

Circumneutral Pond

State Rank S2

Community Description

The variable aquatic vegetation in this community type features floating leaved and submerged plants restricted or preferential to higher pH waters. Indicator species include tapegrass, common waterweed, water stargrass, white water crowfoot, Robbins' pondweed, alpine pondweed, Vasey's pondweed, and straight-leaved pondweed. Vegetation cover is usually 25-65%, occasionally higher. This type is broadly defined and heterogeneous; further sampling would be needed to discriminate subtypes.

Soil and Site Characteristics

This type occurs in alkaline lakes or ponds (conductivity usually >50 uMHOS/cm), in quiet waters at depths less than two meters.

Diagnostics

At least some of the indicator species listed above are present, and water-shield, pipewort, water lobelia, and pickerelweed are virtually absent.



Circumneutral Fen Pond

Yellow and white water-lilies, if present, are at low cover.

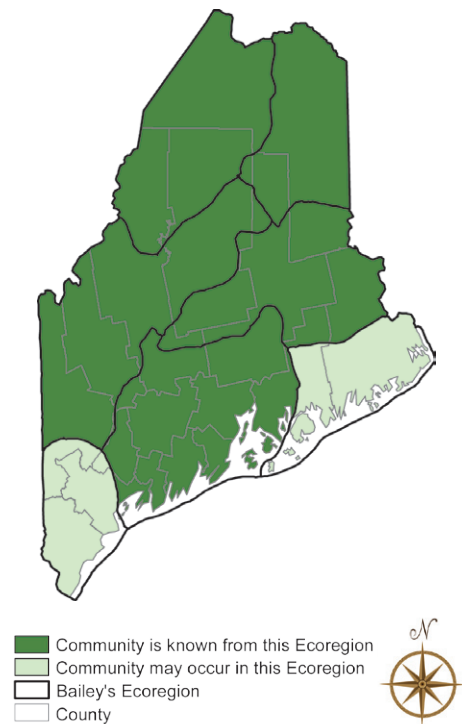
Similar Types

This broad type can show similarities to other aquatic types, especially to the Water-lily - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed type. That type has higher cover of yellow and white water-lilies or of bigleaf pondweed, but more sampling of both types is needed to better distinguish them.

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This aquatic community type is sporadic in Maine, and further work is needed to document its distribution

Location Map



Aquatic Vegetation

and characteristics. A few examples occur on public lands and private conservation lands; many are in great ponds (>10 acres), which are a public resource. The major threats to this community are water quality degradation from excess nutrients in runoff and the spread of invasive aquatic plants, such as Eurasian water-milfoil and variable water-milfoil.

Alkaline ponds with aquatic vegetation may support many of the same wildlife species found in more acidic aquatic communities such as Water-lily Macrophyte Aquatic Bed or Pickerelweed - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed. It is unclear whether any wildlife species prefer the more alkaline conditions that this community provides.

Distribution

Central Maine northward (Laurentian Mixed Forest and New England - Adirondack Forest Provinces); distribution includes upstate New York; otherwise not well matched in other state classification documents.

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch

Characteristic Plants

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

Herb

Common waterweed*
 Robbins' pondweed*
 Slender water-milfoil*
 Tapegrass*
 Water-marigold*

Bryoid

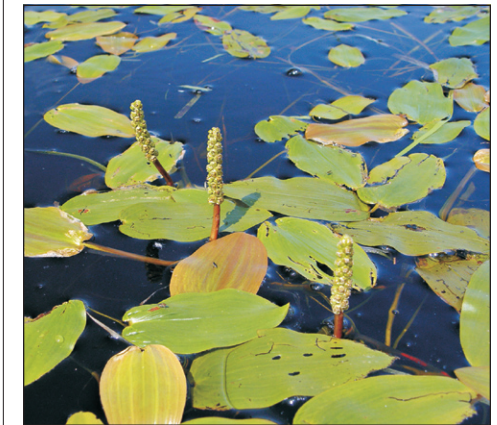
Chara algae

Associated Rare Plants

Fries' pondweed
 Pygmy water-lily
 Straight-leaved pondweed
 Vasey's pondweed
 Water stargrass

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Caswell National Guard Site
– Aroostook Co.
- Number Five Bog Public Lands
– Somerset Co.



Floating Pondweed