



Great Lakes: Important Natural Features—Ridge and Swale, Level Bedrock Communities, Estuaries, Beaches and Dunes, Green Bay Marshes, Boreal Clay Plain Forests, Sandscapes, Red Clay Wetlands and Apostles Islands.

The Great Lakes ecosystems are of global importance. Even though the lakes themselves have been changed over the years, many of the shoreland communities have not. Rare species are numerous owing to the diversity and quality of habitats.

### Ecology & Significance

- Wisconsin Responsibility – Mod High
  - Irreplaceable Features – Moderate
  - Diversity of Natural Features – Moderate
  - Rare Species – Several
  - Conservation Concern Species – Moderate
  - Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Mod High
  - Conservation Status – Minute
- This site has narrow conservation opportunities.

Kellner Fen is an embayment wetland similar to other near-shore lakes on the Door Peninsula. However, this fen differs since it has no natural outlet to Lake Michigan. Through the natural processes of sand deposition and subsequent dune formation, it was completely isolated from the lake waters until two small, man-made outlets were dug more than 60 years ago. This site features a floating peat mat with a series of interconnected open water pools at the center.

To the south, a series of ridge and swale dunes are feature in the opportunity area. The drier portion are under heavy development pressure.



Air Photo courtesy Google Maps

### Flora and Fauna

Kellner's Fen supplies critical habitat for the federally endangered Hine's Emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). The mat consists of a diversity of sedges including the brown beak-rush (*Rhycospora fusca*). Other notable species are the state-threatened tussock bulrush (*Trichophorum cespitosum*), white bog orchid (*Platanthera dilatata*), and dragon's-mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*). Numerous migratory birds use the fen for stopover and nesting habitat. A lowland conifer/hardwood forest borders the fen to the north while a nearly mile long, 20 to 30 foot high sand dune borders the east and south.



Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

West of the fen is a second-growth mesic to wet mesic conifer hardwood forest growing on thin soils over dolomite. The Lake Michigan shore has stretches of sand, pebble, and bedrock shoreline. Several species of neotropical migrants find suitable nesting habitat in the old dune forests. Especially significant are nesting records for Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.



E-mail: [greatnaturewi@gmail.com](mailto:greatnaturewi@gmail.com)  
 Web: [greatnaturewi.com](http://greatnaturewi.com)  
 Phone: 608-790-6821