

Plant Communities of the Willamette Valley

Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community

- Prairie vegetation (grasses and flowers), with scattered Garry Oak trees
- Formerly common in Willamette Valley, now only remnants survive
- Bald Hill in early 1900's



Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community - continued

Controlled
fire to manage
oak savannah
landscape



Open Woodlands (Oak Savanna) Community - continued

Finley
Wildlife
Refuge



Douglas Fir Forest Community



- Douglas Fir trees dominate
- What we think of as typical “forest”
- Much more common in Willamette Valley now due to lack of burning

Douglas Fir Forest Community

Understory plants
include ferns,
shrubs like salal
and snowberry,
and small trees
like Pacific
dogwood



Douglas Fir Forest Community

Common throughout the
Pacific Northwest (Drift
Creek wilderness, near
Waldport)



Prairie Community



- Pristine prairies are very rare now
- Include small plants such as blue ryegrass and many other flowers and grasses
- Most prairies are dominated by non-native plants

Prairie Community

Tufted Hairgrass
stand at the
entrance to
Jackson-Frasier
wetland in
Corvallis



Prairie Community

Grasses and
wildflowers at
Finley Wildlife
Refuge, south
of Corvallis



Wetland / Riparian Community



- Near streams, lakes and wetlands
- Lots of alder, ash, snowberry, horsetail, and other water-loving plants

Wetland / Riparian Community

Mary's River
near Avery
Park in
Corvallis



Wetland / Riparian Community

Ash swale in
the winter
(Ankeny
Wildlife
Refuge)

