

Plants

Survey Plan

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SURVEY PLAN FOR PLANTS: DRAFT 3/9/09

The inventory of plants in Lick Creek Park has been an ongoing research project supervised by Dr. Hugh Wilson in the Biology Department at TAMU, and coordinated through Monique Reed, Botanist at the Biology Department Herbarium. They have documented most of the details on the website:

<http://csdl.tamu.edu/FLORA/biolherb/lcp485main.htm>

The census of vegetative species documented in Lick Creek Park includes over 130 species, so only a knowledgeable botanist can hope to document all these plants in a 24 hour period. Many of the rare species found in the park, such as Ladies Tress orchids, are not emergent or visible in April when the BioBlitz survey is conducted.

This year, Punnee Soonthornpocht, of Blinn College, with the help of her botany class volunteers and other volunteers from the area, will conduct a survey of species along a single given transect. The transect that will be surveyed will extend from the Equestrian Parking area to the Main Entrance, where all of the tents will be located (see attached map). Along this transect, she will flag the species listed below, and will set up 5 small stations at various locations, using quadrants and point transect tape, where she will supply specific information regarding some of the species located within each quadrant. This will be used in during the Self Guided Trail and Plant Walks.

We hope in the future to have more citizen scientists trained to identify the plants, so that we can incorporate a greater number of transects and more vegetative heterogeneity into our survey. Ideally, we would like a full list of the flora for each different habitat type that Lick Creek Park contains.

College Station wants to know how the vegetation is changing over time. So we want to do a survey that will help answer the following questions.

1. What vegetation types disappear with the changes in drainage, fire management, mowing, construction, etc?
2. What plant species do we no longer find in the park, which used to be there?
3. What invasive species are coming into the park, through hikers, equestrians, bikers, dogs, birds, etc...?
4. What new native species are we finding have moved into the park which might not have previously been there?

tree	white oak									
tree	post oak									
tree	winged elm									
tree	tupelo									
vine	dewberry	Rubus								
vine	poison ivy									
vine	virginia creeper									
vine	smilex; green briar									

