

Dedication

This work is dedicated to the many individuals who have worked to preserve the land and wildlife of Texas, and especially to Edward C. (Ned) Fritz, who first inspired me, as he has inspired many others, to preserve the natural ecosystems of our native state.

I also dedicate this effort to my grandparents, Ocie and Reva Crump and Marguerite Bezanson, and to my parents, Stephen and Janice Bezanson, who were the first to drive me across the miles and miles of Texas.

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Natural Vegetation Types of Texas and
Their Representation in Conservation Areas

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The principal purpose of this work is to compile available information pertaining to the occurrence and approximate acreage of native plant communities protected in conservation areas in the state of Texas. As no standard classification system for plant communities has been accepted for Texas, it was necessary to review many published descriptions of natural vegetation occurring in Texas and to define 130 general community types. Published and anecdotal descriptions of the vegetation occurring in parks, wildlife refuges, and other conservation areas in Texas were surveyed to document occurrences of each plant community type protected in conservation areas. Based on these findings, general recommendations for further action to preserve examples of unprotected or relatively less protected plant communities are presented. Actions taken to protect natural communities may include public or private acquisition of additional land for conservation of natural habitat, incentives to private landowners for management compatible with conservation, habitat restoration, and other activities.