

ESTUARIES & COASTAL WETLANDS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

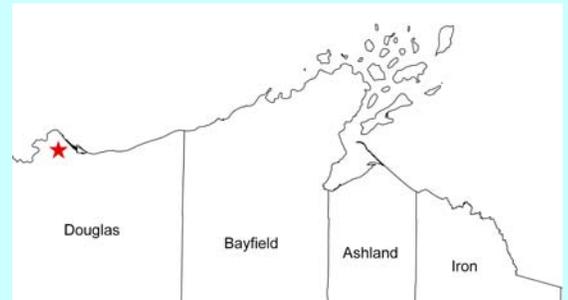
Superior Airport-Hill Avenue Wetlands- South Superior Triangle

Approximate Size: 2,770 (wetland area: 2,270 acres)*

Ownership: City of Superior/Private

Year Last Surveyed by WDNR/NHI: 1997

GLCWC Classification: N.A.



E. J. Epstein



E. J. Epstein

Site Description

This site is composed of several discontinuous wetlands separated by roads, railroad tracks, and other urban developments. These disconnected patches are among the largest remnants of a formerly contiguous wetland within the City of Superior. The wetlands are mosaics of shrub swamp and open meadow, with a few small patches of emergent marsh. Dominant shrubs are speckled alder and willows. Open meadows are typically dominated by broad-leaved sedges, such as lake sedge, and characteristic associates include flat-topped white aster, joe-pye weed, late goldenrod, bedstraw, bellflower, and marsh fern. Trembling aspen typically occupies drier portions of the sites. Despite severe disturbances that have altered their composition, structure, function, size, and configuration, these wetlands harbor significant populations of rare plants, some of which do not occur in other parts of Wisconsin. They also provide habitat for many native animals.

Because of habitat fragmentation and isolation, as well as disrupted hydrology, these wetlands are highly vulnerable to damage even in the absence of future developments. There is presently high interest at state and local levels in protecting the most biologically valuable and viable remnants. Management needs could be partially met by a combination of techniques such as brushing, prescribed burning, and scarification to create and perpetuate the microhabitats used by many of the rare species.

*Acreages are rough estimates based on GIS and aerial photographs and do not reflect ownership or management boundaries.

Additional Comments

Though far from pristine and in need of active management attention, the red clay wetlands of the Superior area constitute a unique resource that warrants high conservation priority.

Abbreviations and Helpful References

GLCWC - Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Classification.- http://glc.org/wetlands/pdf/wetlands-class_rev1.pdf

Lake Superior Binational Program - <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/>

WDNR Coastal Wetlands webpages - <http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "coastal wetlands"

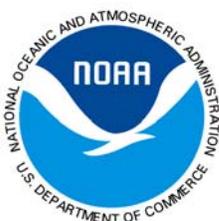
WDNR/NHI - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Inventory Program.
<http://dnr.wi.gov> , Keyword: "natural heritage"

"Managing Woodlands on Lake Superior's Red Clay Plain" - WDNR publication #PUB-FR-385 2007.
<http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "bmp landowner guides"

Text describing this site was published previously in a 2002 WDNR publication entitled "A Data Compilation and Assessment of Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes" by E.J. Epstein, A. Galvin and W.A. Smith. To view this information within the context of the full report, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov> and enter the keywords "coastal wetlands."

Suggested Citation

E.J. Epstein, A. Galvin and W.A. Smith. 2002. Site Description for Superior Airport-Hill Avenue Wetlands-South Superior Triangle. In: "A Data Compilation and Assessment of Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes." PUBL ER-803 2002. <http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "coastal wetlands superior airport"



This project was funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act.