Central Oak-Pine Macrogroup:

**Description:**
A hardwood woodland that occurs where a particularly dense clay hardpan has developed over a range of mafic rocks (igneous rocks rich in iron and magnesium), creating dry conditions for plants despite the presence of deep soil. Open woodlands and more limited areas of shallow glade-like vegetation are the usual cover. Typical canopy trees include white oak, post oak, pignut hickory, and white ash. The open canopy leads to a better developed herb layer than in most Piedmont forests, one that is usually grassy. Some sites may have once supported open prairies or prairie savannas when they burned more frequently.

**Ecological Setting and Natural Processes:**
A system of the Virginia and Maryland Piedmont and southward. It is usually on flatter uplands, sometimes on narrow ridges. Most soils that formed on the mafic bedrock are circumneutral to basic. Fire was probably once the most important natural disturbance, but the elimination of fire in the Piedmont makes this difficult to observe on most of the modern landscape. In our region, occurs as small to large patches in a largely agricultural landscape.

**Similar Habitat Types:**
This system is distinguished from others in the Piedmont by distinctive occurrence on hardpan soils in particular geologic settings. Usually adjacent to Northeast Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forest or Southern Piedmont Mesic Forest.

**Crosswalk to State Name Examples:**
Dry Oak-Pine Forests (MD), Southern Piedmont Hardpan Forest (VA)

**State Distribution:** MD, VA

**Total Habitat Acreage:** 49,430

**Percent Conserved:** 2.4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>State Habitat %</th>
<th>State Acreage</th>
<th>GAP 1&amp;2 (acres)</th>
<th>GAP 3 (acres)</th>
<th>Unsecured (acres)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
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<td>49,216</td>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>136</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This map is a modeled distribution based on current data and is not a substitute for field based inventory. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist for more information about this habitat.
# Piedmont Hardpan Woodland and Forest

**Places to Visit this Habitat:**

- C & O Canal National Historical Park | MD
- Bull Run Mountains State Natural Area Preserve | VA
- Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest | VA
- Cumberland State Forest | VA

**Associated Species:**  *Appendix lists scientific names*

**PLANTS:** bluehearts (Buchnera americana), grove sandwort (Moehringia lateriflora), old-field milkvine (Matelea decipiens), prairies bold goldenrod (Oligoneuron rigidum var. rigidum), purple milkweed (Asclepias purpurascens), southern shagbark hickory (Carya carolinae-septentrionalis), spoon-shape barbara's-buttons (Marshallia obovata var. obovata), susquehanna cherry (Prunus pumila var. susquehanae), tall dropseed (Sporobolus compositus var. compositus), winged-loosestrife (Lythrum alatum)

**Species of Concern (G1-G4):**  *Appendix lists scientific names*

**PLANTS:** buffalo clover (Trifolium reflexum), Torrey's mountainmint (Pycnanthemum torrei), winter quillwort (Isoetes hyemalis)

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