

Example Format of Vegetation Type Descriptions (Local and Global)

COMMON NAME (PARK-SPECIFIC): SEMI-RICH NORTHERN HARDWOOD FOREST

SYNONYMS:

NVC English Name: Sugar Maple - (White Ash) / Jack-in-the-Pulpit Forest

NVC Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum* - (*Fraxinus americana*) / *Arisaema triphyllum* Forest

NVC Identifier: C EGL006211

LOCAL INFORMATION

Environmental Description: This forested community occurs in moist somewhat poorly drained soil as a narrow, transitional border along streambanks and wetland edges.

Vegetation Description: This forest type is distinguished by the co-occurrence of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) with a dominant ground cover of ferns. Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) also occur. Shrub cover is generally low and includes northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), which is differential. Herbaceous plant cover is dense, with New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) often a dominant. Co-occurring herbs at Weir Farm include additional ferns such as interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), as well as sedges (*Carex* spp.), nightcaps (*Anemone quinquefolia*), and Maryland sanicle (*Sanicula marilandica*).

Most Abundant Species:

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Lifeform</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	Broad-leaved deciduous tree	<i>Acer saccharum</i> (sugar maple), <i>Fraxinus americana</i> (white ash), <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> (tuliptree)
Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Broad-leaved deciduous shrub	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> (northern spicebush)
Herb (field)	Fern or fern ally	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> (interrupted fern), <i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> (New York fern)

Characteristic Species: *Fraxinus americana*, *Lindera benzoin*.

Other Noteworthy Species: None.

Local Range: This community occurs on the upland border of wetlands that receive groundwater seepage throughout Weir Farm.

Classification Comments: None.

Other Comments: None.

Local Description Authors: K. J. Metzler.

Plots: Relevés 10, 13, 14, 20, 25, 26.

Weir Farm National Historic Site Inventory Notes: This is the richest upland forest type at the Weir Farm site.

GLOBAL INFORMATION

NVC CLASSIFICATION

Formation Class: Mesomorphic Tree Vegetation (Forest and Woodland)

Formation Subclass: Temperate Forest

Formation: Cool Temperate Forest

Division: Eastern North America Cool Temperate Forest

Macrogroup: Northern & Central Mesophytic Hardwood and Conifer Macrogroup

Group: Beech - Maple - Birch - Basswood Forest Group

Alliance: *Acer saccharum* - *Fraxinus americana* - *Tilia americana* Forest Alliance (A.217)

Alliance (English name): Sugar Maple - White Ash - American Basswood Forest Alliance

Association: *Acer saccharum* - (*Fraxinus americana*) / *Arisaema triphyllum* Forest

Association (English name): Sugar Maple - (White Ash) / Jack-in-the-Pulpit Forest

GLOBAL DESCRIPTION

Environmental Description: These are northern hardwood forests of slightly enriched soils in the northern Appalachian Mountains and adjacent northeastern United States and Canada. They occur at moderate elevations of 245–610 m (800–2,000 feet) on slightly enriched soils, often silt loams derived from pelite or other subacidic bedrock. Ridgetops and slight concavities on hillslopes are both typical settings.

Vegetation Description: The closed-canopy forest has sparse to moderate shrub cover, moderate herb cover, and may have local carpets of *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) seedlings in the ground vegetation. Bryoids are a minor component of the forest floor. The canopy is dominated by *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), with associated hardwood species including *Betula alleghaniensis* (yellow birch) and *Fraxinus americana* (white ash). *Fraxinus* may be a canopy codominant in some areas. *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech) is often present but less abundant than in matrix northern hardwood forests. Conifers are usually sparse. Shrubs can include *Cornus alternifolia* (alternateleaf dogwood), *Sambucus racemosa* (= *Sambucus pubens*, red elderberry), *Acer pensylvanicum* (striped maple), and *Ostrya virginiana* (hophornbeam). Typical herbs of this semi-rich type, which are scarce or absent from standard beech-birch-maple forests, include *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack in the pulpit), *Viola rotundifolia* (roundleaf yellow violet), *Tiarella cordifolia* (heartleaf foamflower), *Actaea pachypoda* (white baneberry), *Botrychium* spp. (grapefern), and *Solidago flexicaulis* (zigzag goldenrod).

Characteristic Species: *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack in the pulpit).

USFWS Wetland System: Not applicable.

DISTRIBUTION

Range: Information not available.

States/Provinces: CT, MA, ME, NB, NH, NY, ON, PA, RI, VT.

Federal Lands: NPS (Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Saint-Gaudens, Upper Delaware, Weir Farm).

CONSERVATION STATUS

Rank: G4 (7-Dec-2005).

Reasons: This association is fairly well-distributed in northern New England and adjacent Canada.

All global information from: NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 28, 2009).