

2. Succession

Dr. Philip C. Walker
Memorial
Botanical Trail



Red Cloud Baseball Field, 1964



Fall 2000



Spring 2001

During succession, the plant and animal composition of a site change gradually over time, often in a somewhat predictable fashion. In early-successional stages, shade-intolerant or pioneer plant species are dominant. These include grasses and wildflowers. Next to appear are shrubs and shade intolerant trees such as grey birch and white pine. In later stages of succession, shade-tolerant and longer-lived plants, including hardwood trees, will replace much of the original vegetation. The kinds of songbirds present also change as the plant species change in the habitat.