



## Ecodistrict Profile

### Ecological Landscape Analysis Summary Ecodistrict 730: **Clare**

An objective of ecosystem-based management is to manage landscapes in as close to a natural state as possible. The intent of this approach is to promote biodiversity, sustain ecological processes and support the long-term production of goods and services. Each of the province's 38 ecodistricts is an ecological landscape with distinctive patterns of physical features. (Definitions of underlined terms are included in the print and electronic glossary.)

This Ecological Landscape Analysis (ELA) provides detailed information on the forest and timber resources of the various landscape components of Clare Ecodistrict 730. The ELA also provides brief summaries of other land values, such as minerals, energy and geology, water resources, parks and protected areas, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

If you are travelling from Digby to Yarmouth, most of the trip will be spent in the Clare Ecodistrict, bounded on the northwest by the waters of St. Marys Bay. Farther south, the waters change into the Bay of Fundy and then the Gulf of Maine.

The more than 100 kilometres of coastline provides habitat for wintering concentrations of waterfowl, including black duck, common eider, greater scaup, long-tailed duck, and common merganser. These birds are generally found close to the shore along the coast and in river estuaries.

The Clare Ecodistrict has the longest growing season in the province, with 210 days where the temperature is five degrees Celsius or above.

The ecodistrict is located on an undulating to gently rolling, drumlin till plain.

A tin deposit that extends from the northeast of the East Kemptville Tin Mine to the Atlantic coast near Yarmouth is part of the ecodistrict.

Private land ownership accounts for about 80% of the ecodistrict, with a little less than 10% owned by the Crown and the remainder as mainly inland waters and transportation corridors. Some of the private lands, particularly along the Acadian Shore of St. Marys Bay, are long and narrow. This is a reflection of past inheritance practices, where lands were divided to ensure each parcel contained shore lands and woodlands.

About three-quarters of the total area is forested. Red spruce is a dominant softwood species, generally occurring on well-drained sites. Black spruce is most common on the wettest sites. Mixedwoods are often dominated by red maple.



Land ownership patterns in this ecodistrict influence the diversity of forest ecosystems, both in size and composition.

Sites of ecological significance are found at Belliveau Lake, Gilfillan Lake, and the Tusket River Nature Reserve.

The ecodistrict is heavily covered with lakes and rivers, representing 9.6% of the area. Major rivers include the Tusket, Carleton, Annis, Silver, Sissiboo, Meteghan, and Salmon. Many of the tributaries to the rivers are slow-moving,



Saltwater marshlands provide seasonal habitat for many migratory waterfowl.

meandering streams that often passing through wetlands. Lakes are generally shallow, sometimes aligned as a chain with interconnecting rivers and streams.

Landscapes are large areas that function as ecological systems and respond to a variety of influences. Landscapes are composed of smaller ecosystems, known as elements. These elements are described by their physical features – such as soil and landform – and ecological features – such as climax forest type. These characteristics help determine vegetation development.

Element descriptions promote an understanding of historical vegetation patterns and the effects of current disturbances. This landscape analysis identified and mapped seven key landscape elements – one dominant matrix element, five smaller patch elements, and a corridor element– in Clare.

**Tolerant Mixedwood Hummocks** is the matrix element, representing nearly half of the ecodistrict. The matrix element naturally supports mainly long-lived tree species that like to grow in shade, such as red spruce, white pine (which also does well in moderate sunlight), and eastern hemlock. Most of the matrix is currently either mixedwood or softwood. Red maple is the main hardwood species.

**Tolerant Mixedwood Drumlins** is the largest patch element, accounting for about one-quarter of the area. Tree species are similar to the matrix, but the landscape is dominated by drumlins. The other patch elements, in order of size, are **Wetlands, Tolerant Hardwood Hills, Pine Oak Hills and Hummocks,** and **Spruce Pine Hummocks.**

**Valley Corridors** is a linear element associated with the major watercourses in the ecodistrict that passes through several element types. *The ecodistrict also contains the tiny elements Coastal Beach and Salt Marsh.*