



## Macrogroup: Glade, Barren and Savanna

This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.



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### Description:

A mosaic of grassland, savanna and sparsely vegetated rock barrens occurring on horizontal limestone or dolomite bedrock with a discontinuous thin soil mantle. Eastern red cedar, jack pine, northern white cedar, and a few stunted hardwoods are sometimes present, but never at a canopy cover that exceeds 60%. The dominant herbs are graminoids such as tufted hairgrass and prairie dropseed. Other characteristic plants are sedges, forbs such as white camas, Indian paintbrush, and upland white aster, and distinctive assemblages of mosses, lichens, and small herbs associated with rock outcrops. Alvar communities support several globally rare plant species, and provide habitat for grassland birds whose habitat is declining elsewhere. Most types are globally imperiled.

### Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:

Almost all of North America's alvars occur within the Great Lakes basin; a disjunct variant occupies limestone ledges on or near shores of Lake Champlain, with a less open cedar-pine canopy. Most alvars experience flooding in spring or after a heavy rain, then a moderate to severe summer drought. Fire may help to maintain alvars in some cases; some don't seem to have a fire history at all. Threats to system integrity include grazing and exotic plants.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Similar systems are ones that are distinct because of their association with particular bedrock lithologies and atypical moisture regimes: Appalachian Shale Barrens, Southern Ridge and Valley Calcareous Glade and Woodland, and Eastern Serpentine Woodland, among others.

### Crosswalk to State Wildlife Action Plans:

Native Barrens and Savanna (NY)

### State Distribution: NY, VT

Total Habitat Acreage: 27,656

Percent Conserved: 12.3%

State	State Habitat %	State Acreage	GAP 1&2 (acres)	GAP 3 (acres)	Unsecured (acres)
NY	96%	26,657	2,388	930	23,339
VT	4%	998	7	77	913

### Crosswalk to State Name Examples:

Alvar Pavement-Grassland (NY), Limestone Bluff Cedar-Pine Forest (VT)

## Places to Visit this Habitat:

Chaumont Barrens Preserve | NY  
 El Dorado Beach Preserve | NY  
 Lakeview Wildlife Management Area | NY  
 Robert Wehle State Park | NY  
 Southwick Beach | NY

## Associated Species: *Appendix lists scientific names*

**BIRDS:** brown thrasher, grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow, upland sandpiper, prairie warbler

**PLANTS:** American dragonhead (*Dracocephalum parviflorum*), golden corydalis (*Corydalis aurea*), greenish sedge (*Carex viridula*), hornemann's willowherb (*Epilobium hornemannii*), limestone rockcress (*Arabis divaricarpa*), long-stalked stitchwort (*Stellaria longipes*), northern dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), northern stickseed (*Hackelia deflexa*), pointed blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), prairie redroot (*Ceanothus herbaceus*), prairie-smoke (*Geum triflorum*), rock elm (*Ulmus thomasii*), spreading-pod rockcress (*Boechera grahamii*), white camas (*Zigadenus elegans* ssp. *glaucus*), yellow pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*)

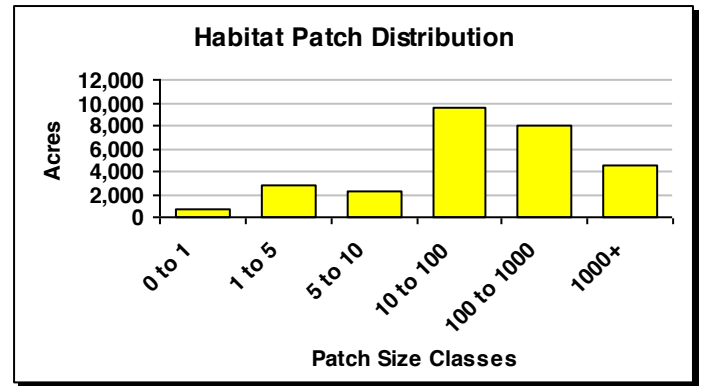
## Species of Concern (G1-G4): *Appendix lists scientific names*

**INSECTS:** Rare geometric and noctuid moths (*Chytonix rupertii*, *Digrammia denticulata*, *Digrammia mellistrigata*, *Grammia anna*, *Orthodes obscura*)

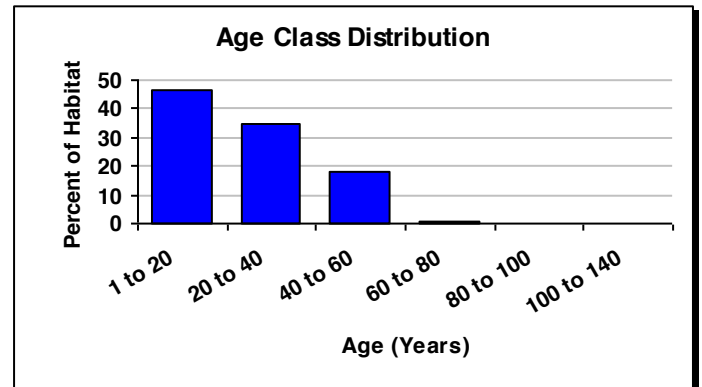
**PLANTS:** carolina crane's-bill (*Geranium carolinianum* var. *sphaerosper*), loeske pseudocalliergon moss (*Pseudocalliergon turgescens*), rough-fruit amaranth (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), seneca snakeroot (*Polygala senega*), small skullcap (*Scutellaria parvula* var. *parvula*), troublesome sedge (*Carex molesta*)



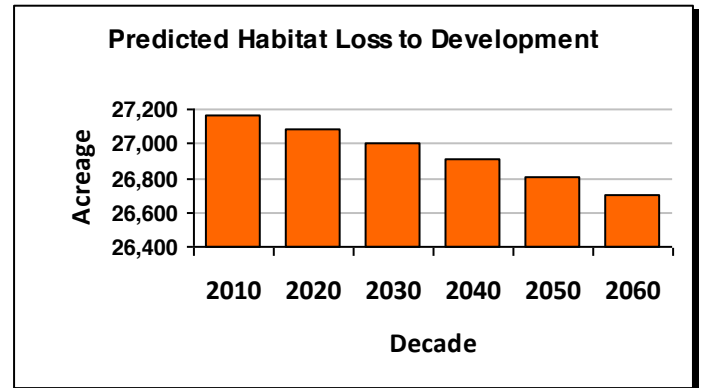
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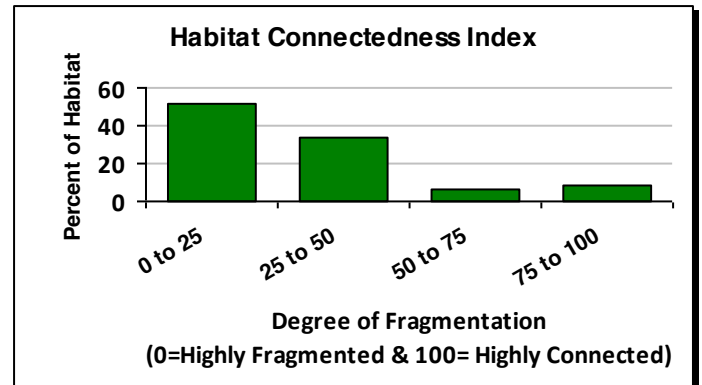
The average patch size for this habitat is 6 acres and the largest single patch is 2,141 acres. This chart shows the proportion of the habitat that is in each patch-size class.



This chart shows the average age of trees associated with this habitat based on forest inventory data. For non-forested systems or small habitats the average age is influenced by the surroundings.



This chart shows the predicted loss of habitat over the next five decades (466 acres) if loss continues at the same rate as 1990-2000. The average rate of loss is 9 acres per year.



This metric measures how connected or fragmented the land directly surrounding (18 square miles) the habitat is, this the chart shows the proportion of the habitat in each connectedness class.