

# Lakeshore Beach

## State Rank S4

### Community Description

These low sandy or gravelly lakeshores and associated berms are characterized by a variety of herbaceous plants that are tolerant of significant fluctuations in water level, ice scour, and wave action. Composition varies with substrate, with assemblages on sand possibly including large cranberry, switch-grass, black chokeberry, pinweed, poverty oat-grass, purplish northern panic-grass, and deertongue. On berms, a sparse canopy of trees or shrubs may be present, including common juniper, speckled alder, red maple, white pine, and gray birch. Typical assemblages on cobble or gravel include sweetgale, tufted hairgrass, water parsnip, beggar-ticks, spikerushes, common horsetail, boneset, creeping spearwort, and three square.

### Soil and Site Characteristics

Beaches typically occur on the perimeters of larger lakes in landscapes of low to rolling terrain, where ice-push, wave action, and natural or

anthropogenic drawdown (e.g., from impoundments) have created broad open bands and berms around portions of the lakeshore. Berms may consist of sand or gravel, with organic matter deposited by waves and forming wrack lines.

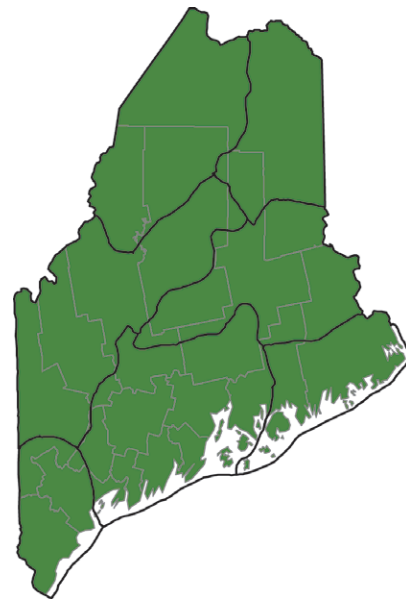
### Diagnostics

Herbaceous plants are dominant or co-dominant with shrubs in a lakeshore setting.

### Similar Types

Three-way Sedge - Goldenrod Outwash Plains may have similar soil and site characteristics but contain certain indicators that are not present on other lakeshores, including three-leaved goldenrod, golden pert, and meadow

### Location Map



- Community is known from this Ecoregion
- Community may occur in this Ecoregion
- Bailey's Ecoregion
- County



Lakeshore Beach

beauty. Aquatic community types are dominated by submerged plants.

### Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This is the most frequent lakeshore type for medium and large lakes in Maine. While many lakeshore beaches are protected by fee ownership, easement, or regulation, activities such as ATV use have significantly altered the vegetation at some sites. Hydrologic integrity is also a concern; as water use increases from neighboring homes and businesses, aquifer drawdowns could impair these water dependent systems and lead to vegetational changes. Invasive plants may be a problem at some sites.

Lakeshore Beaches with abundant sections of exposed sand or sand-gravel may provide valuable nesting habitat for resident painted, snapping, and musk turtles if water levels remain relatively stable during the incubation period of June through October.

### Distribution

Extends east, west, and north from Maine; occurs only as scattered areas southward.

Landscape Pattern: Small to large patch, linear.

### Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

#### Sapling/shrub

Gray birch  
Red maple  
Speckled alder  
White pine

#### Dwarf Shrub

Black chokeberry  
Sweetgale

#### Herb

Beggar-ticks  
Boneset  
Common horsetail  
Common juniper  
Creeping spearwort  
Flatsedges  
Large cranberry  
Panic grasses  
Pinweed  
Poverty oat-grass  
Spikerushes  
Sweet gale  
Switch-grass  
Swamp candles  
Three square  
Tufted hairgrass  
Water parsnip

### Associated Rare Animals

Black tern

### Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Fourth Machias Lake - Washington County
- Gero Island - Piscataquis County



Water Parsnip