

## #10 *Quercus oblongifolia* / Mixed Perennial Grass Tree Savanna Association (P)

### Mexican blue oak / Mixed Perennial Grass Tree Savanna Association

This tree savanna community is characterized by a sparse (10%) tree canopy (>2 m) dominated by Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) with a dense (35%) matrix of perennial grasses. Mexican blue oak (*Q. oblongifolia*) is present as either a large tree with heights up to 8 meters, usually along drainages and low-angle slopes, or a small, shrubby tree less than 3 meters tall. This species provides an average of 10% cover across the community, with values ranging up to 18%, usually when spanning small drainages. Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*) is a consistent but low-cover (1–3%) associate throughout. The subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) is characterized by a sparse (6%) mix of shrubs and succulents dominated by common sotol (*Dasyllirion wheeleri*), Tahitian kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*), Evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), catclaw acacia (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), and Palmer’s century plant (*Agave palmeri*). The field stratum (<0.5 m) is characterized by a dense (35%), diverse matrix of native and non-native perennial grasses dominated by tangle-head (*Heteropogon contortus*), Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*), Texas bluestem (*Schizachyrium cirratum*), and cane bluestem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*).

#### Common species

*Quercus oblongifolia*  
*Quercus emoryi*  
*Dasyllirion wheeleri*  
*Eragrostis lehmanniana*

Overall, this community covers 4.9% (95 ha, 235 ac) of the park, exclusively on low-angle (<15%), southeast-facing foot and toeslopes from 150 to 1,990 meters (5,000–6,500 ft). The primary example of this community is on the low slopes of Bob Thompson Peak.

