

EAST-CENTRAL TEXAS PLAINS XERIC SANDYLAND

Nature Serve ID: CES205.897

Geology: Associated with Eocene sand formations, particularly Carrizo Sands, but also Queen City and Sparta Sands.

Landform: High topographic positions, along with rapidly draining soils, results in conditions that only briefly retain surface moisture.

Soils: Deep sands typify this system.

Parent Description: This small patch system is typically an open, herbaceous-dominated sand "prairie," sometimes with open, oak-dominated woodlands. Species such as *Quercus incana* (bluejack oak), *Quercus margarettae* (sand post oak), *Quercus stellata* (post oak), and *Carya texana* (black hickory) (often stunted) occur in the usually sparse overstory. Invasion by *Ilex vomitoria* (yaupon) is frequent in the absence of fire. Other woody plants that may be encountered include *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern redcedar), *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac), *Vaccinium arboreum* (farkleberry), *Viburnum rufidulum* (rusty blackhaw), *Rhus copallinum* (flameleaf sumac), and *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood). The herbaceous layer may be sparse, often with exposed sand, *Cladonia* spp. (foliose lichens), and species such as *Aristida desmantha* (curly threeawn), *Brazoria truncata* (bluntsepal brazoria), *Cnidoscolus texanus* (Texas bull-nettle), *Dichanthelium* spp. (rosette grass), *Sporobolus junceus* (pineywoods dropseed), *Froelichia floridana* (Florida snake-cotton), *Hymenopappus artemisiifolius* (old plainsman), *Lechea* spp. (pinweed), *Loeflingia squarrosa* (spreading loeflingia), *Opuntia humifusa* (eastern pricklypear), *Paronychia drummondii* (Drummond nailwort), *Polanisia erosa* (large clammyweed), *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), *Monarda punctata* (spotted beebalm), *Senecio ampullaceus* (Texas groundsel), *Sorghastrum elliottii* (slender Indiangrass), *Stylisma pickeringii* (bigpod bonamia), *Tetragonotheca* spp. (nerve-ray), *Gaillardia amblyodon* (maroon gaillardia), *Rhynchosia americana* (American snoutbean), *Zornia bracteata* (bracted zornia), and *Triplasis purpurea* (purple sandgrass). Species such as *Cyperus grayoides* (Illinois flatsedge), *Penstemon murrayanus* (cupleaf penstemon), *Selaginella arenicola* ssp. *riddellii* (sand spikemoss), *Tradescantia reverchonii* (Reverchon spiderwort), and *Yucca louisianensis* (Gulf Coast yucca) may be present, but primarily to the east, while *Tephrosia lindheimeri* (Lindheimer goat-rue) and *Rhynchosia americana* (American snoutbean) are frequently encountered to the south. Texas endemics, such as *Brazoria truncata* var. *pulcherrima* (Centerville brazos-mint), *Rhododon ciliatus* (Texas sandmint), and *Hymenopappus carrizoanus* (Carrizo Sands woollywhite), may be found in this system.

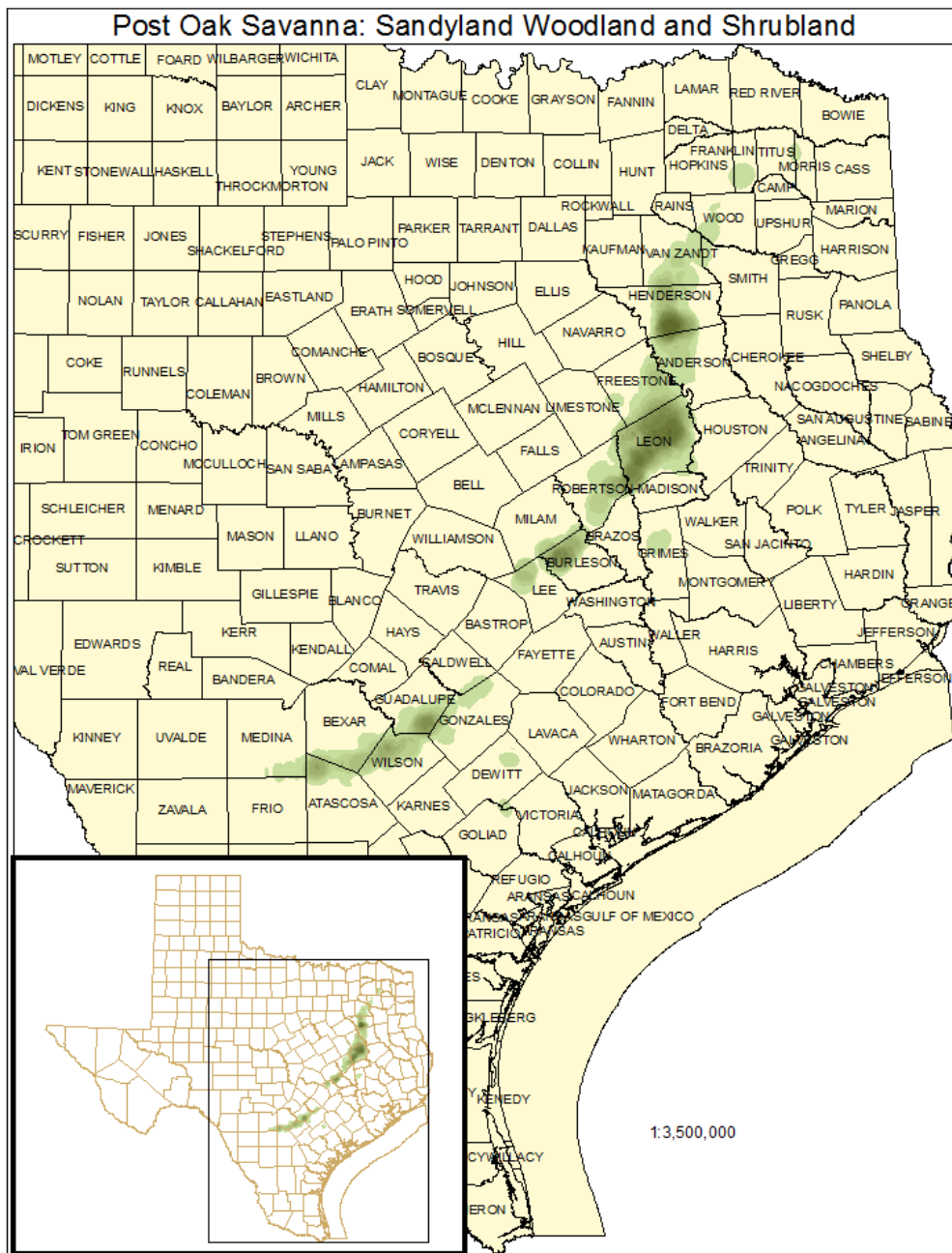
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

POST OAK SAVANNA: SANDYLANDS WOODLAND AND SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 706

EMS Description: As described for the system, but overstory dominated by the woody species described. This may be a common condition, especially where fire is excluded.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

M. O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

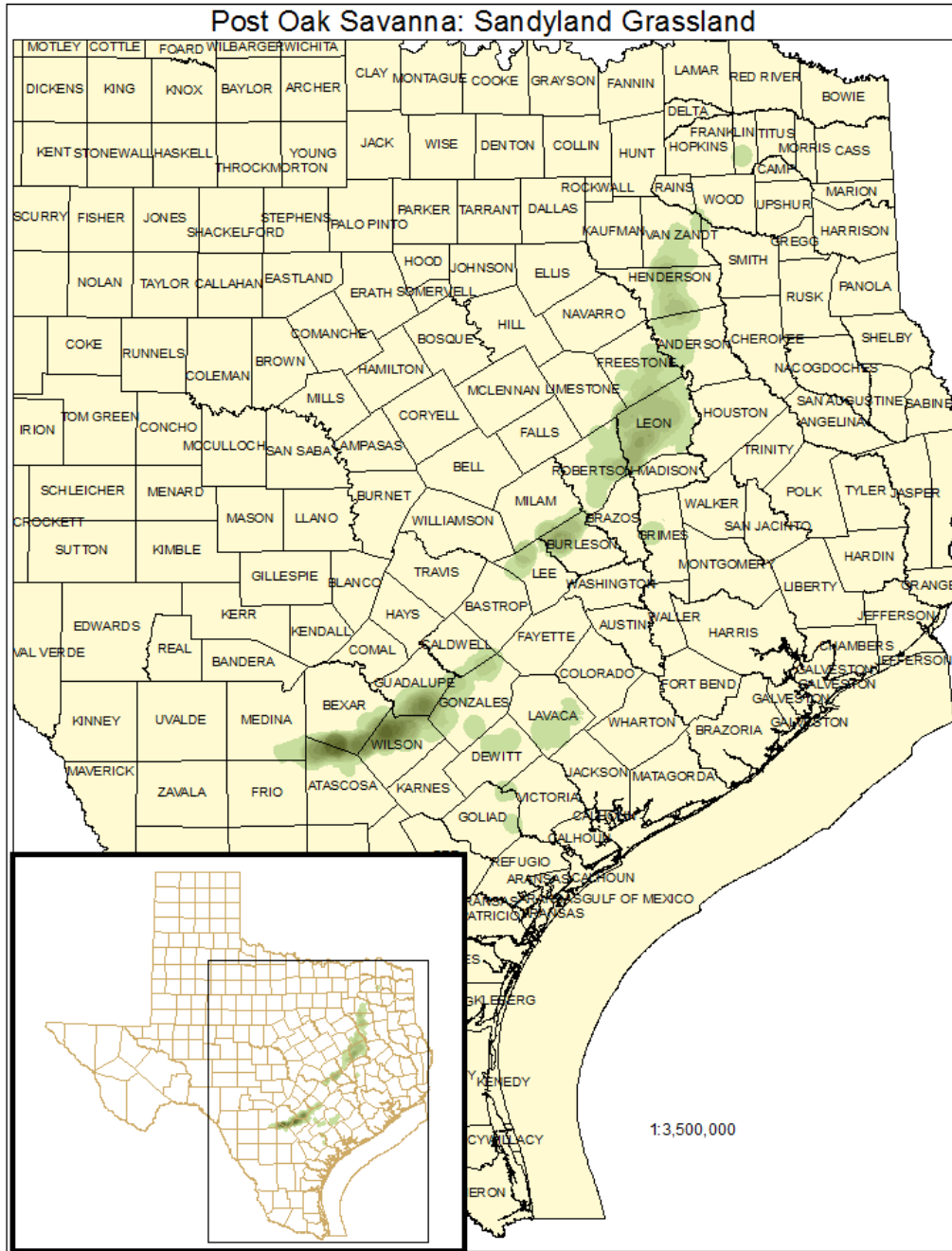
Normangee City Park: City of Normangee

POST OAK SAVANNA: SANDYLAND GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 707

EMS Description: As described for the system, but lacking significant woody component. This vegetation type is representative of the system in good condition, with a fire cycle more consistent with the presumed natural cycle.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

None.