

Texas Parks and Wildlife Current Habitat Description
by Bobby Allcorn, Regulatory Biologist:

The property is truly unique for Burleson County. It does have a good mix of both open pasture and forested areas, but the topographical variation is what sets it apart. Whereas surrounding land is either flat crop land or dense yaupon forest, this property has varying topography that produces vegetative communities not commonly found in the area anymore. Pastures are primarily exotic grasses with Bermudagrass being the dominant cover. Native forbs such as black eyed Susans, dove weed, annual rag weed, and other annuals can be found in these areas as well. Some places contained the native bunch grass brown seed paspalum which can provide beneficial cover for nesting birds. Woody cover in open areas was primarily invading brush species such as honey locust, and yaupon. Large trees in pastures were primarily post oaks, elms, hackberry, and a few pecans. Other wooded areas were more indicative of a post oak, blackjack oak, black hickory forest that has become rarer over time. These areas provide the best wildlife habitat on the property, and typically hold most of the deer. The majority of the vines are greenbriar, muscadine grape, mustang grape, and peppervine with some trumpet creeper present. The herbaceous layer is dominated by Bermuda grass in most openings with scattered areas of native plants including brownseed paspalum, little bluestem, dove weed (wooly croton), partridge pea, and other sandy soil plants. There is a large component of yaupon and other small shrubs/trees including bois d'arc, red mulberry, rough-leaved dogwood, flowering dogwood, and rusty blackhaw in the understory of the woodland areas. Intermittent streams cross the property providing water and a diverse array of plants.