

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

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus laurifolia, Acer rubrum</i>
Tree subcanopy	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus laurifolia, Magnolia virginiana, Acer rubrum</i>
Shrub	<i>Arundinaria gigantea, Magnolia virginiana, Ilex decidua, Alnus serrulata</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Carex folliculata, Carex debilis, Carex intumescens, Saururus cernuus, Panicum sp.</i>
Vine / liana	<i>Toxicodendron radicans, Vitis rotundifolia, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Smilax laurifolia</i>

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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