

## Department of Conservation, Bureau of Geology, Natural Areas, and Coastal Resources

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# Lakeshore Ecosystem

State Rank: **S5**

The lakeshore or pondshore ecosystem is the group of communities on the shoreline or the near-shore vegetated waters surrounding the open-water portion of a lake or pond. It is distributed statewide except for extreme southern Maine, where lakeshore/pondshore ecosystems are distinguished as a separate type ([Coastal Plain Pondshore Ecosystem](#)), which is characterized by assemblages with more southerly affinities. It includes wetland communities such as lakeside marshes and fens, as well as communities where the soils are not saturated over most of the growing season, but which are disturbed by ice-scour, flooding, or waves. Terrestrial forests bordering lakes are included under forested upland ecosystems.

## Natural Communities Associated with Lakeshore Ecosystem

- [Alder Shrub Thicket](#)
- [Bluejoint Meadow](#)
- [Bulrush Bed](#)
- [Cattail Marsh](#)
- [Circumnutral - Alkaline Water Macrophyte Suite](#)
- [Lakeshore Beach](#)
- [Mixed Graminoid - Shrub Marsh](#)
- [Mixed Tall Sedge Fen](#)
- [Northern White Cedar Swamp](#)
- [Northern White Cedar Woodland Fen](#)
- [Pickerelweed - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed](#)
- [Pipewort - Water Lobelia Aquatic Bed](#)
- [Red Maple - Sensitive Fern Swamp](#)
- [Red Maple Wooded Fen](#)
- [Sweetgale Mixed Shrub Fen](#)
- [Tussock Sedge Meadow](#)
- [Water-lily - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed](#)

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