

# Sugar Maple-Ash-Basswood Northern Rich Mesic Forest

## Where to Go

- Big Creek Park, Geauga Park District (Gauga County, OH)
- Furnace Run and Sand Run parks, Metro Parks Serving Summit County (Summit County, OH)
- Grand River Terraces Preserve of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (Ashtabula County, OH)
- Hogback Ridge Reservation and Zimmerman Trail along the west side of Mentor Marsh, Lake Metroparks (Lake County, OH)
- Mill Hollow Vermilion River Park, Lorain County Metro Parks (Lorain County, OH)
- Morgan Swamp Preserve of The Nature Conservancy (Ashtabula County, OH)
- Rocky River Reservation, Bedford Reservation, South Chagrin Reservation, North Chagrin Reservation, and Hinckley Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks (Cuyahoga County, Lake County, and Medina County, OH)

This mesic, or moderately moist, forest type is frequently found on the middle and lower slopes of river valleys and high floodplain terraces that are no longer subject to flooding. The tree canopy of these forests is mixed and variable, but the most common dominant trees in the canopy are tuliptree, sugar maple, American beech, American basswood, red maple, black cherry, red oak, white ash, red elm, white elm, white oak, black walnut, blackgum, yellow birch, hop hornbeam, shagbark hickory and bitternut hickory. This forest type has the most spectacular fall color display because the typical dominant trees—sugar maple, American beech, tuliptree, white ash, red oak and black cherry—display vibrant fall color.

Typical understory shrubs are maple-leaf viburnum, flowering dogwood, witch hazel, spicebush, alternate-leaved dogwood, common serviceberry, and ironwood. Understory herbaceous species are spring beauty, harbinger of spring, yellow trout lily, cut-leaf toothwort, purple bittercress, large-flowered trillium, hepatica, common blue violet, sweet white violet, downy yellow violet, Canada violet, long-spurred violet, bloodroot, squirrel corn, giant and common blue cohosh, black cohosh, two-leaved toothwort, downy Solomon's seal, lax sedge, plantain-leaved sedge, Dutchman's breeches, wild ginger, zig-zag goldenrod, wreath goldenrod, white wood aster, Schreber's aster and large-leaved aster. Common evergreen ferns in this forest are Christmas fern, spinulose wood fern and evergreen wood fern. Silvery glade fern, lady fern, New York Fern and rattlesnake fern are common deciduous ferns.

Many rare forest birds, such as magnolia warbler, yellow-throated vireo, warbling vireo, winter wren, hermit thrush, veery, and Blackburnian warbler, are associated with this forest type where eastern hemlock is present in the canopy. Mammals include raccoon, gray fox, chipmunk, and star-nosed mole. Interesting butterfly and moth species include West Virginia white, polyphemus moth, and tuliptree silkmoth.



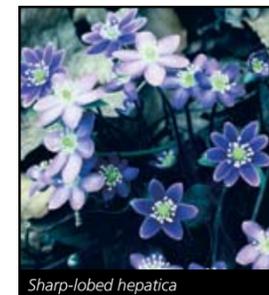
Luna moth



Black rat snake



Old growth forest



Sharp-lobed hepatica



Ovenbird



Trout lily



American toad