

43. *Platanus wrightii* / *Quercus oblongifolia* Riparian Woodland Association

Arizona sycamore / Mexican blue oak Riparian Woodland Association

This riparian woodland community is characterized by a variable (30–40% cover) canopy (>2 m) dominated by Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) with common associates Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*) and velvet ash (*Fraxinus velutina*) and a variable understory of obligate and facultative wetland species. Mexican blue oak (*Q. oblongifolia*) is a consistent (1.0) dominant that provides average cover of around 15%, ranging from 10% to 25%. This species is present as wide, canopied trees with heights of 4–8 meters, typically lining the margins of the watercourse. Arizona sycamore (*P. wrightii*) and velvet ash (*F. velutina*) are patchy (0.57) common associates that, when present, provide cover of 5–20%. Other documented species include Goodding’s willow (*Salix gooddingii*), alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*), Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*), Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), Thurber’s cotton (*Gossypium thurberi*), catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), and deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*).

This community covers 0.08% (21 ha/52 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is restricted to the major ephemeral drainages throughout the park, specifically, lower Chiminea Canyon, lower Madrona Canyon, and numerous tributaries of Rincon Creek. It is found on low-angle, typically south to west-flowing drainages with intermittent flow. The surface cover is dominated by a mix of features, including slabs of exposed bedrock, sections of deep gravel/sand, and large boulders. Throughout much of the year, standing water may be found in shallow depressions in the rock and/or large tinajas clustered throughout the watercourse.

Common species

- *Quercus oblongifolia*
- *Platanus wrightii*
- *Fraxinus velutina*



