

## **Post Glacial Evolution of the Northeast Ohio Landscape**

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What makes Earth the “pearl” it is in the accessible universe is its magnificent global and regional diversity of environments with their diversity of living organisms. More amazing is how these diverse dynamic environments have changed through the geologic past. Northeast Ohio is a part of the deciduous forest biome with a particularly dramatic series of changes since the geologically rapid recession of the last glacial advance over our region only about 11,000 years ago. The major river valleys completely filled in with glacial deposits and deposits of major melt water rivers flowing SOUTH (yes!) off the continental ice sheet. Climates changed dramatically. A series of major ecological changes and successions must have occurred. Some of these changes are still occurring related to the ending of the Little Ice Age cold period and of course to anthropogenic alterations of the environments related to land use and alteration of species composition. Greenhouse warming is projected to bring about a stressful rapid transition in the forest ecological community that would diminish diversity, and especially stability, of the environment.