus americana 3 Prunus virginiana 1	[redacted] Crataegus punctata 1	Cornus amomum 2
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m², 2-4 herb quads per tree plot. Enter individual values in left-hand column and average in right-hand column. Remember the zeros for spp present in some but not all herb quads when figuring averages!	(D) Persicaria hydropiperoides 19 Ulmus americana 3 Fraxinus pennsylvanica 37 Lysimachia nummularia 1 Onoclea sensibilis 1	Impatiens capensis 3 Athyrium felix-femina 9 Matteuccia struth. 3 Lysimachia nummularia 3 Pilea pumila 3 Symplocarpus foetidus 9 Geum canadense 9 Carex projecta 9	Alliaria petiolata 3 Circaea lutetiana 1 Geum canadense 3 Impatiens capensis 3 Lysimachia nummularia 1 Matteuccia struthiopteris 37 Laportea canadensis 3	Athyrium felix-femina 37 Lysimachia nummularia 3 Onoclea sensibilis 3 Alliaria petiolata 3 Toxicodendron radicans 1 Geum canadense 1
	(D) Alisma triviale 9 Lysimachia terrestris 19 Leersia oryzoides 37 Acer rubrum 3 Persicaria hydropiperoides 3 Phalaris arundinacea 3	Matteuccia struth. 19 Lysimachia nummularia 3 Onoclea sensibilis 3 Carex bromoides 9	(D) Ranunculus hispidus 3 Matteuccia struthiopteris 37 Geum canadense 3 Alliaria petiolata 1 Lysimachia nummularia 37 Circaea lutetiana 3 Impatiens capensis 1 Pilea pumila 3	Athyrium felix-femina 3 Onoclea sensibilis 9 Toxicodendron radicans 1 Cornus amomum 1 Lysimachia nummularia 1 Iris dens 1 Sambucus canadensis 3
BRYOID ground-layer mosses, liverwort, lichens in herb quads. resolution (check one): ✓ "moss"/"liverwort"/"lichen" only; △ identified to major group; __ identified to genus; __ identified to species.	ABSENT	NA	Moss 19	Moss 3
		NA		
REMARKS	Sagittaria cuneata (endangered) present in drawn down portion of vernal pool.			

In box on previous page, list plant spp. present in the community but not in the sample plots so we have a complete species list.

* cover classes (record midpoint): < 2 1 2-5% 3 6-12% 9 13-24% 19 25-49% 37 50-74% 63 75-100% 87

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TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: 38-UP-2	Obs. pt. #: 1
Community type: flood plain forest	(Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation:	Aspect: up	Slope: 0-5°	Microtopography:
294 meters	magnetic or true? NA	measured or estimated?	Gently rolled plain of forest with small depressions (vernal pools).

pH	Topographic position:			Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present):
(note kit or meter type)	(P) low plain, level T toe of slope LS lower slope MS middle slope	TB hillside terrace/bench US upper slope E cliff/ledge	C crest M high plateau N narrow valley D drainage channel	Patchy - vernal pool, in forest

Mineral Soil Profile:

horizon	depth (cm)	color	mottling	other
O				
A				
E				
B				
C				

Organic Soil Profile:

peat depth:_____cm OR > 1 m_____

vonPost decomposition:_____

ALL SOILS:

DEPTH TO WATER TABLE:_____

DEPTH to OBSTRUCTION:_____

Soil temperature reading _____ F/C at _____ (depth)

Surficial deposit:	Surface:	Average Texture:
bedrock	____% Bedrock	gravel
talus slope	____% Boulders (>50 cm)	sand
glacial till	____% Cobbles/Gravel	loamy sand / sandy loam
moraine	5 % Bare mineral soil	loam
esker/outwash	____% Organic soil	silt loam
glacial delta	10 % Litter (note type) broadleaf trees and fern	clay loams
(lacustrine/fluvial)	5 % Water	sandy clay / clay
marine	80 % Total vegetation	peat
aeolian	____ Other:	muck
other:		

Bedrock type:		Soil stoniness:
Igneous granite dioritic gabbroic other igneous _____	Sedimentary limestone other sedimentary _____ details?	v. little (< 1%) moderate (2-25%) very (26-100%)
Metamorphic slate/phyllite schist/gneiss other metamorphic _____		

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):	Hydrologic regime:
very poorly drained	upland
poorly drained	nontidal wetland:
somewhat poorly drained	permanently flooded
(moderately well drained)	semiperm'ly flooded
well drained	(seasonally flooded)
somewhat excessively drained	saturated
excessively drained	tidal - irregularly
	tidal - regularly
	saltwater
	brackish
	freshwater
	unknown

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Location of observation Point 1
HRVSWMA
Morewood Lake
Halls Sch
Court Hill
Sackett
Gravel Pit
PIPELINE
Sykes Brook
RIVER
Gravel Pit
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY
STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Sewage Treatment Plant
Ashley Reservoir
Sykes Hill
PITTSFIELD
CORPORATE
BOUNDARY
Substation
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY
STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
St Helena Chapel
New Lenox
New Lenox Sch
Mill Brook Reservoir
Mill
Farnham Reservoir
Dewey Hill
HOUSATONIC
LENOX
Sew Disp
510 000 FEET
OCTOBER MOUNTAIN
STATE FOREST
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY
STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Yokum Brook
42° 22' 30"
73° 15'
130 000 FEET
446
447
12' 30"
448