

Dry Calcareous Forests, Woodlands, and Glades

Ecoregions

- Allegheny Mountains
- Ridge and Valley

Description

Dry calcareous forests, woodlands, and glades account for 0.4% of all state area. Dry calcareous forests, woodlands, and glades are dry to dry-mesic calcareous forests, woodlands, and glades within the range of Chinquapin Oak at low to middle elevations, most abundant in areas with drier climates in the rain shadow on the lee side of the Allegheny Mountains. They are restricted to areas where soils are influenced by calcareous geology, including limestone and dolomite. Natural vegetation of forests is dominated by oak and hickory species, including Chinquapin Oak, White Oak, Red Oak, Bitternut Hickory, and Shagbark Hickory, with codominance by a variety of other hardwoods, including Black Maple, Sugar Maple, and White Ash. Common shrubs and small trees include Paw Paw, Muscletree, Redbud, Dogwood, Spicebush, Hop Hornbeam, and Black Haw. Herb layers are usually diverse, combining species with affinities for other oak-hickory forests in the region and more strict calciphiles. Open stand structure of woodland and glade habitats is maintained by drought stress to trees and in some cases by avalanches, fire, or grazing. Common woodland trees include Eastern Red Cedar, Chinquapin Oak, Red Oak, and White Ash. Some of the oldest known living trees in the eastern United States are Eastern Red Cedars found in this habitat in West Virginia. The herb layer is usually diverse and includes several globally and state rare species.

Plant communities

This forest type supports a number of rare plant communities, as identified in the table below.

Common Name	G-Rank
Sinkhole Marsh	G1
Calcareous Prairie	G1G2
Calcareous Prairie	G1G2
Northern White-cedar Slope Woodland	G1G2
Calcareous Shale Prairie Woodland	G2

Species

This forest type supports several known Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the table below.

Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank
<i>Arrhopalites sp. 3</i>	A Collembola	G1
<i>Calymmaria virginica</i>	A Hahniid Spider	G1
<i>Anthrobia coylei</i>	A Sheetweb Weaver	G2?
<i>Islandiana sp. 1</i>	A Spider	G1
<i>Pseudosinella meganporteri</i>	A Springtail	G2
<i>Malaxis bayardii</i>	Adder's Mouth	G1G2
<i>Pycnanthemum clinopodioides</i>	Basil Mountainmint	G1G2
<i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby's Mountain-lover	G2?
<i>Mesomphix luisant</i>	Glossy Button	G1
<i>Anguispira stihleri</i>	Greenbrier Tigersnail	G1
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	G2
<i>Allium oxyphilum</i>	Nodding Onion	G2
<i>Monarda brevis</i>	Smoke Hole Bergamot	G1G2