

VEGETATION DESCRIPTIONS FOR CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT

Fagus grandifolia - Quercus nigra Forest

COMMON NAME American Beech - Water Oak Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.)

ALLIANCE *Fagus grandifolia* - *Quercus alba* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

Fagus grandifolia - *Quercus nigra* Forest is known currently from the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, South Carolina, and possibly Virginia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the uplands of the northwestern portion of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

These forests occur on mesic slopes and upland flats.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Fagus grandifolia - *Quercus nigra* Forest occurs on middle to lower convex slopes.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy *Fagus grandifolia*, *Quercus nigra*

Tree subcanopy *Ostrya virginiana*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Cornus florida*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy *Fagus grandifolia*, *Quercus nigra*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus michauxii*,

Quercus alba

Tree subcanopy *Ilex opaca*

Short shrub *Rhododendron canescens*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Quercus nigra, *Fagus grandifolia*, *Symplocos tinctoria*, *Callicarpa americana*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Fagus grandifolia, *Quercus nigra*, *Ilex opaca*, *Rhododendron canescens*, *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Mesic mixed hardwood forests dominated by *Fagus grandifolia* and *Quercus nigra* with limited *Quercus alba*. *Vaccinium* sp. and *Arundinaria gigantea* are important in the shrub layer. One example has a canopy dominated by *Fagus grandifolia*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, and *Quercus nigra*. The understory is diverse and contains *Ostrya virginiana*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, and *Cornus florida*. *Symplocos tinctoria* and *Callicarpa americana* are common shrubs.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

These closed canopy forests are dominated by *Fagus grandifolia*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus alba*, and *Quercus nigra* with a well-developed subcanopy of *Ilex opaca*. Other canopy species that may be present include *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Ulmus alata*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Liriodendron tulipifera*. *Pinus taeda* may also be present particularly in occurrences with a history of disturbance. Other species in the understory include *Carpinus caroliniana* and *Cornus florida*. The well-developed shrub layer contains a variety of species including *Euonymus americana*, *Rhododendron canescens*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Vaccinium pallidum*, *Gaylussacia dumosa*, *Gaylussacia frondosa*, *Symplocos tinctoria*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Asimina triloba*, *Callicarpa americana*, and others. The herbaceous layer ranges from sparse to moderately well-developed, and among the species that occur are *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Mitchella repens*, *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*, *Malaxis unifolia*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Athyrium filix-femina* ssp. *asplenioides*, *Panicum boscii*, *Goodyera pubescens*, *Carex debilis*, *Carex abscondita*, and *Tipularia discolor*. The vine/liana stratum is sparse and can contain *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Bignonia capreolata*, and *Smilax hispida*, among others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic species *Lonicera japonica* is present within the park in these forests.

CONSERVATION RANK G3

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL007211

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliotii - Myrica cerifera Forest

COMMON NAME Sweetgum - (Water Oak, Willow Oak) - Loblolly Pine / Mayberry - Wax-myrtle Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus nigra* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliotii - Myrica cerifera Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in northern, upland portions of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliotii - Myrica cerifera Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but likely are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliotii - Myrica cerifera Forest occurs on loamy sands and sandy loams on mesic slopes.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy

Pinus taeda, Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus nigra, Quercus phellos

Tree subcanopy

Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus nigra, Acer rubrum

Shrub

Vaccinium elliotii, Myrica cerifera

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus taeda, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus phellos*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus nigra*, *Acer rubrum*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Mitchella repens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The globally description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community type occurs on the Congaree Swamp National Monument in two phases: one with an emergent canopy of large *Pinus taeda* trees, and the other without the emergent canopy. Coverage by *Pinus taeda* in the *Pinus taeda* phase ranges from ten to greater than sixty percent.

The closed canopy is codominated by *Liquidambar styraciflua* with *Quercus* spp., especially *Quercus nigra* and *Quercus phellos*, and in one example by *Quercus pagoda*. *Nyssa sylvatica* is also typical in this stratum. The moderately well-developed subcanopy is dominated by canopy species with *Ilex decidua* var. *longipes*, *Sassafras albidum*, *Acer rubrum*, *Cornus florida*, *Prunus serotina*, *Vaccinium arboreum*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, and likely other species. The shrub stratum is often sparse and is primarily composed of canopy and subcanopy species. Occasionally a rather dense cover of *Myrica cerifera* may be present. Other species that may occur include *Euonymus americana*, *Rubus* sp., *Callicarpa americana*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Gaylussacia frondosa*, and *Gaylussacia dumosa*. The herbaceous layer ranges from moderate to fairly dense. Typical species include *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*, *Scleria triglomerata*, *Carex abscondita*, *Panicum boscii*, *Mitchella repens*, *Juncus coriaceous*, *Chimaphila maculata*, *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Malaxis uniflora*, and others. The vine/liana stratum is sparse to moderate, and species present include *Bignonia capreolata*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Smilax rotundifolia*, *Wisteria frutescens*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic *Lonicera japonica* is common in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK GM

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This community contains a mixture of upland and lowland species that typically occur together in uplands following cessation of agriculture.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007726

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

Acer saccharinum / Leersia lenticularis - Commelina virginica Forest

COMMON NAME Silver Maple / Catchfly Cutgrass - Swamp Dayflower Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)

ALLIANCE *Acer saccharinum* Temporarily Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Acer saccharinum / Leersia lenticularis - Commelina virginica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the southern portion of the park between the levee and the Congaree River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Acer saccharinum / Leersia lenticularis - Commelina virginica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but likely are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Acer saccharinum / Leersia lenticularis - Commelina virginica Forest occurs on relatively recently deposited sands between the levee and the Congaree River.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Tree subcanopy	<i>Acer negundo</i> , <i>Acer saccharinum</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Acer saccharinum (see "Comments" below)

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The fairly open to mostly closed canopy and the subcanopy of this community are dominated by *Acer saccharinum*. Other species that are sparingly present in these strata are *Acer negundo*, *Celtis laevigata*, and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. The sparse shrub layer contains *Asimina triloba*, *Ilex decidua*, *Lindera benzoin*, and canopy species. The sparse herbaceous layer has a variety of herbaceous species that may be present; these species include *Leersia lenticularis*, *Acalypha rhomboidea*, *Senecio glabellus*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Pilea pumila*, *Carex grayi*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Polygonum virginianum*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotics *Ligustrum sinense* and *Microstegium vimineum* are present in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK G3?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007727

COMMENTS

Globally

Global rank needs reassessment following evaluation of more complete information on the global range of this community.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Acer saccharinum as the strong dominant in the canopy is diagnostic of this association.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Celtis laevigata - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Acer negundo - (Juglans nigra) / Asimina triloba / Carex grayi Forest

COMMON NAME Sugarberry - Green Ash - Box Elder - (Black Walnut) / Common Pawpaw / Gray's Sedge Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)

ALLIANCE *Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Ulmus americana - Celtis (occidentalis, laevigata)* Temporarily Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Celtis laevigata - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Acer negundo - (Juglans nigra) / Asimina triloba / Carex grayi Forest occurs in the Atlantic Coastal Plain of North Carolina and South Carolina. It is likely in Virginia and Georgia. It has been documented in the floodplains of the Congaree River of South Carolina and the Roanoke River of North Carolina.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the southern portion of the park on levees of the Congaree River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Celtis laevigata - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Acer negundo - (Juglans nigra) / Asimina triloba / Carex grayi Forest occurs on levees of brownwater rivers. Soils that support these forests are relatively fertile and loamy because of frequent flooding and resultant sediment deposition.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Celtis laevigata - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Acer negundo - (Juglans nigra) / Asimina triloba / Carex grayi Forest occurs on well-drained, relatively fertile levees of the Congaree River. These undergo frequent inundation of relatively shorter duration than areas behind the levee.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy	<i>Acer negundo, Celtis laevigata, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Liquidambar styraciflua, Ulmus americana</i>
Tall shrub	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Arundinaria gigantea, Carex grayi, Carex louisianica</i>

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Congaree Swamp National Monument

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Celtis laevigata</i> , <i>Juglans nigra</i> , <i>Acer negundo</i> , <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> , <i>Ulmus americana</i>
Tree subcanopy	<i>Acer negundo</i> , <i>Juglans nigra</i>
Tall shrub	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Acer negundo, *Celtis laevigata*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus americana*, *Asimina triloba*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Carex grayi*, *Carex louisianica*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Celtis laevigata, *Juglans nigra*, *Acer negundo*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus americana*, *Lindera benzoin*, *Elymus virginicus*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Celtis laevigata - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Acer negundo* - (*Juglans nigra*) / *Asimina triloba* / *Carex grayi* Forest has been previously described from the Roanoke River, North Carolina, where it occurs in two more-or-less distinct phases. Both have closed canopies codominated by *Acer negundo*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, and *Ulmus americana*. Subcanopies range from dense to sparse and are dominated by *Asimina triloba*. The relative abundance and diversity of understory herbs are inversely related to the abundance of *Asimina triloba*; however, *Arundinaria gigantea* often has a higher abundance under *Asimina*. Vines are also common, and important species include *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and *Smilax rotundifolia*.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The mostly closed canopy of this community is dominated by *Celtis laevigata*, *Juglans nigra*, *Acer negundo*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, and *Ulmus americana*. These species are also important in the well-developed subcanopy. The Congaree Swamp occurrences differ from global occurrences by having a lesser amount of tree importance contributed by *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* and by having substantial amounts of *Juglans nigra*. A variety of other tree species are possible in these strata; these species include *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Diospyros virginiana*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Morus rubra*, and others. The shrub layer ranges from sparse to well-developed and is dominated by *Asimina triloba* with *Lindera benzoin*, *Ilex decidua*, and likely other species present as well. The moderately dense understory is dominated by *Elymus virginicus*. Other typical species include *Carex grayi*, *Carex retroflexa*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Elephantopus carolinianus*, *Leersia lenticularis*, *Polygonum virginianum*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Carex bromoides*, *Glyceria striata*, *Laportea canadensis*, and others. The vine stratum is moderate, and many species are possible. Among these are *Bignonia capreolata*, *Berchemia scandens*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Smilax tamnoides*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Matalea carolinensis*, *Cocculus carolinus*, and *Vitis vulpina*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotics *Ligustrum sinense*, *Melia azedarach*, *Lonicera japonica*, and *Microstegium vimineum* are present in some occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK	G3G5
RANK JUSTIFICATION	This community type is globally relatively secure.
DATABASE CODE	CEGL004740

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

Rice, S. K., and R. K. Peet. 1997. Vegetation of the Lower Roanoke River Floodplain. Unpublished report to The Nature Conservancy. 154 p.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

**Celtis laevigata - Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Carpinus caroliniana /
Arundinaria gigantea / Carex lupulina Forest**

COMMON NAME Sugarberry - Sweetgum - Diamondleaf Oak / American Hornbeam / Giant
Cane / Hop Sedge Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)

ALLIANCE *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Ulmus americana* - *Celtis (occidentalis, laevigata)* Temporarily
Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Celtis laevigata - Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Carpinus caroliniana / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex lupulina Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs throughout the park but is perhaps more common on the northern portion.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Celtis laevigata - Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Carpinus caroliniana / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex lupulina Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Celtis laevigata - Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Carpinus caroliniana / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex lupulina Forest occurs on somewhat poorly drained to moderately well-drained silty clay loam soils of alluvial flats. These are temporarily flooded sites with an annual probability of flooding of 100 percent but with the watertable below the soil surface throughout the growing season in most years.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* *Quercus laurifolia*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus americana*,
Celtis laevigata, *Acer rubrum*

Tree subcanopy *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Ilex deciduas*

Shrub *Arundinaria gigantea*

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Herbaceous *Carex lupulina*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*
Vine/liana *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Smilax tamnoides*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus laurifolia, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Acer rubrum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Ilex decidua*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Carex lupulina*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community has well-developed canopy, subcanopy, shrub, vine/liana, and herbaceous strata. The canopy is dominated by various mixtures of *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Ulmus americana*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Celtis laevigata*. The subcanopy is dominated by *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Ilex decidua*, and *Asimina triloba*. Other species that occur in these strata are *Populus deltoides*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Ulmus alata*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Quercus lyrata*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Gleditsia aquatica*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Acer negundo*, *Crataegus spathulata*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Carya aquatica*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Ilex opaca*, and others. The shrub layer usually contains a fairly dense cover of *Arundinaria gigantea*, but some occurrences may be lacking this. Other species present in the shrub layer are *Sabal minor*, *Euonymus americana*, and others. The herbaceous layer can be fairly lush and typically is dominated by *Carex lupulina*, *Justicia ovata*, and *Boehmeria cylindrica*. Other common species in the herbaceous layer include *Carex abscondita*, *Carex intumescens*, *Carex grayi*, *Carex retroflexa*, *Carex typhina*, *Commelina virginica*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Senecio glabellus*, *Asclepias perennis*, and *Leersia lenticularis*. *Berchemia scandens*, *Campsis radicans*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Smilax tamnoides*, *Smilax bona-nox*, and *Bignonia capreolata* are all commonly occurring vines in this community.

This community occurs in two phases within the park - one (hereafter called the sweetgum phase) with somewhat higher importance by species more indicative of drier sites: *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Carya ovata*, *Euonymus americana*, *Botrychium dissectum*, *Ilex opaca*, and *Mitchella repens*. The other phase (hereafter called the green ash phase) has somewhat higher importance by species of wetter sites including *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Carex typhina*, and *Gleditsia aquatica*. The sweetgum phase has affinities to the *Quercus (michauxii, pagoda, shumardii) - Liquidambar styraciflua* Forest Alliance and likely is related successionaly to associations in that alliance but probably as a result of disturbance, oaks have decreased in importance while other species have increased, thereby blurring the boundaries. Discrimination of the phases may be difficult in the field. Further data collection may lead to these phases being recognized as different associations, but at this time data cannot support that level of recognition although the phases can be discriminated on aerial photography.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL007736

COMMENTS

Congaree Swamp National Monument

There is relatively more variation within occurrences of this community type, in both species composition and stratal density, than in most other community types on the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Field plots assigned to the sweetgum phase are: - 1-03, 1-05, 1-07, 1-11, 1-14, 1-15, 1-17, 1-18, 1-29, 1-33, 1-35, 1-38, 1-56, 1-58, 2-04, 2-29, and 2-34. Field

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plots assigned to the green ash phase are: 1-13, 1-19, 1-20, 1-28, 2-11, 2-27, 2-39, 2-46, 2-47, 2-48, 1-04, 1-08, 1-10, 1-26, 1-31, 1-32, 1-37, 1-60, 2-02, 2-05, 2-10, 2-12, 2-20, 2-21, 2-25, 2-26, 2-35, and 2-42.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Platanus occidentalis, Celtis laevigata, Acer negundo, Ulmus americana, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Lindera benzoin, Carex grayi, Carex retroflexa

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The mostly closed canopy of this community is dominated by *Platanus occidentalis, Celtis laevigata, and Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. These species, along with *Acer negundo*, are also important in the well developed subcanopy. Other tree species are possible in these strata; these include *Crataegus viridis, Juglans nigra, Acer saccharinum, Morus rubra, Ilex decidua, Ulmus americana, Planera aquatica, Quercus laurifolia, Liquidambar styraciflua, Carya aquatica*, and others. The shrub layer generally is sparse and is dominated by *Lindera benzoin, Ilex decidua, Asimina triloba*, and likely other species as well. The herbaceous layer is typically sparse, and constant species are *Boehmeria cylindrica, Carex grayi, Carex retroflexa, and Viola* spp. Other typical species include *Botrychium dissectum, Carex lupulina, Chasmanthium latifolium, Onoclea sensibilis, Pilea pumila, Polygonum hydropiperoides, Polygonum virginianum*, and others. The vine stratum is moderate, and many species are possible. Among these are *Bignonia capreolata, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Smilax tamnoides, Vitis rotundifolia, and Toxicodendron radicans*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotics *Ligustrum sinense* and *Microstegium vimineum* are present in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION This community type is globally relatively secure.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007730

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Populus deltoides / Acer negundo / Boehmeria cylindrica Forest

COMMON NAME Cottonwood / Box Elder / False-nettle Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)

ALLIANCE Populus deltoides Temporarily Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Populus deltoides / Acer negundo / Boehmeria cylindrica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the southeastern portion of the park along the Congaree River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Populus deltoides / Acer negundo / Boehmeria cylindrica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but likely are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Populus deltoides / Acer negundo / Boehmeria cylindrica Forest occurs on well-drained loamy soils of levees of the Congaree River.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Tree subcanopy	<i>Acer negundo, Acer saccharinum</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Populus deltoides, Acer saccharinum, Acer negundo

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The fairly open to mostly closed canopy of this community is dominated by *Populus deltoides*. The well-developed subcanopy is dominated by *Acer saccharinum* and *Acer negundo*. *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Planera aquatica*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Ulmus americana*, and likely other species may be present in these strata as well. The shrub layer is very sparse and is composed of canopy and subcanopy species in addition to *Asimina triloba*, *Ilex decidua*, and likely other species. The sparse herbaceous layer is also low in species richness. Among the species that may be present are *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Pilea pumila*, *Leersia lenticularis*, *Carex grayi*, *Elymus virginicus*, *Carex bromoides*, *Matelea carolinensis*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Erechtites hieracifolia*, *Justicia ovata*, and others. Vine coverage is sparse as well, and among the species that may be present are *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Smilax tamnoides*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, and *Mikania scandens*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotics *Ligustrum sinense* and *Microstegium vimineum* are present in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION This community is apparently relatively globally secure.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007731

COMMENTS

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Populus deltoides as the strong dominant in the canopy is diagnostic of this association.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

**Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus nigra - Quercus laurifolia / Arundinaria gigantea /
Carex abscondita Forest**

COMMON NAME Sweetgum - Water Oak - Diamondleaf Oak / Giant Cane / Concealed Sedge
Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus (phellos, nigra, laurifolia)* Temporarily Flooded
Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus nigra - Quercus laurifolia / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex abscondita Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs throughout the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus nigra - Quercus laurifolia / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex abscondita Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus nigra - Quercus laurifolia / Arundinaria gigantea / Carex abscondita Forest occurs on somewhat poorly drained to moderately well-drained silt loam soils of ridges of the Congaree River floodplain. These are temporarily flooded sites with an annual probability of flooding of 100 percent but with the watertable well below the soil surface throughout the growing season in most years.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy *Pinus taeda, Liquidambar styraciflua, Ulmus alata, Quercus nigra, Quercus laurifolia,*
Acer rubrum, Ulmus americana, Quercus phellos

Tree subcanopy *Carpinus caroliniana, Ilex opaca*

Shrub *Arundinaria gigantea, Asimina triloba*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Herbaceous *Carex abscondita*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Mitchella repens*, *Botrychium dissectum*
Vine / liana *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Bignonia capreolata*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus taeda, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus alata*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Acer rubrum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Quercus phellos*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Ilex opaca*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Asimina triloba*, *Carex abscondita*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Mitchella repens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community type occurs on the Congaree Swamp National Monument in two phases: one with an emergent canopy of large *Pinus taeda* trees, and the other without the emergent canopy. Coverage by *Pinus taeda* in the *Pinus taeda* phase ranges from ten to greater than sixty percent.

The closed canopy is codominated by *Liquidambar styraciflua* with *Quercus* spp., especially *Quercus nigra* and *Quercus laurifolia*, and in one example by *Quercus phellos*. Other species typical in this stratum include *Ulmus alata*, *Ulmus americana*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus shumardii*, and *Acer rubrum*. The well-developed subcanopy is dominated by *Carpinus caroliniana* and *Ilex opaca*. Canopy species are present in this stratum as well, as are *Nyssa biflora*, *Ilex decidua*, *Diospyros virginiana*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Carya ovata*, *Morus rubra*, and likely other species. *Arundinaria gigantea* and *Asimina triloba* dominate the shrub stratum. The herbaceous layer ranges from moderate to fairly dense. Typical species include *Carex abscondita*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Mitchella repens*, *Botrychium dissectum*, *Carex intumescens*, *Carex lupulina*, *Carex retroflexa*, *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Carex alata*, *Carex debilis*, *Ruellia carolinensis*, *Elephantopus tomentosus*, *Leersia virginica*, *Panicum boscii*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Sabatia angularis*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4
RANK JUSTIFICATION This community type
DATABASE CODE CEGL007732

COMMENTS

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Occurrences of this community type were among those of which the structure and species composition were most affected by Hurricane Hugo which hit the Monument in September 1989. All of the plots placed within this classification unit had many snapped off trees and tip-up mounds.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Salix nigra - Fraxinus pennsylvanica Forest

COMMON NAME	Black Willow - Green Ash Forest
SYNONYM	
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous forest (I.B.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.d.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Salix nigra</i> Temporarily Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Salix nigra - Fraxinus pennsylvanica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Georgia to Virginia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type is documented along the Congaree River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Salix nigra - Fraxinus pennsylvanica Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Salix nigra - Fraxinus pennsylvanica Forest occurs on moderately well-drained sandy clay loam soils on lower convex slopes of levees of the Congaree River. These sites are temporarily flooded with a high frequency of flooding that is of shorter duration than in lower areas farther from the river.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Salix nigra, Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Salix nigra as the canopy dominant is diagnostic of this community.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The mostly closed to closed canopy layer is strongly dominated by *Salix nigra*. Other typical species in the canopy include *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Platanus occidentalis*, and likely others. The shrub layer is sparse, and species present include *Salix nigra*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Planera aquatica*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Acer negundo*, and likely others. The herbaceous stratum typically is sparse. Species present in the herbaceous layer include *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Saururus cernuus*, and others. The vine layer is absent to very sparse.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007734

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Fraxinus pennsylvanica / Leersia lenticularis - Carex lupulina Forest

COMMON NAME Green Ash / Catchfly Cutgrass - Hop Sedge Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Acer rubrum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Fraxinus pennsylvanica / Leersia lenticularis - Carex lupulina Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the middle, southern portion of the park near the Congaree River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Fraxinus pennsylvanica / Leersia lenticularis - Carex lupulina Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but will be similar to the description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Fraxinus pennsylvanica / Leersia lenticularis - Carex lupulina Forest occurs on somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained silty clay loam soils in temporarily flooded sloughs.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Celtis laevigata</i>
Tree subcanopy	<i>Planera aquatica</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Leersia lenticularis, Boehmeria cylindrica, Carex lupulina</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Celtis laevigata, Planera aquatica, Leersia lenticularis, Boehmeria cylindrica, Carex lupulina

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The mostly closed to closed canopy of this community is dominated by *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. Other typical canopy species include *Ulmus americana*, *Acer negundo*, and *Carya aquatica*. The well-developed subcanopy may contain the same species as the canopy; additional species in this stratum include *Planera aquatica*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Ilex decidua*, *Ulmus alata*, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, and *Diospyros virginiana*. The single occurrence on which this description is based had no shrub cover. The herbaceous layer was moderate and was dominated by *Leersia lenticularis*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, and *Carex lupulina* with *Saururus cernuus* and *Polygonum setaceum*. The vine coverage is moderate, and species present include *Smilax hispida*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Campsis radicans*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Menispermum canadense*, and *Ampelopsis arborea*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G2G3

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007728

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Planera aquatica Forest

COMMON NAME Planertree Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Planera aquatica* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Planera aquatica Forest is distributed throughout the southeastern Coastal Plain from North Carolina south to Georgia and possibly Florida; in the lower Gulf Coastal Plain from panhandle Florida west possibly to Texas; and in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain north to Kentucky, southern Illinois, and southern Missouri.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs relatively close to the Congaree River, probably throughout the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Planera aquatica Forest occurs most commonly in backswamps and other quiet waters. At least some occurrences arise in backswamps and sloughs formerly dominated by *Taxodium distichum*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, and other bottomland species that, due to rapid siltation, experience severe hydrologic modification resulting in shifts in dominance.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This type occurs in the Monument in sloughs. Soils are seasonally flooded, and probability of annual flooding is 100 percent. At least one occurrence is within a slough that is experiencing rapid siltation and shifting species dominance as described above.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Planera aquatica</i>

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Planera aquatica</i> , <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> , <i>Populus heterophylla</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Planera aquatica

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Planera aquatica, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Populus heterophylla

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

These short-statured forests are dominated by *Planera aquatica*. They sometimes have an essentially monospecific canopy and a scattered, emergent canopy of *Taxodium ascendens*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Acer negundo*, *Fraxinus caroliniana*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Carya aquatica*, and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, among others. The herbaceous layer in these forests is sparse and can include *Saururus cernuus*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Berchemia scandens*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, and others.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Planera aquatica Forest is dominated by a canopy of *Planera aquatica* (60 to 100 percent coverage) with a scattered, emergent canopy of *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* and *Populus heterophylla* and a subcanopy of *Fraxinus caroliniana*. Other typical species of the canopy and subcanopy are *Carya aquatica*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Nyssa aquatica*, and *Platanus occidentalis*. The herbaceous and vine/liana strata are sparse, and common species include *Polygonum hydropiperoides*, *Pluchea camphorata*, *Senecio glabellus*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, *Campsis radicans*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

Planera aquatica Forest is likely relatively common across its range, but additional rank evaluation is needed.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007394

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus lyrata - Quercus laurifolia / (Arundinaria gigantea) Forest

COMMON NAME Overcup Oak - Diamondleaf Oak / (Giant Cane) Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus lyrata* - (*Carya aquatica*) Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Current global distribution is the Atlantic Coastal Plain of North Carolina and South Carolina. Additional assessment is needed.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community likely occurs throughout the lower portions of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Quercus lyrata - *Quercus laurifolia* / (*Arundinaria gigantea*) Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus lyrata - *Quercus laurifolia* / (*Arundinaria gigantea*) Forest occurs in backswamps and on alluvial flats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy

Quercus lyrata, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Carya aquatica*

Tree subcanopy

Quercus laurifolia, *Acer rubrum*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Planera aquatica*

Shrub

Arundinaria gigantea, *Sabal minor*, *Ilex decidua*

Herbaceous

Carex lupulina, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Commelina virginica*, *Justicia ovata*

Vine / liana

Ampelopsis arborea, *Smilax tamnoides*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global diagnostic species are the same as the Monument-specific species below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus lyrata, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Arundinaria gigantea*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest has well-developed canopy, subcanopy, shrub, and herbaceous strata. The canopy is dominated by *Quercus lyrata* often in combination with *Quercus laurifolia*. Other species that may be present in the canopy include *Quercus phellos*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Planera aquatica*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus americana*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Carya aquatica*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Acer rubrum*, and others. Along with the canopy species, other species that may be present in the subcanopy are *Ulmus alata*, *Ilex decidua*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, and *Diospyros virginiana*. The shrub layer ranges from sparse to a moderate coverage by species of the canopy and subcanopy layers with *Sabal minor* and *Arundinaria gigantea*. Herbaceous coverage usually is well-developed, and dominant species include *Carex jooorii*, *Carex intumescens*, *Carex lupulina*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Justicia ovata*, *Saururus cernuus*, and *Leersia lenticularis*. Other herbaceous species that occur include *Commelina virginica*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Ludwigia palustris*, *Diodia virginiana*, *Gratiola virginica*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic herb *Ludwigia uruguayensis* is present in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL007801

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument**

Quercus phellos / Carex (intumescens, joorii) / Sphagnum lescurii Forest

COMMON NAME Willow Oak / (Bladder Sedge, Cypress-swamp Sedge) Yellow Peatmoss Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus phellos* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community is present in the Piedmont of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and the inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina, and possibly of North Carolina and Virginia as well.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the uplands of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

These forests occur in upland depressions that have restricted water permeation due to a subsurface clay layer. Flooding persists well into the growing season most years, but the water level usually is below the soil surface by the end of the growing season.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus phellos / Carex (intumescens, joorii) / Sphagnum lescurii Forest occurs in the northern portions of the park in isolated, upland, depressional wetlands.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Tree canopy

Herbaceous

Species

Quercus phellos, Quercus lyrata, Liquidambar styraciflua

Carex spp.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Tree canopy

Herbaceous

Species

Quercus phellos, Liquidambar styraciflua, Acer rubrum

Chasmanthium laxum var. *sessiliflorum*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Quercus phellos, Carex joorii, Carex intumescens, Sphagnum lescurii

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus phellos, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Acer rubrum*, *Ilex decidua*, *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*, *Sphagnum* sp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

These forests are usually dominated by an almost pure canopy of *Quercus phellos*, sometimes with some *Quercus lyrata*, *Quercus bicolor*, or *Liquidambar styraciflua*. *Pinus taeda*, *Ulmus alata*, *Quercus stellata*, and *Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum* also may be present. Occasionally there is an herb layer of *Carex* spp., *Juncus coriaceus*, and *Trachelospermum difforme*, among others; *Sphagnum lescurii* and *Climacium americanum* are important moss species.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

The closed canopy of this community is dominated by *Quercus phellos* and *Liquidambar styraciflua* with an emergent canopy of *Pinus taeda* and a subcanopy of *Acer rubrum*. Other canopy and subcanopy species which may be present are *Ilex decidua*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus pagoda*, *Quercus stellata*, *Carya alba*, *Diospyros virginiana*, *Ilex opaca*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Ulmus alata*, and others. The shrub layer is sparse and may contain *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Gaylussacia frondosa*, *Myrica cerifera*, canopy and subcanopy species, and possibly others. Herb and vine coverages are sparse to moderate, and species in these strata include *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*, *Carex jorii*, *Rhynchospora glomerata*, *Mitchella repens*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Smilax hispida*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Trachelospermum difforme*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, *Smilax tamnoides*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Bignonia capreolata*, and likely others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic *Lonicera japonica* is present in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK G2G3

RANK JUSTIFICATION Much of the habitat for this community has undergone drainage and conversion (see comments below).

DATABASE CODE CEGL007403

COMMENTS

Globally

Upland depression swamps provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Two of the occurrences showed evidence of drainage of the sites. Upland depression swamps provide important amphibian breeding habitat.

REFERENCES

Taxodium distichum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus laurifolia / Acer rubrum /
Saururus cernuus Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Green Ash - Diamondleaf Oak / Red Maple / Lizard's Tail Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.e.)

ALLIANCE *Taxodium distichum* - *Nyssa (aquatica, biflora, ogeche)* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Taxodium distichum - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Quercus laurifolia* / *Acer rubrum* / *Saururus cernuus* Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment, but this community is also known from North Carolina.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs in relatively drier sloughs, as transitional areas between sloughs and bottomland hardwood forests, and on alluvial flats relatively close to the Congaree River, and particularly in the Cedar Creek drainage. This forest occurs along larger creeks and meanders of former creeks.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Taxodium distichum - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Quercus laurifolia* / *Acer rubrum* / *Saururus cernuus* Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This type occurs in the Monument in sloughs and on alluvial flats on soils with a percentage of silt.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> , <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Acer rubrum</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global diagnostic species are the same as the Monument-specific species below.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Acer rubrum*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Pilea pumila*, *Asclepias perennis*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - *Quercus laurifolia* / *Acer rubrum* / *Saururus cernuus* Forest is dominated by *Taxodium distichum* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. *Quercus laurifolia*, *Quercus lyrata*, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Panera aquatica*, and *Fraxinus caroliniana* are usually present, as are other tree species of generally higher bottomland communities, including *Celtis laevigata*, *Ulmus americana*, *Platanus occidentalis*, and *Acer negundo*. The canopy is closed, and the subcanopy layer generally is well-developed. The shrub layer is sparse, and the herbaceous layer ranges from sparse to moderately dense depending upon duration of flooding. *Acer rubrum* is the strong dominant in the subcanopy with *Planera aquatica*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Ulmus alata*, *Ilex decidua*, and *Celtis laevigata* typical in this stratum as well. *Itea virginica* and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* are typical in the shrub layer. A variety of vines are possible within occurrences of this community. These include *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Vitis aestivalis*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Campsis radicans*, *Berchemia scandens*, *Trachelospermum difforme*, and *Mikania scandens*. The most commonly occurring herbs are *Asclepias perennis*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Pilea pumila*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Commelina virginica*, *Justicia ovata*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*, *Carex lupulina*, *Leersia lenticularis*, *Ludwigia alternifolia*, and *Chasmanthium latifolium*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION This community is relatively globally secure.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007719

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica / Fraxinus caroliniana Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Water Tupelo / Water Ash Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Semipermanently flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.f.)

ALLIANCE *Nyssa aquatica - (Taxodium distichum)* Semipermanently Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community occurs on the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain from southeastern Virginia to southern Georgia, and possibly on the lower Gulf Coastal Plain from approximately Tallahassee to southeastern Texas, excluding the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is common throughout the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community occurs in oxbow lakes and ponds, on low, wet flats and sloughs, and in swales and backswamps. It occurs only on semipermanently flooded soils.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs throughout the park in sloughs and on alluvial flats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Fraxinus profunda, Populus heterophylla</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana, Planera aquatica</i>

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Planera aquatica</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Fraxinus profunda, Populus heterophylla, Phanopyrum gymnocarpum

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Planera aquatica, Phanopyrum gymnocarpum

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community of brownwater rivers is characterized by a dense canopy composed almost exclusively of straight, tall individuals of *Taxodium distichum* and *Nyssa aquatica* with a sparse to moderate subcanopy and depauperate shrub and herb layers. Occasional individuals of several species (e.g. *Populus heterophylla*, *Salix nigra*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Fraxinus profunda*, *Carya aquatica*, *Quercus lyrata*) are possible in the canopy or subcanopy.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is dominated by *Taxodium distichum* and *Nyssa aquatica*. The subcanopy is dominated by *Planera aquatica*, with *Fraxinus caroliniana* and *Acer rubrum* common. Additional woody species which may occur are *Quercus lyrata*, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Populus heterophylla*, *Ulmus americana*, and others. The herbaceous layer is very sparse, and typical species include *Saururus cernuus*, *Proserpinaca pectinata*, *Asclepias perennis*, *Commelina virginica*, *Leersia lenticularis*, and *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*. Some examples of this community are being degraded by rapid siltation. These occurrences will not have the typical species composition and may be difficult to identify. Often they will have large, dead canopy trees as well as species typical of levees such as *Platanus occidentalis*, *Celtis laevigata*, and *Acer negundo*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G5?

RANK JUSTIFICATION This is a fairly common community type globally.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007431

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica - Nyssa biflora / Fraxinus caroliniana / Itea virginica Forest

COMMON NAME Bald-cypress - Water Tupelo - Swamp Tupelo / Water Ash / Virginia-willow Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Semipermanently flooded cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.f.)

ALLIANCE *Nyssa aquatica - (Taxodium distichum)* Semipermanently Flooded Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Taxodium distichum - Nyssa aquatica - Nyssa biflora / Fraxinus caroliniana / Itea virginica Forest is common along small rivers that arise in the Atlantic Coastal Plain (blackwater rivers) from Virginia to northern Florida.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs on alluvial flats and in isolated sloughs associated with blackwater streams in the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This type covers examples along Coastal Plain streams in regions of fine-textured soils and examples in somewhat isolated basins of brownwater floodplains, where *Nyssa aquatica* and *Nyssa biflora* are both important components of the canopy. Soils are semipermanently flooded, and probability of annual flooding is 100 percent

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This type occurs in the park on Chastain loam soils on alluvial flats and sloughs associated with Tom's Creek and Cedar Creek.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Nyssa biflora</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana, Acer rubrum</i>

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Taxodium distichum, Nyssa aquatica, Nyssa biflora</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana, Acer rubrum</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Phanopyrum gymnocarpum</i>

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Itea virginica*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Taxodium distichum, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Fraxinus caroliniana*, *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This type covers very wet forests that are flooded by river overbank flow for long periods and are dominated by combinations of *Nyssa aquatica*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Taxodium distichum*, and occasionally *Taxodium ascendens*, which account for at least 75 percent of the canopy cover. Other bottomland species often found in this community include *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, and *Quercus laurifolia*. Shrubs and herbs are limited to tree bases and higher spots within occurrences.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is dominated by *Taxodium distichum*, *Nyssa biflora*, and *Nyssa aquatica*. The subcanopy is dominated by *Fraxinus caroliniana* and *Acer rubrum*. Additional woody species which commonly occur are *Quercus laurifolia*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ilex decidua*, and *Planera aquatica*. The shrub layer generally is open, and *Itea virginica* is common. The herbaceous layer is very sparse and limited to higher areas and tree bases. The dominant species in this stratum is *Phanopyrum gymnocarpum*; other typical species include *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Justicia ovata*, *Carex lupulina*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata*, *Mikania scandens*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *Asclepias perennis*, *Commelina virginica*, *Leersia lenticularis*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G4

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL007432

COMMENTS

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Relatively the same overstory composition occurs in areas that are transitional from *Nyssa biflora*-dominated seeps to *Taxodium distichum* - *Nyssa aquatica* / *Fraxinus caroliniana* Forest. The types can be distinguished by their location.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Magnolia virginiana / Carex folliculata Forest

COMMON NAME Sweetgum - Diamondleaf Oak / Sweetbay / Northern Long Sedge Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Saturated cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.g.)

ALLIANCE *Liquidambar styraciflua* Saturated Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Magnolia virginiana / Carex folliculata Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from North Carolina to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in the northwestern portion of the park southeast of the picnic area.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Magnolia virginiana / Carex folliculata Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus laurifolia / Magnolia virginiana / Carex folliculata Forest occurs on flat, low seepage areas. The soil is a very poorly drained clay loam with organic matter / peat development. It is nearly constantly saturated but rarely flooded.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy *Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus laurifolia, Acer rubrum*

Tree subcanopy *Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus laurifolia, Magnolia virginiana, Acer rubrum*

Shrub *Arundinaria gigantea, Magnolia virginiana, Ilex decidua, Alnus serrulata*

Herbaceous *Carex folliculata, Carex debilis, Carex intumescens, Saururus cernuus, Panicum* sp.

Vine / liana *Toxicodendron radicans, Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Smilax laurifolia*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua, *Quercus laurifolia*, *Acer rubrum*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Carex folliculata*,
Carex intumescens

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest has well-developed canopy, subcanopy, shrub, herbaceous, and vine/liana strata. The canopy is dominated by *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus laurifolia*, and *Acer rubrum*. These species are dominant in the subcanopy along with *Magnolia virginiana* and *Carpinus caroliniana*. Other species that may be present in these strata include *Ulmus americana*, *Ulmus alata*, and *Salix nigra*. The shrub layer contains *Acer rubrum*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Ilex decidua*, *Arundinaria gigantea*, and other species. Herbaceous dominants include *Saururus cernuus*, *Carex debilis*, *Carex intumescens*, *Carex folliculata*, *Panicum* sp., and *Hypericum* sp. Other herbaceous species of this community are *Asclepias perennis*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Viola affinis*, *Viola primulifolia*, *Commelina communis*, *Mitchella repens*, *Leersia lenticularis*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL004631

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

***Nyssa biflora* - (*Acer rubrum*) / *Ilex opaca* / *Leucothoe axillaris* / *Carex atlantica* ssp. *capillacea* Forest**

COMMON NAME Swamp Blackgum - (Red Maple) / American Holly / Coastal Doghobble / Howe Sedge Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Saturated cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.g.)

ALLIANCE *Nyssa biflora* - *Acer rubrum* - (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) Saturated Forest Alliance
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community is currently known from big river floodplains in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is found west of the Ranger Station along the Bluff Trail, near the end of Garrick Road within the park, and possibly other slope bases.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs in floodplain edges of brownwater floodplains, in situations that are very rarely flooded by alluvial waters, but which receive regular seepage from adjacent upland slopes. The hydrology is constantly saturated, and soils are acidic and organic. At Congaree, this community is associated almost exclusively with Dorovan muck soils.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy

Nyssa biflora, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Subcanopy

Ilex opaca, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Short shrub

Leucothoe axillaris

Herbaceous

Carex atlantica ssp. *capillacea*, *Carex bromoides* ssp. *bromoides*, *Woodwardia areolata*, *Saururus cernuus*

Nonvascular

Sphagnum sp.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Tree canopy

Nyssa biflora, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus laurifolia*

Subcanopy

Ilex opaca, *Acer rubrum*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Short shrub

Leucothoe axillaris

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The global concept currently is the same as the park-specific concept.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Macbridea caroliniana, *Sphagnum* sp., *Carex atlantica* ssp. *capillacea*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The canopy is strongly dominated by *Nyssa biflora*, with some *Acer rubrum* and *Liquidambar styraciflua*. The subcanopy has abundant *Ilex opaca*, with *Acer rubrum* and *Liquidambar styraciflua*. The shrub layer is dominated by *Leucothoe axillaris*, with *Itea virginica*, *Clethra alnifolia*, *Persea palustris*, and *Arundinaria gigantea* also present. Woody vines such as *Decumaria barbara*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, and *Vitis* sp. are locally common. The herb layer is well-developed and is dominated by species such as *Carex atlantica* ssp. *capillacea*, *Carex bromoides* ssp. *bromoides*, and *Woodwardia areolata*. Other herbs include *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata* var. *verticillata*, and *Mitchella repens*. *Sphagnum* spp. have substantial cover.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Similar to above. Other tree species which may be present include *Quercus michauxii*, *Magnolia virginiana*, and *Liriodendron tulipifera*. Among the other herbaceous species which may be present are *Ludwigia palustris*, *Macbridea caroliniana*, *Carex leptalea*, and *Platanthera clavellata*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES The exotics *Lonicera japonica* and *Murdania keisak* may be present.

CONSERVATION RANK G2G3

RANK JUSTIFICATION The specialized habitat required for this community is scarce.

DATABASE CODE CEGL004427

COMMENTS

Globally

Few stands of this vegetation type have been studied, and rangewide information is limited.

REFERENCES

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus michauxii / Carpinus caroliniana - Ilex opaca / Leucothoe racemosa Forest

COMMON NAME Swamp Chestnut Oak / American Hornbeam - American Holly / Swamp Fetterbush Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Saturated cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.g.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus michauxii* - *Quercus pagoda* Saturated Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Quercus michauxii / *Carpinus caroliniana* - *Ilex opaca* / *Leucothoe racemosa* Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Georgia to Virginia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community is documented from one plot in zone one and is possible on other slope bases.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

The global description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community occurs on floodplain edges of brownwater floodplains, in situations that are very rarely flooded by alluvial waters, but which receive regular seepage from adjacent upland slopes. The hydrology is constantly saturated, and soils are silty clay with organic matter present.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Quercus michauxii</i> , <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Subcanopy	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Short shrub	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Chasmanthium laxum</i> var. <i>sessiliflorum</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The global concept currently is the same as the park-specific concept.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus michauxii, Leucothoe racemosa, Magnolia virginiana, Smilax walteri, Osmunda cinnamomea

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Quercus michauxii / Carpinus caroliniana - Ilex opaca / Leucothoe racemosa Forest has a closed canopy and moderate to sparse subcanopy, shrub, herbaceous, and vine/liana strata. The canopy is dominated by *Quercus michauxii*. *Pinus taeda* and *Liquidambar styraciflua* are typical in the canopy. The subcanopy is dominated by *Carpinus caroliniana*. Other species that may occur in the canopy or subcanopy include *Nyssa biflora, Magnolia virginiana, Persea palustris, Quercus pagoda, Acer rubrum, Quercus laurifolia, Quercus nigra, Ulmus alata, Liriodendron tulipifera, Carya alba, Cornus foemina, Ilex decidua, Ilex opaca, Quercus phellos, Carya cordiformis*, and others. *Leucothoe racemosa* is the dominant and characteristic shrub species; other shrubs present can include *Ilex verticillata, Callicarpa americana, Viburnum dentatum, Rhododendron canescens*, and others. The herbaceous layer is sparse and is weakly dominated by *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*. Other species that are typical include *Carex bromoides, Osmunda cinnamomea, Pluchea camphorata, Carex scoparia*, and *Mitchella repens*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES The exotic *Lonicera japonica* may be present.

CONSERVATION RANK G2G3

RANK JUSTIFICATION The specialized habitat required for this community is scarce.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007737

COMMENTS

Globally

Few stands of this vegetation type have been studied, and rangewide information is limited.

REFERENCES

Successional Pine - Mixed Hardwood Upland Forest

COMMON NAME	Successional Pine - Mixed Hardwood Upland Forest
SYNONYM	
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Mixed evergreen-deciduous forest (I.C.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold -deciduous forest (I.C.3.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (I.C.3.N.)
FORMATION	Mixed needle-leaved evergreen - cold -deciduous forest (I.C.3.N.a.)
ALLIANCE	No alliance yet developed
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	1
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	Upland

RANGE

Globally

Successional Pine - Mixed Hardwood Upland Forest occurs throughout the southeastern United States.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in various upland locations of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Successional Pine - Mixed Hardwood Upland Forest occurs in disturbed habitats and most commonly develops following agriculture and timbering.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Successional Pine - Mixed Hardwood Upland Forest occurs in the uplands of the park on various soils on flatlands or moderate slopes.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global type not yet developed.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus taeda</i> , <i>Quercus nigra</i> , <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Tree subcanopy	various
Shrub	various, often <i>Vaccinium</i> spp. and <i>Gaylussacia</i> spp.
Herbaceous	various

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global type not yet developed.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus taeda, *Quercus nigra*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus alba*, and *Nyssa sylvatica* in uplands.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global type not yet developed.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

There is a relatively high level of variation in species composition within occurrences of this forest within the park. All occurrences are dominated by *Pinus taeda* and *Quercus nigra*. The successional relationships to other community types determines other species found in each occurrence. Some occurrences will have *Asimina triloba* and *Carpinus caroliniana* in the understory, with *Vaccinium elliottii* and *Callicarpa americana* in the shrub layer, and *Mitchella repens*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Chimaphila maculata*, and others in the herbaceous layer. Other tree species in these examples include *Carya glabra*, *Quercus alba*, *Fagus grandifolia*, *Ilex opaca*, *Cornus florida*, and others. Drier occurrences will have, in addition to *Pinus taeda* and *Quercus nigra*, some combination of dry-site species that include *Quercus stellata*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Gaylussacia dumosa*, *Gaylussacia frondosa*, *Eupatorium rotundifolium*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK GM

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE No database code will be assigned.

COMMENTS

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus palustris - Pinus taeda / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland

COMMON NAME Longleaf Pine - Loblolly Pine / Little Bluestem Woodland

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Woodland (II.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Evergreen woodland (II.A.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N.)

FORMATION Rounded-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.a.)

ALLIANCE *Pinus palustris - Pinus (echinata, taeda)* Woodland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

Pinus palustris - Pinus taeda / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but is likely in the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This woodland type occurs at the end of Garrick Road in the northern portion of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Pinus palustris - Pinus taeda / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but will be similar to the description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus palustris - Pinus taeda / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland occurs on upland flats on sandy loam soils. Both of the plots had recently burned before sampling.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Species

Canopy

Pinus taeda, Pinus palustris

Shrub

Diospyros virginiana, Quercus velutina, Gaylussacia frondosa, Myrica cerifera, Rhus copallina, Acer rubrum, Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus nigra, Nyssa sylvatica

Herbaceous

Schizachyrium scoparium, Eupatorium rotundifolium, Chrysopsis mariana, Rhynchosia reniformis, Solidago rugosa, Solidago odora, Seymeria cassioides, Pityopsis graminifolia, Elephantopus tomentosa, Panicum dichotomum

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus taeda, Pinus palustris, Schizachyrium scoparium

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Global description is the same as the Monument-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus palustris - Pinus taeda / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland has an open to scattered to mostly closed canopy of *Pinus taeda* and/or *Pinus palustris*, a moderate to dense shrub layer dominated by dry-mesic tree species listed above, as well as more typical shrub species such as *Gaylussacia frondosa*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Viburnum dentatum*, *Rhus copallina*, and likely others. The herbaceous dominant is *Schizachyrium scoparium*, but other species typical of savannah vegetation are present including *Eupatorium rotundifolium*, *Chrysopsis mariana*, *Rhynchosia reniformis*, *Solidago rugosa*, *Solidago odora*, *Seymeria cassioides*, and *Pityopsis graminifolia*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

A red-cockaded woodpecker was observed foraging in the woodland during sampling.

CONSERVATION RANK GM

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This vegetation type is the result of modification of natural vegetation; it is readily restorable by management and the restoration of ecological processes.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007738

COMMENTS

Globally

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This woodland likely is maintained by fire. Attempts should be made to reconstruct a more natural fire frequency and periodicity. Canopy closure directly reflects fire frequency and periodicity, and some occurrences may have mostly closed canopies.

REFERENCES

Vitis rotundifolia - Ampelopsis arborea - Campsis radicans Vine-Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Muscadine - Peppervine - Trumpetvine Vine-Shrubland
SYNONYM	
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.)
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.e.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Vitis rotundifolia - Ampelopsis arborea - Campsis radicans</i> Seasonally Flooded Vine-Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Vitis rotundifolia - Ampelopsis arborea - Campsis radicans Vine-Shrubland potentially is widespread and occurs throughout the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains and in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This shrubland type likely occurs throughout the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Vitis rotundifolia - Ampelopsis arborea - Campsis radicans Vine-Shrubland develops following clearcut logging, blowdowns, and possibly other disturbance in wetlands.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Vitis rotundifolia - Ampelopsis arborea - Campsis radicans Vine-Shrubland develops on seasonally and temporarily flooded sites where the canopy and subcanopy layers have been removed by disturbance. On the Monument, this disturbance is primarily wind, and many occurrences of this community likely date from Hurricane Hugo (September 1989).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum

Vine / liana

Species

Ampelopsis arborea, Campsis radicans, Toxicodendron radicans, Vitis rotundifolia

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Stratum

Shrub

Species

Asimina triloba, Arundinaria gigantea, Ilex decidua, Ilex opaca, Sambucus canadensis, Rubus sp.

Vine/liana

Toxicodendron radicans, Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Bignonia capreolata, Smilax rotundifolia, Berchemia scandens

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Toxicodendron radicans, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Smilax rotundifolia*,
Berchemia scandens

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Toxicodendron radicans, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Smilax rotundifolia*,
Berchemia scandens

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Vitis rotundifolia - *Ampelopsis arborea* - *Campsis radicans* Vine-Shrubland is vine-dominated vegetation dominated by the nominal species. Other species that may be present include *Polygonum* spp., *Cyperus* spp., *Toxicodendron radicans* ssp. *radicans*, *Salix* spp., and *Myrica cerifera*.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Vitis rotundifolia - *Ampelopsis arborea* - *Campsis radicans* Vine-Shrubland is vine-dominated vegetation dominated by the nominal species. Other species that are present in the vine/liana stratum include *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Smilax rotundifolia*, *Berchemia scandens*, and likely others. There may exist a limited canopy of *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ulmus americana*, *Quercus* spp., *Celtis laevigata*, and others. Often the weight of the vine coverage will break the stems of woody species before they attain five meters in height. A limited shrub stratum that contains canopy species as well as *Arundinaria gigantea*, *Ilex decidua*, *Lindera benzoin*, and others may be present. *Carex abscondita*, *Arisaema dracontium*, *Eupatorium capillifolium*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Carex retroflexa*, *Carex lupulina*, and other species are present in the sparse herbaceous layer.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic vine *Lonicera japonica*, the exotic shrub *Ligustrum sinense*, and the exotic herb *Murdania keisak*, may be present in occurrences of this vine-shrubland.

CONSERVATION RANK GM

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This vegetation has been so severely modified by wind damage that it is not possible to rank it as a "natural" vegetation type. This vegetation likely is readily restorable by time or management.

DATABASE CODE CEGL004620

COMMENTS

REFERENCES