

# Silver Maple-Elm Floodplain Forest

This community occurs on temporarily flooded soils along major rivers and streams. Dominant trees include silver maple, American elm, black walnut, and sycamore. Other associated species include box elder, red ash, and cottonwood. Sandbar willow, red osier dogwood, and silky dogwood are present on frequently flooded low terraces of major rivers.

Along the frequently flooded terraces of the lower sections of all Lake Erie tributary rivers from the Vermilion River east to Conneaut Creek, this community includes open meadows dominated by wing-stem, ox-eye, panicled aster, smooth goldenrod, Joe-Pye weed, ironweed, sandbar willow, red osier dogwood, and silky dogwood. Meadow formation is caused by a single herbaceous plant, Emory sedge. The sedge produces a carpet of grass-like tussocks with a dense mass of underground stems and roots. During flood events, the tussocks and roots reduce the velocity of stream flow and cause the deposition of silts and sand suspended within the stream. Once the beds of sedge are well established, prairie grasses and summer meadow flowers can grow on them.

These wet meadow areas are home to butterflies such as Baltimore checkerspot, Hobomok skipper, black dash, bronzed copper, and American rubyspot damselfly.

## Where to Go

- ☞ Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit County and Cuyahoga County, OH)
- ☞ Firestone Metro Park, Metro Parks Serving Summit County (Summit County, OH)
- ☞ Hidden Valley Reservation, Lake Metroparks (Lake County, OH)
- ☞ Rocky River Reservation and South Chagrin Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks (Cuyahoga County, OH)
- ☞ Vermilion River Reservation and Black River Reservation, Lorain County Metro Parks (Lorain County, OH)



Prothonotary warbler



Floodplain perennials



Illinois river cruiser



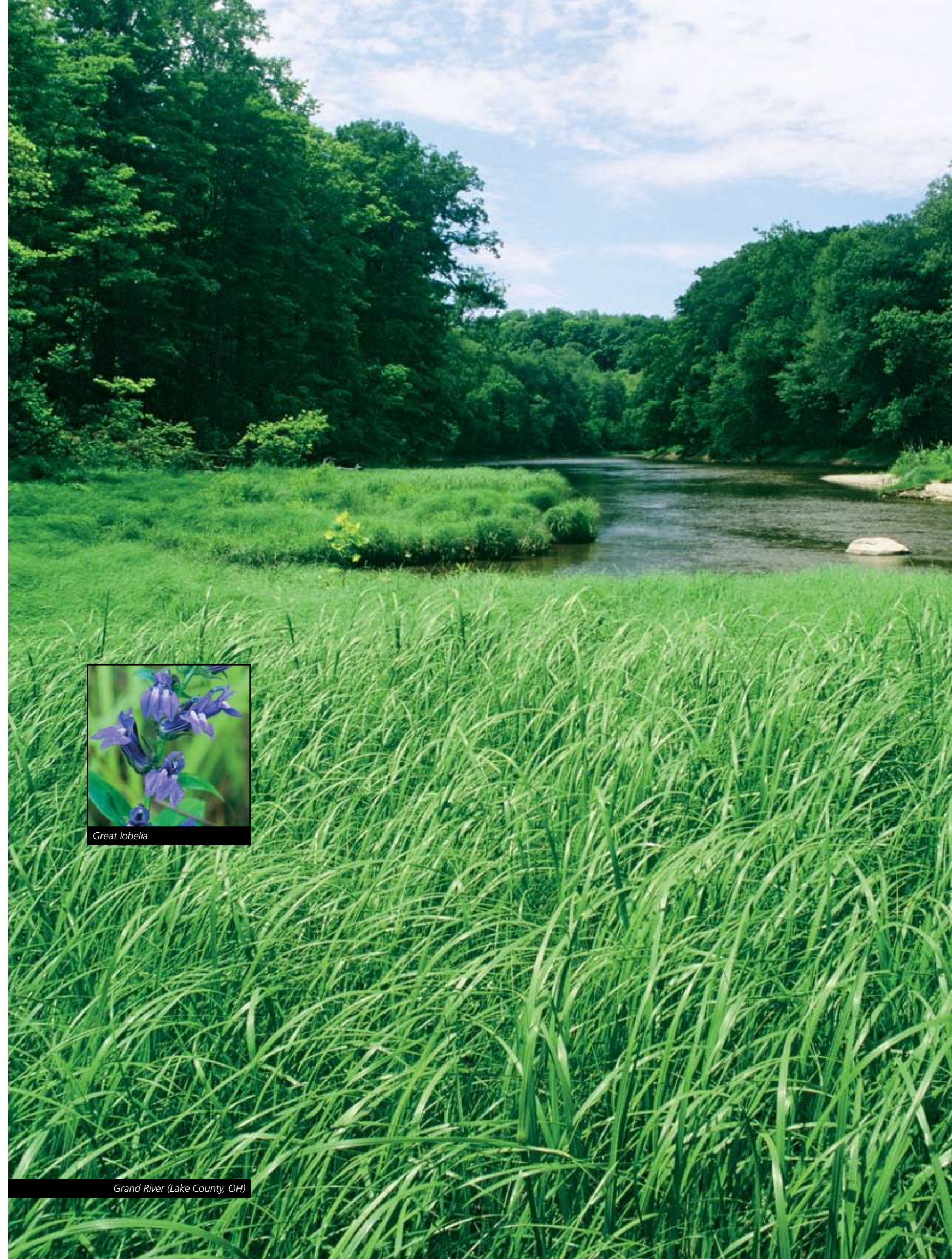
American redstart



Great lobelia



Baltimore checkerspot



Grand River (Lake County, OH)