



Figure 5. Small wet meadow between parking lot and stream.

The largest area of wetlands along the proposed route is a large palustrine forested wetland in the floodplain along the northern bank of the Beden Brook. The wetland is approximately 250 feet wide at the point where the road crossing is proposed. Due to the higher topography on the southern bank, with a sharp topographic break, there are no riparian wetlands along that side of the brook. This wetland complex is a typical forested floodplain, dominated by red maples, green ash, and black willows. The understory is very sparse due to heavy deer browsing but contains a few dogwoods and some elderberry. Soft rush and various wetlands grasses dominate the herbaceous layer. There was extensive evidence of frequent flooding, including standing water, vernal pools, and areas of blackened leaves. It appears to be good wildlife habitat, but no threatened or endangered species were observed. Several white-tail deer and a number of great blue herons were observed in this area. Based on the field reconnaissance, the depiction of the floodplain wetland complex on the NWI maps is approximately correct in terms of both location and classification although the wetland is entirely confined to the northern shore of the brook. Figure 6 is a typical view of the floodplain wetland along the northern shore and Figure 7 shows a picture of the southern shore as seen from the northern shore, illustrating the sharp terrain break to the water's edge.