

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

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**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.

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*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*

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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