

SOUTHEASTERN GREAT PLAINS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Nature Serve ID: CES205.685

Geology: Lower Cretaceous formations, including various limestones, sands (such as from the Paluxy and Antlers formations), and clays (such as from the Walnut formation).

Landform: In contrast to Blackland Prairie, surfaces are flat rather than undulating, and valley slopes are angular rather than rounded. The “cuesta” landforms with gentle slopes leading up to relatively abrupt escarpments are characteristic of this portion of the Southeastern Great Plains Tallgrass Prairie.

Soils: Soils of the Southeastern Great Plains Tallgrass Prairie in Texas differ from those of the Southern Blackland Prairie in being browner in color and containing more rock fragments, though much of the region occupied by this prairie is included in the Blackland Ecological Site. Clay Loam, Sandy Loam, Shallow, and Claypan Prairie are also significant Ecological Sites for this system. Soils of this area are more frequently characterized as Mollisols, as opposed to the Vertisols more characteristic of the Blackland Prairie. Calcareous clays are commonly encountered.

Description: *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) tends to dominate sites of this system, with *Bouteloua curtipendula* (sideoats grama) as another significant component. Other grasses that are frequently present include *Nassella leucotricha* (Texas wintergrass), *Bothriochloa laguroides* ssp. *torreyana* (silver bluestem), *Aristida* spp. (threeawn), *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem), *Bouteloua dactyloides* (buffalograss), *Sporobolus compositus* (tall dropseed), *Bouteloua hirsuta* (hairy grama), *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indiangrass), *Muhlenbergia reverchonii* (seep muhly), *Chloris verticillata* (tumble windmillgrass), and *Erioneuron pilosum* (hairy tridens). Forbs species such as *Symphyotrichum ericoides* (heath aster), *Ambrosia psilostachya* (western ragweed), *Tragia ramosa* (catnip noseburn), *Amphiachyris dracunculoides* (common broomweed), *Dyschoriste linearis* (narrowleaf dyschoriste), *Salvia texana* (Texas sage), *Oenothera* spp. (evening primrose), *Stenaria nigricans* var. *nigricans* (prairie bluets), *Lindheimera texana* (Texas star), *Thelesperma* spp. (greenthread), *Dalea* spp. (prairie clover), and *Psoraleidum* spp. (scurfpea) may be encountered. Occurrences often contain and are sometimes dominated by the non-native grass *Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica* (King Ranch bluestem) and/or *Cynodon dactylon* (bermudagrass). Significant areas of this system remain within the Grand Prairie of Texas.

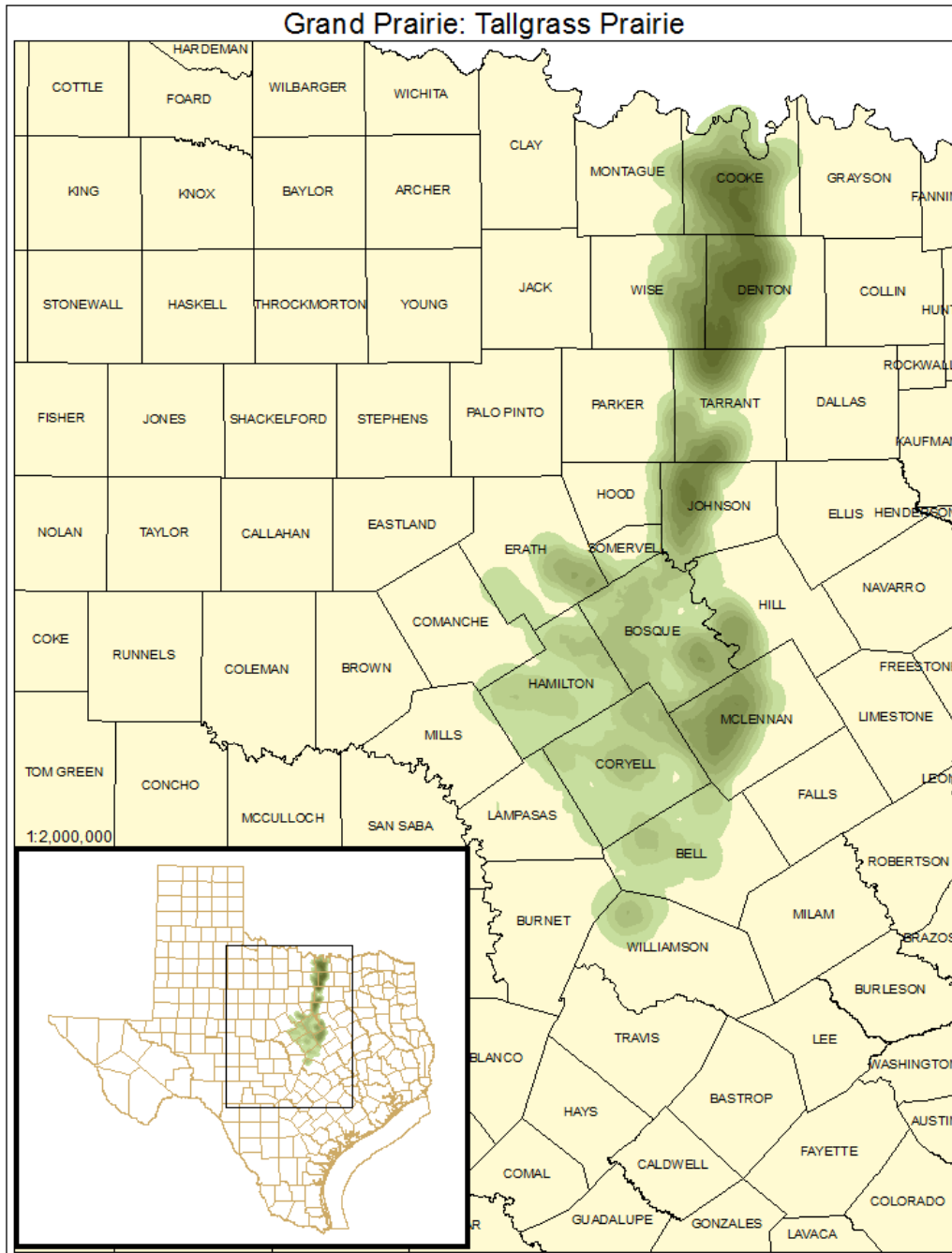
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

GRAND PRAIRIE: TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Mapping System ID: 2007

EMS Description: As described for the system.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Dinosaur Valley State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Ham Creek Park: City of Blum

Lake Whitney State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Ray Roberts Lake State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department