

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 osoberry, and large shrubs/small trees like vine maple



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 now 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, pacific dogwood, horsetail, cow parsnip, 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)

