Characteristic Animal Species: Freshwater tidal swamps and shrublands provide habitat for nesting Gray Catbird *(Dumetella carolinensis),* Common Yellowthroat *(Geothlypis trichas),* Swamp Sparrow *(Melospiza georgiana),* Wood Duck *(Aix sponsa),* Marsh Wren *(Cistothorus palustris),* and Veery *(Catharus fuscescens).* The habitat is also used as roosting areas by resident Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias),* Green Heron *(Butorides striatus),* Red Tailed Hawk *(Accipiter jamaicensis)* and other raptors.

Associated Rare Plant Species: The freshwater tidal swamp community includes several state listed rare species. Long's bittercress *(Cardamine longii)* (E), hemlock parsley *(Conioselinum chinense)* (SC) occur in both tidal swamps and shrublands. Stalked water horehound *(Lycopus rubellus)* (E) occurs along a tidal swamp bordering a stream.

SC = Special Concern; E = Endangered

Range: Freshwater tidal swamps and shrublands are very rare natural communities. The North River, at the confluence with 4th Herring Brook, provides the best studied example in Massachusetts. The community occurs along the edge of a freshwater tidal marsh, at the transition to a large Atlantic white cedar swamp. Small patches of tidal swamp habitat may be present in other river systems, particularly along smaller streams at the upper limit of tidal influence. The North River occurrence was strongly influenced by the 1898 breach of the barrier beach in Scituate, and may in part represent a transitional habitat.

Management Considerations: Alteration of river hydrology may threaten this plant community. The extent of tidal influence in freshwater tidal wetlands depends in part on the amount of water flowing downstream. Excessive water withdrawal, either due to large municipal wells upstream, or the cumulative impact of smaller withdrawals, could have profound impacts on the natural development of this vegetation community. The hydrologic requirements for this community need to be determined, and a system for monitoring hydrologic stress to the river system is recommended. More investigation is needed for occurrences along small streams and in brackish wetlands.

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