

Forest Health Monitoring at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

2022 Field Season

Natural Resource Data Series NPS/GLKN/NRDS—2023/1400





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Contents

	Page
Figures	V
Tables	v
Executive Summary	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
Methods	3
Sampling Design and Field Methods	3
Sampling Design	3
Basic Measurements: Trees, Groundlayer, and Coarse Woody Material	3
Browse	5
Tree Health	6
Plant Identification	6
Classifications and Summaries	7
Forest Type Classification	7
Coefficients of Conservatism and the Modified Floristic Quality Index	7
Quality Assurance/Quality Control	7
Training of Field Staff	7
Continuity of Sampling Effort between 2011 and 2022 and Presentation of Data	8
Results	11
Regeneration and Successional Projections	13
Short-Term Change	15
Coarse Woody Material and Standing Dead Trees	16
Discussion	19
Literature Cited	21
Appendix A. All species located during 2022 sampling.	25

Figures

	Page
Figure 1. Great Lakes Network Hybrid plot showing three parallel transects (<i>solid lines</i>), tree sampling areas (<i>bounding dashed rectangles</i>), and quadrat locations (<i>solid squares</i>)	4
Figure 2. Resampled sites (<i>solid markers</i>) and new sites established in 2022 (<i>crossed markers</i>) in the upper (<i>top</i>), middle (<i>middle</i>), and lower (<i>bottom</i>) part of the park	12
Figure 3. Diameter by size classes for sites in four forest types. P	14
Figure 4. Live tree density (<i>left</i>) and basal area (<i>right</i>) by forest type for individuals ≥2.5 cm DBH of all tree species.	15
Figure 5. Small sapling (\geq 2.5 cm DBH, <5.0 cm DBH) density by forest type (<i>left</i>); seedling (\geq 15.0 cm in height, <2.5 cm DBH) density by forest type (<i>right</i>)	16
Figure 6. Coarse woody material by forest type and year: density (<i>top left</i>), volume (<i>top right</i>), biomass (<i>lower left</i>), and large, advanced decay (*) piece density (<i>lower right</i>)	16
Figure 7. Density (<i>left</i>) and basal area (<i>right</i>) of snags ≥30 cm DBH for all forest types, both years. For forest type names, see Figure 4	17
Tables	
	Page
Table 1. Preferred browse species at MISS, used for calculating number of preferred herbs and abundance of preferred herbs.	6
Table A-1. Ferns and fern allies located in 2022 GLKN sampling sites.	25
Table A-2. Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.	25
Table A-3. Graminoid species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.	31
Table A-4. Shrub and woody vine species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.	33
Table A-5. Tree species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.	34

Executive Summary

The Mississippi National River and Recreation area (MISS), situated along a 116 km stretch of the Mississippi River through the Minneapolis and St. Paul urban corridor, encompasses ~21,800 ha of public and private land. In 2022, the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network (GLKN) resampled permanent forest monitoring sites in the park, marking the second assessment of these sites, which were established and initially sampled in 2011. The goal of this long-term monitoring project is to provides managers with routine updates on which to base management decisions; these data can also be used to tease apart impacts and elucidate causal agents when novel problems or situations arise.

We initiated a comprehensive forest monitoring program at MISS in 2011, establishing 33 sites at that time. High water levels during our sampling window that year precluded sampling on many of our planned sites while on others, water levels had only recently subsided. Here, the full complement of herbs had not yet emerged. In 2022, we resampled existing sites and established additional locations, bringing the total to 50. Sampled and derived metrics included trees (density and basal area of live trees, seedlings, and snags (i.e., standing dead trees)), understory (herb and shrub frequency), browse (bite marks on woody species and presence and height of herbaceous species), and taxa richness. We classified sites into four broad forest types using the newer (2022) dataset, resulting in two upland types (upland rich, upland disturbed) and two floodplain types (box elder-dominated and silver maple-dominated). Because of sampling difficulties in 2011, we are only comparing tree, sapling, and snag data between years.

At upland rich sites, overall tree (\geq 2.5 cm diameter at breast height [DBH]) density declined 22%, while that for just the small sapling component (\geq 2.5 cm, < 5 cm DBH) fell 41%. Species experiencing notable losses include basswood (*Tilia americana* L.), elm (*Ulmus* L.), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch), and red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.). All three resampled sites are located in Spring Lake Park Reserve and subjected to high white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus* Zimm.) browse pressure.

We sampled seven sites in upland disturbed forests, where overall tree density fell 17% from 778 \pm 215 trees/ha to 648 ± 72 trees/ha, largely due to declines in elm, ash (*Fraxinus* sp. L.), and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis* L.). While changes in black cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.) mirrored this pattern in diameter classes above 5 cm, density of saplings increased 12-fold, largely due to a swamping effect from one site, possibly in response to buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.) removal.

In the nine box elder-dominated sites, overall tree density declined from 635 ± 47 in 2011 to 500 ± 58 trees/ha in 2022, mainly reflecting changes in box elder (*Acer negundo* L.), elm, and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum* L.). In these sites, density of large (≥ 30 cm DBH) snags increased from 2.5 ± 1.6 to 11.1 ± 4.4 snags/ha. In silver maple-dominated floodplain forests, tree density in the 12 sites fell from 421 ± 63 to 291 ± 23 trees/ha, with declines observed in all five dominant species. Sapling density was low in these sites, falling from 62.6 ± 36 in 2011 to 23.6 ± 11 saplings/ha in 2022.

Our observations likely reflect both deer browse and alteration of the flow regime by river impoundment. At upland sites, deer browse is impeding regeneration of all major upland species: red oak, bitternut hickory, basswood, and elm. While browse is also occurring in floodplain sites, prolonged inundation may play a larger role in regeneration failure here. Saplings of silver maple, box elder, cottonwood, elm, and hackberry all have some degree of susceptibility to inundation, ranging from moderate tolerance to completely intolerant. The Mississippi River experienced flooding in 2014, 2017, and again in 2019 when flood stage was exceeded for a record number of days in St. Paul. Sapling decline at floodplain sites is likely a direct result of this.

Forest management within the park should focus both on invasive species control and floodplain reforestation. Several sites with heavy invasive weed species are in areas where leveraging local volunteers for removal projects may be possible. Floodplain reforestation requires a dual approach of research and active management. Research is needed to determine preferred propagule types and planting stock, as well as the most effective ways to control invasives, especially reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea* L.). Active floodplain reforestation can alleviate many of the issues we found here, although this is expensive, limited in scope, and carries with it a great deal of uncertainty. Nonetheless, projects undertaken at a small scale can provide lessons to managers, based on which aspects were successful and which were not.

Many of the park forests at MISS are nearing an inflection point and are at risk of becoming irreversibly altered if countermeasures are not undertaken in the near future. At this point, steps taken to promote ecosystem integrity are likely to be less costly and more effective than those which may be needed after further ecosystem decline. The river system through the Twin Cities metro area provides numerous services, both ecological and otherwise. As the need to act is becoming a pressing issue, it is incumbent on land managers to recognize this, and address it.

Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Riparian forest ecosystems are subject to stressors beyond climate change, invasive species, and ungulate browse, which are imposed on upland forests (Jandl et al. 2019, Miller et al. 2023). In riparian systems, dams and levees alter flow regimes, by prolonging inundation time (De Jager 2012) and attenuating large flow pulses (Rood et al. 2007). Ensuing overstory loss increases groundlayer light (Johnson and Waller 2013) and vulnerability to invasive species, among other effects, ultimately resulting in negative feedback loops (Jordan et al. 2010). In urban corridors, riparian forests are subjected to still more stressors, including greater pollution (Hobbie et al. 2017), flashy hydrographs (Walsh et al. 2005), and erosion and sedimentation (Jordan et al. 2010). Despite these stressors, these corridors remain areas of disproportionately high resource value.

Urban riparian zones are wildlife corridors, serving as songbird flyways (Liu et al. 2021), often surrounded by an expansive matrix of limited habitability (McClure et al. 2015). They promote terrestrial mammalian movement by connecting fragmented greenspaces (Jeong et al. 2018), and serve as denning habitat for aquatic mammals (England and Westbrook 2021). Additionally, these corridors provide cultural and social well-being for residents, including recreation opportunities (Phaneuf et al. 2008), and other physical and mental health advantages (Ignatieva et al. 2011, Astell-Burt et al. 2020). Collectively, these benefits highlight the importance of maintaining ecosystem function and ecosystem integrity within these corridors. This can be especially vital in river systems through large urban areas where, literally, millions of people have some degree of interaction with the river.

The Mississippi River winds through the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area in southeastern Minnesota. Within this corridor, land holdings from dozens of public and private institutions have been designated as part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). While any land management activities within these tracts are developed and directed by local ownership, the compendium nature of this park promotes communication and partnerships. Management applications developed or applied to one unit will often be relevant elsewhere. Likewise, a unified monitoring network applied parkwide can inform us of problems and traits occurring across the broad area.

In 2022, the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network (GLKN) of the NPS resampled permanent forest monitoring sites at MISS. This marked the second assessment of these sites, which were established and initially sampled in 2011 (Sanders and Grochowski 2012). Here we report on the current (2022) status of MISS forests, as well as changes observed for a select number of metrics.

Methods

Sampling Design and Field Methods

Sampling Design

Sampling was conducted at MISS 23 June–23 August 2022. Site selection was made in 2011 prior to the initial sampling event using a generalized random-tessellation stratified design (Stevens and Olsen 2004). This design ensured that our sites were both randomly located and spatially balanced throughout the park. Our initial (2011) assessment included only 33 sites. While we had planned to sample 50, high water levels, coupled with logistical challenges, precluded this. In 2022, we resampled the initial locations, and installed additional sites, bringing the total for the program at MISS to 50.

Basic Measurements: Trees, Groundlayer, and Coarse Woody Material

We sampled trees, seedlings, coarse woody material, herbs, and browse at each site using a plot composed of three 50-m parallel transects, with each in an east-west orientation and permanently monumented with below-ground rebar (Johnson et al. 2006, 2008) (Figure 1). We recorded the species, diameter at breast height (DBH), live/dead status, and damage or disease (see below) for all trees with a DBH \geq 2.5 cm and standing within 3 meters of the central transect line (Sanders and Grochowski 2014a). The total area sampled for trees was 300 m² for each transect, or 900 m² for the entire plot.

We assessed the groundlayer in 1-m² quadrats placed every 5 m along each transect (n = 30 per plot). Within each quadrat, we recorded all herbaceous, vine, and shrub species present, allowing us to determine frequency for all species-plot combinations. We also counted seedlings, defined as tree species <2.5 cm DBH, but at least 15 cm in height and showing evidence of growth from the previous year (thus, we did not assess the current year's seedlings). For any species which reproduces vegetatively, we considered individual sprouts (i.e., both ramets and genets) as "seedlings" if no aboveground connections between them and a parent tree were visible.

We assessed coarse woody material (CWM) using the planar intercept method (Brown 1974, Woodall and Monleon 2008). For pieces with decay class 1–4 (Woodall and Monleon 2008), we tallied pieces with a diameter at transect intersect \geq 7.5 cm and length \geq 0.9 m; for decay class 5, minimum size of inclusion was 12.7 cm at transect and 1.5 m in length. For all pieces, we recorded the decay class, and measured the large end diameter, small end diameter, and length. The latter was recorded only along the piece where the minimum diameter criterion was met.

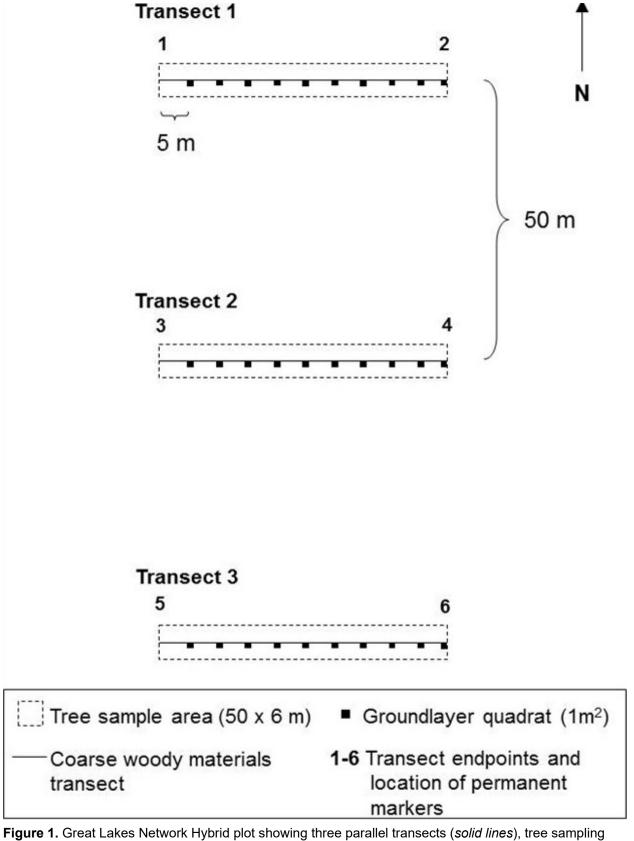


Figure 1. Great Lakes Network Hybrid plot showing three parallel transects (*solid lines*), tree sampling areas (*bounding dashed rectangles*), and quadrat locations (*solid squares*).

Browse

We examined browse pressure using two distinct measures. *Direct browse* is an assessment of white-tailed deer browse visible on *woody* species. This includes bite marks *directly evident and observable* on individual plants, appearing to occur on the current year's growth. Our sampling period extended over the course of the growing season. We acknowledge that this limitation introduces bias into our sampling, whereby those sites sampled later in the season would be expected to show more browse than sites sampled earlier. Nonetheless, we feel that our assessments of woody browse are valuable in that they provide insight on general levels of pressure and on species preferences but should be interpreted with these qualifiers in mind.

Indirect browse measures were used to assess the impacts of herbivory on herbaceous species. This type of assessment measures changes in herbaceous demography, which are often only indirectly observed over time (Webster et al. 2001, Kirschbaum and Anacker 2005). In the case of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus Zimmermann) browse, these changes are typically manifested as fewer and smaller individuals of preferred herbaceous browse species (Anderson 1994, Webster et al. 2001, Knight et al. 2009) and are well-documented in the literature (Williams et al. 2000, Knight 2003).

We assessed direct browse in 3.14-m² (1.0-m radius) circles centered every five meters along each of the three 50-m transects, for a total of 30 direct browse circles per plot, equal to a total sampling area of 94.2 m² per plot. Within each direct browse sampling circle, we recorded all woody species present within the browse zone—defined as the space between ground level and 1.8 m in height—and noted those circles where we observed any evidence of deer browse, and on which species this occurred.

We used direct browse data to calculate the *proportion of browse* (Frerker and Waller 2013) at two levels. At the site level, pooling across species, the numerator is the total of the 30 circles in which any browse was observed, regardless of species, while the denominator is the number of circles where any woody species were present. At the species level, for each species, we divided the total number of circles in which we observed browse by the total number of circles where it was present.

We assessed the *indirect impacts* (typically evidenced by fewer and smaller plants) of summer browse on herbs by several means. We used existing literature (Alverson et al. 1988, Rooney and Waller 2003) and our personal knowledge to identify preferred browse species as those that are both relatively common in the park and favored by deer (Table 1). We identified the *number of preferred herbaceous species* at each site, as well as the *abundance of preferred herbs*, determined by the total number of preferred species-quadrat combinations at each site. For example, a site where *Laportea canadensis* (L.) Wedd. (Canada woodnettle) was present in four quadrats and *Trillium grandiflorum* (Michx.) Salisb. in three quadrats, would have two preferred browse species present at an abundance of 7 preferred species. To examine browse impacts on herb demographics (Koh et al. 2010, Wilbur et al. 2017), we selected three target taxa on which to collect additional data: *Maianthemum racemosum* (L.) Link (false Solomon's seal), *Polygonatum biflorum* (Walter) Elliott (Solomon's seal), and *Uvularia grandiflora* Sm. (large-flower bellwort). For these taxa, in quadrats where they were present, we measured maximum height of the tallest individual and noted whether it was reproductive. For each target species, where present, at the site level, we calculated the *target herb*

frequency, based on the frequency of presence in the 30 quadrats; we then determined *target herb maximum height*, by calculating the site-level mean of the tallest individual (if present) in each quadrat.

Table 1. Preferred browse species at MISS, used for calculating *number of preferred herbs* and *abundance of preferred herbs*.

Species	Common name
Laportea canadensis (L.) Wedd.	Canada woodnettle
Maianthemum canadense Desf.	Canada mayflower
Maianthemum racemosum (L.) Link	false Solomon's seal
Maianthemum stellatum (L.) Link	starry false Solomon's seal
Polygonatum biflorum (Walter) Elliott	hairy Solomon's seal
Streptopus lanceolatus var. roseus (Michx.) Reveal	rosy twistedstalk
<i>Trillium</i> sp. L.	trilium
Uvularia grandiflora Sm.	largeflower bellwort
Uvularia sessilifolia L.	sessile bellwort

Tree Health

We used an evidence-based approach to assess tree health, whereby we examined each tree for the presence of broad classes of disease, damage, or injury (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2010). These classes included dieback, epicormic sprouting, wilted foliage, defoliation, discolored foliage, insect sign, and human induced stress. If a tree exhibited symptoms of one of these primary classes, a further classification of the damage or disease was made, based on predefined characteristics within each of the primary classes. For example, if a tree was classified as having discolored foliage, we would note whether this damage was in the form of (among other choices) marginal browning of the leaves, interveinal browning of the leaves, the leaves possessing a white coating, or a general yellowing of the leaves. This symptom-based assessment of damage and disease allows us to easily classify tree health issues, from which a diagnosis of the root cause can possibly be assigned upon further investigation. We feel that this symptom-based approach is more accurate than directly assigning a root cause to problems observed when at the field site. For some symptoms, there are dozens of possible causes and a pathologist or entomologist with specialization in the region would be needed to accurately assess the problem. Large-scale or persistent symptoms noted with this method can alert the park staff to potential disease or insect outbreaks, which would require further investigation by the park to identify the exact disease or pest.

Plant Identification

We attempted to identify all plants to the species level while in the field. When this was not possible, we typically collected specimens for later identification. In some instances, it was not possible to

distinguish between multiple species present in a park unless they were flowering or fruiting, which often was not the case. In these instances, we identified only to the genus or family level. Examples include *Carex* sp. L. (sedge) and Asteraceae (daisy family). For *Amelanchier* sp. Medik. (serviceberry), all individuals were classified to the genus level. Finally, if a grass was not in flower or fruit, it was typically only possible to identify to the family (Poaceae) level. All nomenclature follows that of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (Integrated Taxonomic Information System 2023).

Classifications and Summaries

Forest Type Classification

We classified all sites in the field using the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS) (Hop 2015). The NVCS system was developed for the park based on field work in the early 2000s; as such, the forest has changed in the interim, in some places substantially, and numerous sites did not fit clearly into one of the preexisting categories. We wanted to explore and summarize data in an efficient and accurate manner, so after the field season, we grouped sites into similar broad forest types using cluster analysis.

We assigned sites to one of four broad forest types based on both overstory and understory composition. Because we did not sample the full complement of sites in 2011 (see Continuity of Sampling Effort, below), we performed this analysis on the 2022 dataset. We prepared our initial site × species matrix by including only those species present in at least 10% (n = 5) of sampling sites. For tree species, this community matrix consisted of importance values for each species at each site, defined as the mean of the relative frequency and relative basal area (Dyer 2006, Elliott and Swank 2008). For all other species, we calculated the species' relative frequency in quadrats at each site. To assign sites into groups, we used the R statistical environment (R Core Team 2022) followed by the helust and cutree functions within the vegan package (Maechler et al. 2019). We performed a visual inspection to confirm group placement.

Coefficients of Conservatism and the Modified Floristic Quality Index

We identified the coefficient of conservatism (CoC) values for all species located during the sampling at MISS (Bernthal 2003). These values range from 0–10 and reflect a species' likelihood that it will be present in habitats with alterations from pre-settlement conditions (Swink and Wilhelm 1994), with 0 reflecting either non-native species or generalists with no faithfulness to any particular habitat and 10 denoting conservative species found only in high-quality, non-degraded habitats. We then used CoC values to calculate the modified floristic quality index (mFQI) (Rooney and Rogers 2002, Sanders and Grochowski 2014b), where mFQI is simply the mean of the CoC values for all species present within that site. We then summarized mFQI by year and forest type.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Training of Field Staff

We trained field staff in accordance with QA/QC guidelines established in our protocol (Sanders and Grochowski 2014a). The training period consisted of three weeks, during which time we focused on all aspects of plot establishment and data collection. For seasonal staff collecting data on trees

(species, diameter, disease) and coarse woody material, the focus was on correct plant identification, as well as correct use of diameter tapes. Adherence to the rules of tape placement (such as on leaning, forking, downed, or otherwise non-standard trees) ensures accurate repeatability on those trees in future sampling events. For seasonal staff collecting data on the groundlayer and browse, the focus was on correct species identification, as well as completeness. Ensuring a thorough search within each quadrat to capture all herbaceous species present was essential to accurately assess frequency of presence for each species. For woody browse, the focus was on how to discern deer browse from other twig damage. This included discussions of how deer browse presents differently based on the timing in the season it occurred, as wells as how it presents differently from hare browse. All field staff underwent a final check by sampling a plot in tandem with GLKN permanent staff. This was a phased process with seasonal staff first sampling the unit (quadrat, browse circle, transect, etc.) alone, then with GLKN permanent staff sampling the same unit alone. This was followed by a reassessment of the sampling unit together, evaluating and discussing the data from the permanent and seasonal staff together.

Continuity of Sampling Effort between 2011 and 2022 and Presentation of Data

We sampled 33 sites in 2011, although we were unable to access two of sites in 2022 due to safety concerns. We eliminated these two sites permanently from the protocol. We then installed and sampled an additional 19 sites in 2022, bringing the total to 50 (Figure 2). These 50 sites are not anticipated to change and are expected to comprise our future effort in the park, indefinitely.

Here, we report on change between the two sampling periods, using the 31 sites sampled both years, excluding the 19 new sites from all summaries. When we test for change between years following future sampling events, we will likely eliminate data from the 2011 sampling event and use 2022 as the baseline year. This is for three reasons: 1) We only have data from 31 sites from the initial event, and not the entire suite. 2) We sampled early in the season in 2011 (31 May through 12 July) in a year when the river was high. Thus, at several of our sites, herbaceous floodplain species had not yet emerged. 3) We had identification problems with elm species in 2011, tallying most as *Ulmus rubra*. We now know that many of these were incorrectly identified. For the comparisons here, we are grouping elm species together as *Ulmus* sp.

For the present work, we have documented all methods for all field work that were carried out, although we are only reporting on metrics related to trees and coarse woody material, for reasons presented in the paragraph above. We feel it is important to include all methods both as documentation of the work that was done, and to inform other interested parties, who may be reading this report. All metrics will be reported on in full, following the next sampling event at MISS, tentatively planned for 2031.

We have decided to pool ash (*Fraxinus* spp. L.) species for all presentations and summaries here. While the overwhelming majority of individuals observed were green ash (*F. pennsylvanica* Marsh.), a small minority were either white ash (*F. americana* L.) or black ash (*F. nigra* Marsh.) and would likely not be clear when presented as unique species on graphs. Because of the imminent loss of all ash due to the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire), we are more concerned about total

abundance as this is what will be lost from the ecosystem. Thus, we feel that pooling species is the best way to include these individuals.

For the present work, we present density-diameter graphs to depict regeneration and successional projections then present box plots for several metrics to show differences between the sampling events and within forest types. We forgo statistical tests of change for this report, but we discuss differences between years in a general context.

Results

The taxa sampled included 45 trees species, 33 taxa of shrubs and woody vines, 162 forb and herbaceous vine taxa, 27 graminoids, and 10 fern species (Appendix A). The sites classified into four broad forest types (Figure 2).

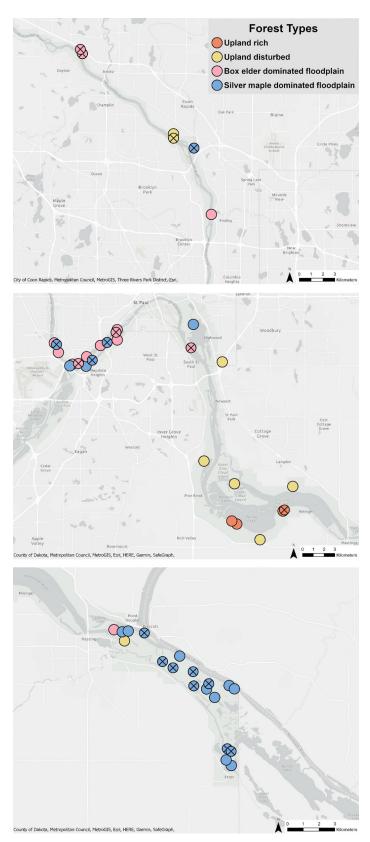


Figure 2. Resampled sites (*solid markers*) and new sites established in 2022 (*crossed markers*) in the upper (*top*), middle (*middle*), and lower (*bottom*) part of the park. Forest type key is in the top panel.

Regeneration and Successional Projections

In upland rich forests (three sites, all in Spring Lake Park Reserve (Figure 3A)), elm, basswood (*Tilia americana* L.), and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis* L.) were common, though with some degree of impaired recruitment. We found lower density during the second sampling event for elm on size classes 15 cm DBH and below, and for basswood 10 cm DBH and below. Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch) is also showing declines for individuals smaller than 15 cm DBH.

Seven sites were classified as upland disturbed forest (Figure 3B): one in Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, one just east of Hastings, Minnesota, one in South St. Paul, and four in the Spring Lake basin (Figure 3B). With the exception of black cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.), common species in upland disturbed forests are also experiencing recruitment problems. In the two smallest size classes, densities of elm, ash, and bitternut hickory, have declined over the 11-year sampling interval. Bitternut hickory dominated the overstory at these sites.

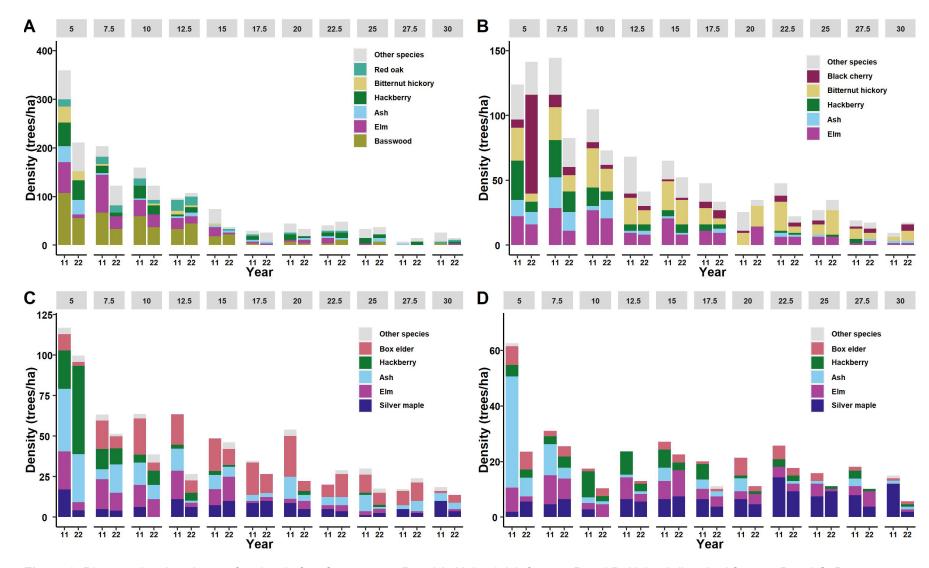


Figure 3. Diameter by size classes for sites in four forest types. Panel A: Upland rich forests; Panel B: Upland disturbed forests; Panel C: Box elder-dominated floodplain forests; Panel D: Silver maple-dominated floodplain forests. Note the difference in scales on the y-axes. Diameter at breast height classes across the top represent the maximum value in 2.5 cm classes.

We classified nine sites as box elder-dominated floodplain forest (Figure 3C): two in the Mississippi River Community Park in Anoka County, one in Manomin County Park in Fridley, one near the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, one on Pig's Eye Lake and the remainder (nine) near the confluence with the Minnesota River. While these sites support green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh.), box elder (*Acer negundo* L.), and silver maple across all size classes, recent recruitment (i.e., those individuals in smallest size class) for the latter two is notably less.

The twelve silver maple-dominated floodplain sites (Figure 3D) were located mainly around the confluence with the Minnesota River and downstream of the confluence with the St. Croix in the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, below dam in Hastings. Here, we found very little silver maple in small size classes and very little recruitment, in general, of other species.

Short-Term Change

Live tree density (Figure 4, *left*) was generally higher in upland sites compared with box elder and silver maple-dominated floodplain sites. We also found generally lower density in all four forest types in 2022, including upland rich (22% decline), box elder-dominated (21% drop), and silver maple-dominated (31% decline). Basal area (Figure 4, *right*) was higher in silver maple-dominated forests but in general, did not appear to differ between years for any of the forest types.

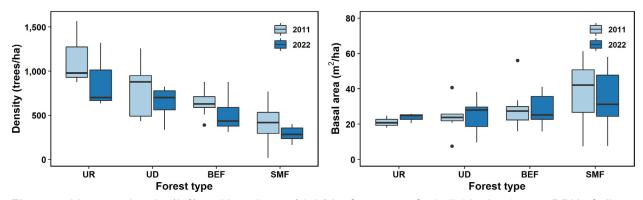


Figure 4. Live tree density (*left*) and basal area (*right*) by forest type for individuals ≥2.5 cm DBH of all tree species. Forest type abbreviations are: UR: Upland Rich forests; UD: Upland disturbed forests; BEF: Box elder-dominated floodplain forest; SMF: Silver maple-dominated floodplain forest.

Sapling (\geq 2.5 cm, <5 cm DBH) density was highest in upland rich sites and lowest in silver maple sites (Figure 5, *left*). Sapling density fell in three of the four forests: upland rich (41% drop), box elder-dominated floodplain (15%), and silver maple-dominated floodplain (62% decline). Seedling density (Figure 5, *right*) was generally higher in the two upland forests but lower in the two floodplain forests.

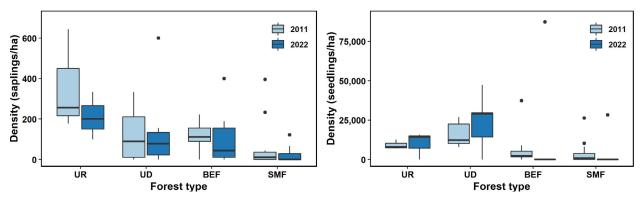


Figure 5. Small sapling (≥2.5 cm DBH, <5.0 cm DBH) density by forest type (*left*); seedling (≥15.0 cm in height, <2.5 cm DBH) density by forest type (*right*). For forest type names, see Figure 4.

Coarse Woody Material and Standing Dead Trees

In general, measures of coarse woody material varied somewhat between forest types but changed little between sampling periods (Figure 6). One exception is in box elder-dominated floodplain sites. Here, density increased 76% from 266 ± 61.8 to 447 ± 59.7 pieces/ha. Additionally, both the volume and biomass of pieces in silver maple-dominated floodplain sites increased, as did density of large, advanced decay pieces. (Figure 6B, C, D).

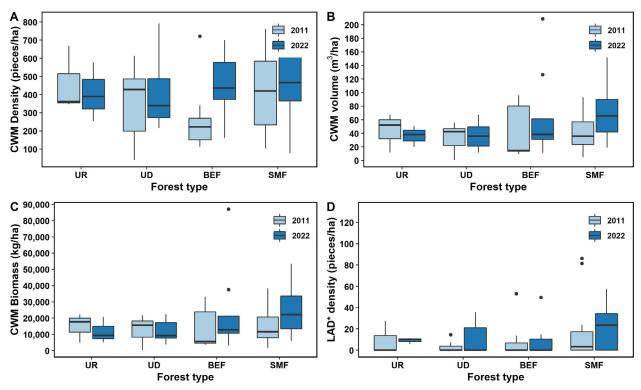


Figure 6. Coarse woody material by forest type and year: density (*top left*), volume (*top right*), biomass (*lower left*), and large, advanced decay (*) piece density (*lower right*). For forest type names, see Figure 4.

c Density of large snags (standing dead trees) \geq 30 cm DBH varied greatly between years and forest types (Figure 7, *left*). This declined in upland rich forests, increased in upland disturbed and box elder forests, and was similar between sampling events at silver maple floodplain sites. Basal area of snags followed the same general pattern (Figure 7, *right*).

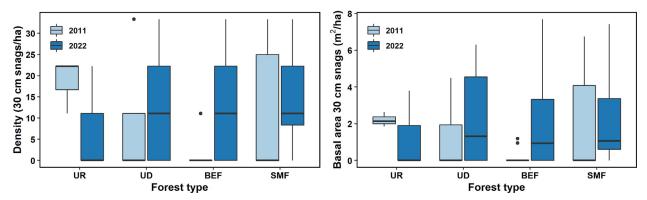


Figure 7. Density (*left*) and basal area (*right*) of snags ≥30 cm DBH for all forest types, both years. For forest type names, see Figure 4.

No consistent damage or disease was noted in any one forest type or tree species.

Discussion

Our work largely aligns with that of others, showing impaired regeneration on large river floodplains. We show here that none of the dominant tree species in the monitoring sites are successfully regenerating.

Within monitoring sites, we found no cottonwood trees smaller than 17.5 cm DBH in 2011, and 22.5 cm DBH in 2022. In places within upper Mississippi River floodplains, American elm is reported to be the second or third most abundant species (Knutson and Klaas 1998, De Jager et al. 2012), which is consistent with our findings. Along with box elder, hackberry, and green ash, American elm was one of the most common species, though we see a notable drop in abundance above DBH values of 15 cm (see Figure 3C and 3D).

At upland sites, we found impaired regeneration of overstory species. Within the three upland rich sites, all in Spring Lake Park Reserve, basswood, elm, bitternut hickory, and red oak all showed impaired regeneration.

At the upland disturbed sites we surveyed, invasive plant species were generally present, though not necessarily abundant; common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.) was the most serious issue. Within these seven sites, several native taxa were common, including *Rubus occidentalis* L. (black raspberry), *Prunus serotina* Ehrh. (black cherry), and *Geum* sp. L. (avens).

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Appendix A. All species located during 2022 sampling.

Table A-1. Ferns and fern allies located in 2022 GLKN sampling sites.

Family	Species	Common name
Dryopteridaceae	Dryopteris carthusiana	spinulose woodfern
Equisetaceae	Equisetum arvense	western horsetail
Equisetaceae	Equisetum hyemale	western scouring-rush
Onocleaceae	Matteuccia struthiopteris	ostrich fern
Onocleaceae	Onoclea sensibilis	sensitive fern
Ophioglossaceae	Botrychium sp.	moonwort
Osmundaceae	Osmunda claytoniana	interrupted fern
Pteridaceae	Adiantum pedatum	northern maidenhair
Woodsiaceae	Athyrium filix-femina var. angustum	subarctic ladyfern
Woodsiaceae	Cystopteris fragilis	fragile fern

Table A-2. Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Alismataceae	Alisma sp.	waterplantain
Alismataceae	Sagittaria latifolia	wapato
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus retroflexus	rough pigweed
Amaranthaceae	Amaranthus tuberculatus	tall waterhemp
Amaranthaceae	Chenopodium album	white goosefoot
Amaranthaceae	Chenopodium sp.	goosefoot
Apiaceae	Cryptotaenia canadensis	honewort
Apiaceae	Daucus carota	Queen Anne's lace
Apiaceae	Osmorhiza longistylis	longstyle sweetroot
Apiaceae	Osmorhiza sp.	sweetroot
Apiaceae	Sanicula marilandica	Maryland sanicle
Apiaceae	Sanicula odorata	clustered blacksnakeroot
Apiaceae	Sium suave	hemlock water-parsnip
Apiaceae	Torilis japonica	erect hedgeparsley

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Apocynaceae	Apocynum cannabinum	Indianhemp
Apocynaceae	Asclepias incarnata	swamp milkweed
Apocynaceae	Asclepias sp.	milkweed
Apocynaceae	Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed
Araceae	Arisaema dracontium	greendragon
Araceae	Arisaema triphyllum	Jack-in-the-pulpit
Araceae	Lemna minor	lesser duckweed
Araceae	Lemna sp.	duckweed
Aristolochiaceae	Asarum canadense	Canadian wild ginger
Asparagaceae	Convallaria majalis	European lily of the valley
Asparagaceae	Maianthemum canadense	Canada mayflower
Asparagaceae	Maianthemum racemosum	feathery false Solomon's-seal
Asparagaceae	Maianthemum stellatum	starry Solomon's-seal
Asparagaceae	Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's seal
Asteraceae	Ageratina altissima	white snakeroot
Asteraceae	Ambrosia artemisiifolia	small ragweed
Asteraceae	Ambrosia trifida	tall ragweed
Asteraceae	Arctium minus	common burdock
Asteraceae	Bidens connata	purple-stem beggarticks
Asteraceae	Bidens frondosa	tickseed sunflower
Asteraceae	Boltonia asteroides var. latisquama	white doll's-daisy
Asteraceae	Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Asteraceae	Cirsium discolor	field thistle
Asteraceae	Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle
Asteraceae	Conyza canadensis	Canadian horseweed
Asteraceae	Erechtites hieraciifolius	American burnweed
Asteraceae	Erigeron annuus	eastern daisy fleabane
Asteraceae	Erigeron philadelphicus	Philadelphia fleabane
Asteraceae	Eutrochium maculatum	spotted joepyeweed

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Asteraceae	Eutrochium purpureum	sweetscented joe pye weed
Asteraceae	Eutrochium sp.	joe pye weed
Asteraceae	Helenium autumnale	false sunflower
Asteraceae	Lactuca canadensis	wild lettuce
Asteraceae	Lactuca sp.	lettuce
Asteraceae	Rudbeckia laciniata	green-head coneflower
Asteraceae	Solidago flexicaulis	zigzag goldenrod
Asteraceae	Solidago sp.	goldenrod
Asteraceae	Sonchus oleraceus	common sow-thistle
Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum lanceolatum	white panicle aster
Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	calico aster
Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum sp.	aster
Asteraceae	Taraxacum officinale	common dandelion
Asteraceae	Vernonia fasciculata	western ironweed
Asteraceae	Xanthium strumarium	rough cockleburr
Balsaminaceae	Impatiens capensis	spotted touch-me-not
Balsaminaceae	Impatiens pallida	pale touch-me-not
Balsaminaceae	Impatiens sp.	touch-me-not
Berberidaceae	Caulophyllum thalictroides	blue cohosh
Boraginaceae	Hackelia virginiana	virginia stickseed
Brassicaceae	Alliaria petiolata	garlic mustard
Brassicaceae	Berteroa incana	hoary alyssum
Brassicaceae	Cardamine impatiens	narrowleaf bittercress
Brassicaceae	Hesperis matronalis	dames rocket
Campanulaceae	Campanula americana	American bellflower
Cannabaceae	Cannabis sativa	marijuana
Caprifoliaceae	Triosteum perfoliatum	feverwort
Caryophyllaceae	Dianthus armeria	Deptford's pink
Caryophyllaceae	Myosoton aquaticum	giantchickweed

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Caryophyllaceae	Silene latifolia	white campion
Caryophyllaceae	Silene sp.	silene
Caryophyllaceae	Stellaria media	nodding chickweed
Colchicaceae	Uvularia grandiflora	large-flower bellwort
Colchicaceae	Uvularia sessilifolia	sessile-leaf bellwort
Convolvulaceae	Calystegia sepium	wild morning glory
Convolvulaceae	Calystegia sp.	false bindweed
Convolvulaceae	Cuscuta gronovii	scaldweed
Convolvulaceae	Cuscuta sp.	dodder
Cucurbitaceae	Echinocystis lobata	wild mockcucumber
Cucurbitaceae	Sicyos angulatus	wall bur cucumber
Dioscoreaceae	Dioscorea villosa	wild yam
Ericaceae	Pyrola sp.	shinleaf
Euphorbiaceae	Acalypha rhomboidea	Virginia threeseed mercury
Fabaceae	Amphicarpaea bracteata	American hogpeanut
Fabaceae	Desmodium glutinosum	trefoil tickclover
Fabaceae	Medicago lupulina	yellow trefoil
Fabaceae	Melilotus sp.	sweetclover
Fabaceae	Securigera varia	crownvetch
Fabaceae	Trifolium repens	white clover
Geraniaceae	Geranium maculatum	wild crane's-bill
Hydrophyllaceae	Hydrophyllum virginianum	Shawnee-salad
Hypericaceae	Hypericum perforatum	St. Johnswort
Iridaceae	<i>Iris</i> sp.	iris
Lamiaceae	Glechoma hederacea	creeping charlie
Lamiaceae	Leonurus cardiaca	motherwort
Lamiaceae	Lycopus americanus	waterhorehound
Lamiaceae	Lycopus uniflorus	oneflower bugleweed
Lamiaceae	Lycopus virginicus	Virginia water horehound

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Lamiaceae	Mentha arvensis	wild mint
Lamiaceae	Monarda fistulosa	wildbergamot horsemint
Lamiaceae	Nepeta cataria	catnip
Lamiaceae	Physostegia virginiana	obedient-plant
Lamiaceae	Prunella vulgaris	selfheal
Lamiaceae	Scutellaria galericulata	marsh skullcap
Lamiaceae	Scutellaria lateriflora	mad dog skullcap
Lamiaceae	Scutellaria ovata	heartleaf skullcap
Lamiaceae	Scutellaria sp.	skullcap
Lamiaceae	Stachys palustris	marsh hedgenettle
Lamiaceae	Stachys sp.	hedgenettle
Lamiaceae	Stachys tenuifolia	smooth hedge-nettle
Lamiaceae	Teucrium canadense	wood sage
Liliaceae	Lilium sp.	lily
Liliaceae	Streptopus lanceolatus var. roseus	twistedstalk
Linderniaceae	Lindernia dubia	yellow-seed false pimpernel
Lythraceae	Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Melanthiaceae	Trillium cernuum	whip-poor-will-flower
Melanthiaceae	Trillium flexipes	nodding wakerobin
Melanthiaceae	<i>Trillium</i> sp.	trillium
Onagraceae	Circaea canadensis ssp. canadensis	broadleaf enchanter's nightshade
Oxalidaceae	Oxalis stricta	yellow woodsorrel
Papaveraceae	Chelidonium majus	celandine
Papaveraceae	Sanguinaria canadensis	bloodroot
Phrymaceae	Mimulus ringens	ringen monkeyflower
Phrymaceae	Phryma leptostachya	lopseed
Plantaginaceae	Plantago rugelii	Rugel's plantain
Plantaginaceae	Plantago sp.	plantain
Plantaginaceae	Veronica sp.	speedwell

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Polemoniaceae	Phlox divaricata	wild blue phlox
Polygonaceae	Fallopia scandens	climbing false buckwheat
Polygonaceae	Fallopia sp.	false-buckwheat
Polygonaceae	Persicaria sp.	smartweed
Polygonaceae	Persicaria virginiana	jumpseed
Polygonaceae	Rumex altissimus	smooth dock
Polygonaceae	Rumex crispus	curly dock
Primulaceae	Lysimachia ciliata	fringed yellow-loosestrife
Primulaceae	Lysimachia nummularia	moneywort
Primulaceae	Lysimachia thyrsiflora	water loosestrife
Ranunculaceae	Actaea rubra	red baneberry
Ranunculaceae	Actaea sp.	baneberry
Ranunculaceae	Anemone canadensis	Canadian anemone
Ranunculaceae	Anemone quinquefolia	wood anemone
Ranunculaceae	Anemone virginiana	Virginia anemone
Ranunculaceae	Caltha palustris	yellow marsh-marigold
Ranunculaceae	Clematis virginiana	virgin's bower
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus abortivus	smallflower crowfoot
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus recurvatus	littleleaf buttercup
Ranunculaceae	Thalictrum dasycarpum	purple meadow-rue
Ranunculaceae	Thalictrum dioicum	early meadow-rue
Ranunculaceae	Thalictrum thalictroides	rue anemone
Rosaceae	Agrimonia gryposepala	tall hairy agrimony
Rosaceae	Agrimonia sp.	agrimony
Rosaceae	Agrimonia striata	roadside agrimony
Rosaceae	Fragaria vesca	woodland strawberry
Rosaceae	Fragaria virginiana	wild strawberry
Rosaceae	Geum canadense	white avens
Rosaceae	Geum laciniatum	rough avens

Table A-2 (continued). Herbaceous (forb) species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Rosaceae	Geum sp.	avens
Rosaceae	Potentilla norvegica	Norwegian cinquefoil
Rubiaceae	Galium aparine	white hedge
Rubiaceae	Galium asprellum	rough bedstraw
Rubiaceae	Galium tinctorium	stiff marsh bedstraw
Rubiaceae	Galium triflorum	sweetscented bedstraw
Scrophulariaceae	Scrophularia lanceolata	lance-leaf figwort
Scrophulariaceae	Scrophularia marilandica	maryland figwort
Scrophulariaceae	Verbascum thapsus	common mullein
Smilacaceae	Smilax ecirrhata	upright carrionflower
Solanaceae	Physalis heterophylla	clammy ground-cherry
Solanaceae	Physalis sp.	groundcherry
Solanaceae	Physalis virginiana	Virginia ground-cherry
Solanaceae	Solanum ptychanthum	West Indian nightshade
Urticaceae	Boehmeria cylindrica	smallspike false nettle
Urticaceae	Laportea canadensis	Canadian wood-nettle
Urticaceae	Parietaria pensylvanica	Pennsylvania pellitory
Urticaceae	Pilea pumila	Canadian clearweed
Urticaceae	Pilea sp.	clearweed
Urticaceae	Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	stinging nettle
Verbenaceae	Verbena hastata	swamp verbena
Verbenaceae	Verbena urticifolia	white vervain
Violaceae	Viola sp.	violet

Table A-3. Graminoid species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Cyperaceae	Carex blanda	woodland sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex cephalophora	oval-leaved sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex deweyana	round-fruit short-scale sedge

Table A-3 (continued). Graminoid species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Cyperaceae	Carex grisea	inflated narrow-leaf sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex intumescens	greater bladder sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex Iupulina	hop sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex pedunculata	long-stalk sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex projecta	necklace sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex radiata	eastern star sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex retrorsa	retrorse sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex rosea	rosy sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex sp.	sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex sprengelii	Sprengel's sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex stipata	stalk-grain sedge
Cyperaceae	Carex vesicaria	inflated sedge
Juncaceae	Juncus sp.	rush
Poaceae	Bromus inermis	smooth brome
Poaceae	Cinna latifolia	slender wood-reed
Poaceae	Elymus sp.	wildrye
Poaceae	Elymus villosus	slender wild-rye
Poaceae	Elymus virginicus	Virginia wildrye
Poaceae	Leersia oryzoides	rice cutgrass
Poaceae	Leersia virginica	whitegrass
Poaceae	Milium effusum	American milletgrass
Poaceae	Phalaris arundinacea	reed canarygrass
Poaceae	Poa compressa	flat-stem blue grass
Poaceae	Poa sp.	bluegrass
Poaceae	Poaceae fam.	grass family
Poaceae	Schizachne purpurascens	false melic grass
Typhaceae	Sparganium sp.	bur-reed

Table A-4. Shrub and woody vine species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Adoxaceae	Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis	elderberry
Adoxaceae	Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa	red elderberry
Adoxaceae	Viburnum lantana	wayfaringtree
Adoxaceae	Viburnum lentago	nannyberry
Adoxaceae	Viburnum opulus var. americanum	American cranberrybush
Adoxaceae	Viburnum rafinesqueanum	downy arrowwood
Berberidaceae	Berberis sp.	barberry
Anacardiaceae	Toxicodendron rydbergii	western poison ivy
Anacardiaceae	Toxicodendron sp.	poison ivy
Betulaceae	Corylus americana	American hazelnut
Caprifoliaceae	Lonicera sp. (exotic)	exotic honeysuckle
Celastraceae	Celastrus scandens	American bittersweet
Celastraceae	Euonymus atropurpureus	burning bush
Cornaceae	Cornus alternifolia	alternate-leaf dogwood
Cornaceae	Cornus amomum	silky dogwood
Cornaceae	Cornus racemose	gray dogwood
Cornaceae	Cornus rugosa	round-leaf dogwood
Cornaceae	Cornus sericea	red-osier dogwood
Grossulariaceae	Ribes americanum	wild black currant
Grossulariaceae	Ribes cynosbati	pasture currant
Grossulariaceae	Ribes hirtellum	hairy stem gooseberry
Grossulariaceae	Ribes missouriense	Missouri gooseberry
Menispermaceae	Menispermum canadense	common moonseed
Rhamnaceae	Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn
Rosaceae	Amelanchier sp.	serviceberry
Rosaceae	<i>Malus</i> sp.	apple
Rosaceae	Rubus flagellaris	whiplash dewberry
Rosaceae	Rubus occidentalis	black raspberry
Rosaceae	Rubus pensilvanicus	Pennsylvania blackberry

Table A-4 (continued). Shrub and woody vine species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Rosaceae	Rubus sachalinensis var. sachalinensis	red raspberry
Rutaceae	Zanthoxylum americanum	common prickly ash
Smilacaceae	Smilax sp.	greenbrier
Smilacaceae	Smilax tamnoides	bristly greenbrier
Solanaceae	Solanum dulcamara	woody nightshade
Vitaceae	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper
Vitaceae	Parthenocissus sp.	Virginia creeper
Vitaceae	Parthenocissus vitacea	Virginia creeper
Vitaceae	Vitis riparia	riverbank grape
Vitaceae	Vitis sp.	grape

Table A-5. Tree species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Betulaceae	Betula alleghaniensis	yellow birch
Betulaceae	Betula nigra	river birch
Betulaceae	Betula papyrifera	paper birch
Betulaceae	Ostrya virginiana	ironwood
Cannabaceae	Celtis occidentalis	northern hackberry
Cupressaceae	Juniperus virginiana	red cedar juniper
Fabaceae	Gleditsia triacanthos	honey locust
Fabaceae	Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucy coffeetree
Fagaceae	Quercus alba	white oak
Fagaceae	Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak
Fagaceae	Quercus ellipsoidalis	northern pin oak
Fagaceae	Quercus macrocarpa	bur oak
Fagaceae	Quercus rubra	northern red oak
Juglandaceae	Carya cordiformis	bitternut hickory
Juglandaceae	Juglans cinerea	butternut
Juglandaceae	Juglans nigra	black walnut

Table A-5 (continued). Tree species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Malvaceae	Tilia americana	American basswood
Moraceae	Morus alba	white mulberry
Moraceae	Morus rubra	red mulberry
Moraceae	Morus sp.	mulberry
Oleaceae	Fraxinus americana	white ash
Oleaceae	Fraxinus nigra	black ash
Oleaceae	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash
Oleaceae	Fraxinus sp.	ash
Pinaceae	Abies balsamea	balsam fir
Rosaceae	Amelanchier arborea	downy serviceberry
Rosaceae	Prunus pensylvanica	pin cherry
Rosaceae	Prunus serotina	black cherry
Rosaceae	Prunus tomentosa	Nanking cherry
Rosaceae	Prunus virginiana	chokecherry
Rosaceae	Sorbus sp.	mountain ash
Salicaceae	Populus deltoides ssp. monilifera	plains cottonwood
Salicaceae	Populus tremuloides	quaking aspen
Salicaceae	Salix amygdaloides	peach-leaf willow
Salicaceae	Salix nigra	black willow
Salicaceae	Salix sp.	willow
Sapindaceae	Acer negundo	western boxelder
Sapindaceae	Acer nigrum	black maple
Sapindaceae	Acer rubrum	red maple
Sapindaceae	Acer saccharinum	silver maple
Sapindaceae	Acer saccharum	sugar maple
Sapindaceae	Acer spicatum	mountain maple
Sapindaceae	Aesculus glabra	Ohio buckeye
Salicaceae	Salix sp.	willow
Salicaceae	Salix sp.	willow

Table A-5 (continued). Tree species located in 2022 GLKN sampling.

Family	Species	Common name
Sapindaceae	Acer negundo	western boxelder
Sapindaceae	Acer nigrum	black maple
Sapindaceae	Acer rubrum	red maple
Sapindaceae	Acer saccharinum	silver maple
Sapindaceae	Acer saccharum	sugar maple
Sapindaceae	Acer spicatum	mountain maple
Sapindaceae	Aesculus glabra	Ohio buckeye
Ulmaceae	Ulmus americana	American elm
Ulmaceae	Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm
Ulmaceae	Ulmus rubra	slippery elm



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Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

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