

Plant Communities of the Willamette Valley

Oak Savannah Community

- Open, with scattered trees
- Formerly common in Willamette Valley, now only remnants survive
- Bald Hill in early 1900's



Oak Savannah Community

Looking
southwest
from Bald Hill



Oak Savannah Community

Basket Butte
(near Salem)



Coniferous Forest Community



- What we think of as typical “forest”
- In older forests, it’s dark, with big, uneven aged trees
- Important wildlife habitat
- Much more common in Willamette Valley now due to lack of burning

Coniferous Forest Community

Old growth
coastal forest
(Cape Perpetua,
near Waldport)



Coniferous Forest Community

Coastal coniferous forest
(Drift Creek wilderness,
near Waldport)



Prairie Community



- Pristine prairies are very rare now
- Many small-scale restoration efforts are underway
- 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



- In areas with very moist soil (similar vegetation is found near streams and lakes)
- 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

Oak Creek,
on OSU's
campus (near
the covered
bridge)

