

28. *Parkinsonia microphylla* / *Encelia farinosa* - *Zinnia acerosa* Shrubland Association (P)

Yellow paloverde / Brittlebush - Desert zinnia Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland community is characterized by a moderately sparse (<15% cover) canopy (>2 m) dominated by yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) and a field layer (<0.5 m) of 10–20% cover, co-dominated by brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and desert zinnia (*Zinnia acerosa*). Yellow paloverde (*P. microphylla*) is typically present as small (3 m), tree-like individuals or small, shrubby individuals (<2 m) with average cover of around 10%, including some areas up to 15% and down to a sparse 3%. Brittlebush (*E. farinosa*) is a consistent dominant that provides cover typically ranging from 5% to 10%, with some areas up to 20%.

Desert zinnia (*Zinnia acerosa*) is a less-consistent dominant that provides cover of 5–10%. Other documented species include teddybear cholla (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*), whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), Berlandier's wolfberry (*Lycium berlandieri*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*), slender janusia (*Cottisia gracilis*), rough menodora (*Menodora scabra*), black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*), and slim tridens (*Tridens muticus*).

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 1% (270 ha/667 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread on the hills east of the Camino Loma Alta trailhead. It is often found on low-angle (<25%) rolling hills, typically with a southern aspect from 970–1,070 meters (3,182–3,510 ft). In general, the surface cover is defined by shallow, well-drained soils that underlie a layer of coarse (5–10 cm) gravel and small rocks that are part of the Bisbee geologic group that includes sandstone, shale, and limestone. Within the park, this community is restricted to this geologic group.

Common species

- *Parkinsonia microphylla*
- *Opuntia engelmannii*
- *Encelia farinosa*
- *Zinnia acerosa*



