

Landscaping at the Coastal Edge for People and for Wildlife

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Wildlife Needs:

Food -- seeds, flowers, fruit, nuts, foliage, bark

Water – in all seasons

Space – territories vary by species & quality

Cover = concealment, can be partial shelter

Also:

Corridors

Unfragmented blocks

for habitat continuity

for seasonal migrations

for wide ranging species

Habitats

encompasses many different environments

Habitat Use varies

By Season,

Structural Levels,


micro-environments

habitat quality

competition – same spp, other spp, predators

Habitat Partitioning:


temporal -- spatial – elevation -- structure

A coastal scene with tall grass in the foreground, a beach, and buildings in the background. The grass is a mix of green and yellow, suggesting a natural, uncultivated area. In the background, there are several buildings, including a large multi-story one and a smaller one with a porch. The sky is bright and clear.

Native vegetation supports native wildlife –

**Properly placed natives require:
Less care, less watering
Less fertilizer,
Fewer pesticides**

**Projects conducted under DEP permits
require native vegetation.**

A coastal landscape featuring tall, thin grasses in the foreground. In the background, there is a sandy beach, a blue body of water, and several buildings, including a large multi-story building and a smaller house.

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Plant Selection / Correct Placement = Success / Fail
Sun ← → Partial Shade ← → Full Shade.

Soil Chemistry:
Acidic – Neutral – Basic (sweet)

Soil Moisture Regime ***
Xeric – Moist – Occasionally Wet -- Wet

*****Useful tool:**

National List of Plant Spp that Occur in Wetlands

Region 1 – Northeast

Resource Mgmt Grp, Inc, POBox 487, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Ecological Zones

Ferry Beach Park Assn

SHORT POND – semi –permanent FW pond,
former swale between historic dunes

BACK DUNE – moist soils,
organics over sand,
mesic woods

HISTORIC DUNE CREST
sandy soils,
full sun - mostly sun

FRONTAL DUNE – sandy soils,
full sun, drought stress

BEACH / upper intertidal
– limits of annual tides

INTERTIDAL – marine flats,
high wave energy , scouring

