

#8 *Quercus emoryi* / *Arctostaphylos pungens* / Mixed Perennial Grass Wooded Shrubland Association (P)

Emory oak / Pointleaf manzanita / Mixed Perennial Grass Wooded Shrubland Association

This wooded shrubland community is characterized by a sparse (10%) tree canopy (>2 m) dominated by Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*), a moderately dense (20%) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) shrub layer dominated by pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), and a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by a variable mix of perennial grasses. In general, Emory oak (*Q. emoryi*) is present as a short-statured (3–4 m) tree providing variable cover averaging to 9%, but ranging from 3 to 20%. Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) is an occasional common associate, with local dominance rarely approaching 8%. The majority of cover within the subcanopy stratum is provided by pointleaf manzanita (*A. pungens*), with an average of 20% across the community, including areas reaching up to 40%. Other noteworthy shrubs and succulents include common sotol (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), Palmer's century plant (*Agave palm-eri*), evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), and catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*). Overall, Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*) is the most dominant grass component, with variable cover ranging from absent up to 40%. Noteworthy native grass species include bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), single threeawn (*Aristida schiedeana*), Texas bluestem (*Schizachyrium cirratum*), Plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*).

Common species

Quercus emoryi
Quercus oblongifolia
Arctostaphylos pungens
Muhlenbergia emersleyi
Aristida schiedeana

Overall, this community covers 8.2% (160 ha, 395 ac) of the park, mainly on low-angle (<15%), south-facing footslopes at 1,550–1,850 meters (5,085–6,070 ft). The primary examples of this community are low toeslopes/alluvial fan along the eastern portion of Montezuma Canyon Road.

