

Pond History

SHPOA's pond management strategy (<https://shorewoodhillspoa.org/lake-%26-ponds>) is based on information provided through the years by professionals that the ponds are man-made - meaning their original state was not ponds. Below is information and illustrations that confirm this.

Between 1816 and 1856, Michigan was systematically surveyed by the General Land Office. One result of these surveys is the "Vegetation circa 1800" map."

MI Vegetation circa 1800 Viewer

Michigan Natural Features Inventory
MSU Extension

Between 1816 and 1856 Government Land Office Surveyors mapped a one-mile grid across the entire surface of Michigan, starting in the southeast near Lake Erie and finishing along the Wisconsin border along Lake Superior. The surveyors' maps opened the lands of Michigan to sale and settlement, and the grid was gradually transformed into our present road system.

The Land Office Surveyors were not only creating a grid for land sales, they were also recording information about the land and its vegetation, describing the fertility of the soil, mapping bedrock exposures, and recording the size and species of the trees. This interactive storymap allows you to retrace the surveyors' paths across the unsettled landscape.

Legend

- SHRUB SWAMP/EMERGENT MARSH
- SPRUCE-FIR-CEDAR FOREST
- SUGAR MAPLE-HEMLOCK FOREST
- SUGAR MAPLE-BASSWOOD FOREST
- SUGAR MAPLE-YELLOW BIRCH FOREST
- WET PRAIRIE

The left side of the screen is information about the historical process, the middle is a present-day map of our neighborhood, the right side is the 'vegetation circa 1800' map.

Vegetation circa 1800

Covertype	SHRUB SWAMP/ EMERGENT MARSH
Acres	184.1
Hectares	74.5

The 'vegetation circa 1800 map' showing the original state of our "ponds" – a shrub swamp/emergent marsh.

Link to MI Vegetation circa 1800 view finder:

<https://mnfi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=c285e9eab9774c77a36d8726474fa408>

The vegetation map indicates that the ponds were a shrub swamp/emergent marsh. In this type of pond, “Soils are saturated or inundated mucks of variable depth over silty or sandy clay. Water depth varies seasonally and from site to site. The community is dominated by buttonbush.”



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Inundated Shrub Swamp

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Overview

Inundated shrub swamp is a shrub-dominated community characterized by poor drainage, nearly continuous inundation or saturation, and dominance by buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). The community typically exhibits a scattered shrub-dominated overstory and sparse herbaceous cover.

Rank

Global Rank: G4 - Apparently secure

State Rank: S3 - Vulnerable



Link to MSU's "Michigan Natural Features Inventory: Inundated Shrub Swamp":

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/description/10680/inundated-shrub-swamp>

Oakland County has an extensive aerial imagery collection which allows a viewer to explore an area from 1940-2017.



The above photo shows our neighborhood in 1940. Note the water in Pine Lake and the lack of water in our shrub swamp/emergent marsh.



The above photo shows our neighborhood in 1963. Note the water in the ponds. It is highly likely the ponds were dug as part of the storm water collection system when the subdivision was developed. They are essentially retention basins; all road runoff drains into the ponds.

Link to 'Picturing Oakland County Through Time':

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1f0afc2c676740c7a5ea7f9c9b5c6f2f>