

# Oak Natural Communities in Massachusetts: A Brief Tour



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# What is a Natural Community?

An predictable assemblage of species that express specific environmental conditions, such as:

- Hydrology
- Soil/Mineral content
- Disturbance regimes





# Commonality

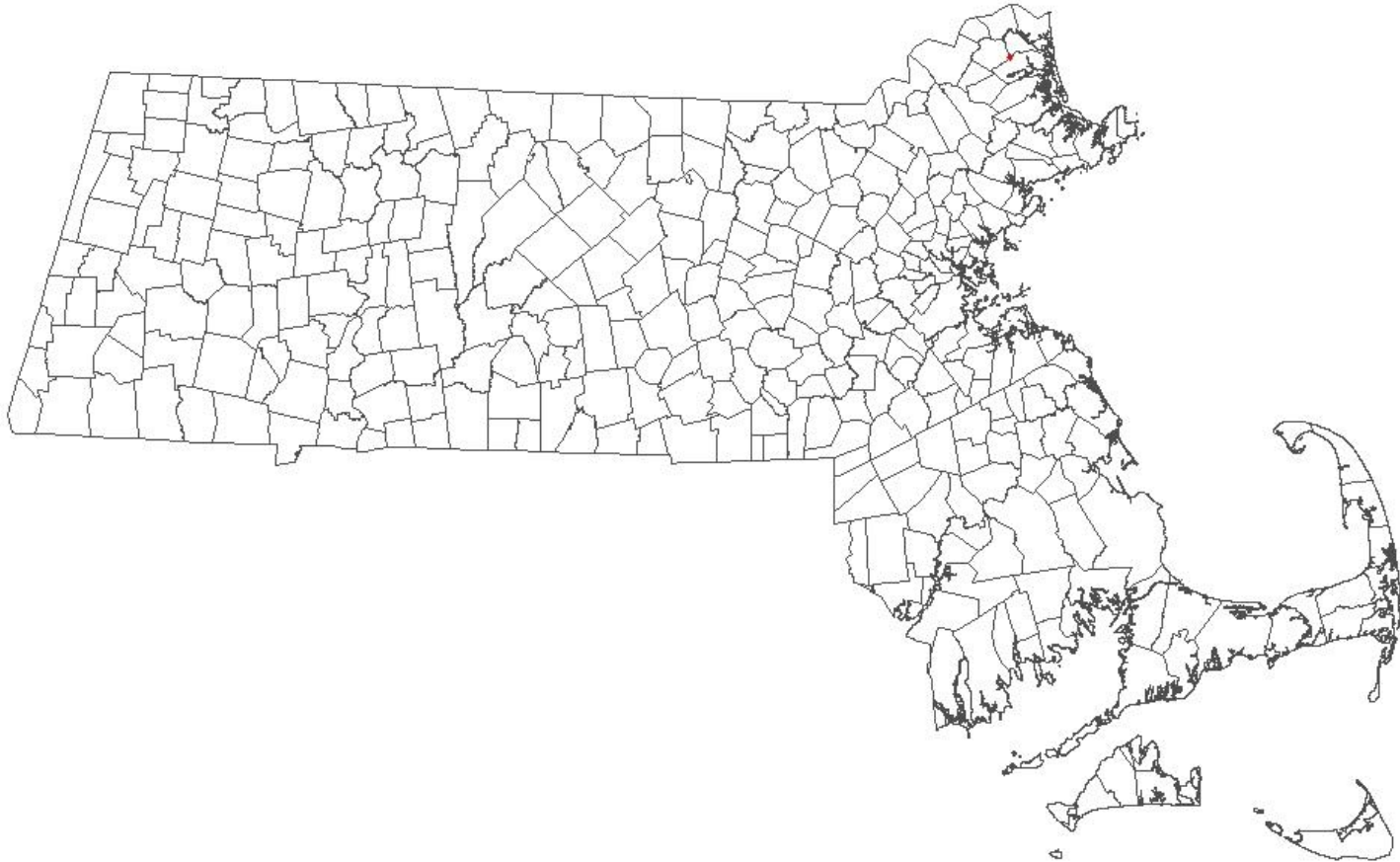


Natural Disturbance: Primarily Fire

# The Gradient of Oak Communities

in

## Massachusetts





# Oak-Pitch Pine Forest





# Scarlet-Black Oak Woodland





# General Mixed Oak





# Oak – Hickory Forest (dry)





# Dry, Rich Acidic Oak Forest





# Ridgetop Chestnut Oak





# Red Oak Forest





# Oak – Hickory Forest (mesic)





# Yellow Oak Woodland Community





# Ecological Values

## Understory (Heath & Herbaceous)





# Ecological Management





# Ecological Management





# Ecological Management





# Ecological Management





# Mesification – Fire Exclusion

