

Cross Timbers Forest



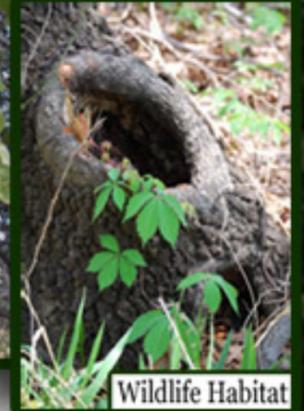
Rabbit



Blackjack Oak



Post Oak

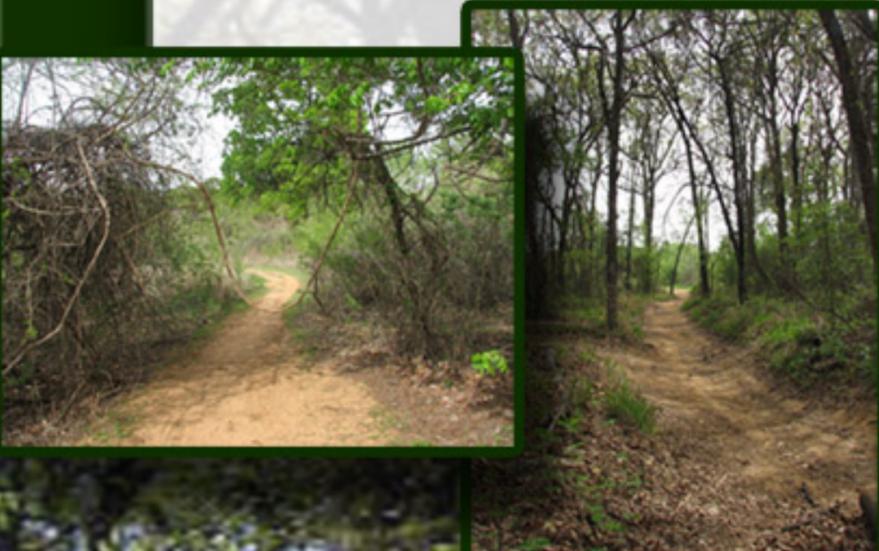


Wildlife Habitat

The Cross Timbers forest is mostly deciduous and most often identified by expansive groves of Black Jack and Post Oak. Although these are the dominant species, there are numerous other hardwood trees that exist within the forested region. Additionally, shrubby underbrush and lush vines growing up the trunks of trees are typically found in the forested areas. Numerous species of wildlife seek protection from their predators in the forest including many rodents and squirrels.

In the late 1840s, settlement began in the Cross Timbers region. Both Dallas and Fort Worth were established in this time period and much of the forested area was cleared for farm land and urban development. This rapid development placed a large strain on the native forests and much of it has completely disappeared. The forest located within this park is particularly important as one of the largest remaining remnants of the Cross Timbers forest in an urban area in north Texas.

Much of the present day Cross Timbers is now recognized as an urban forest, surviving on small pockets of undeveloped land and in areas that are under rapid urbanization. Unfortunately, the species of tree most commonly affiliated with the Cross Timbers, the Post Oak, is also the species that has the lowest tolerance to development. Many communities in the Cross Timbers region have realized the importance of the remaining locations of Post Oak and have put into place zoning ordinances that penalize developers for clear-cutting trees and reward them for preservation.



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