



herbaceous canopy was usually absent. There was not a shrub or vine canopy within the aesthetic woodlands; however, species in the herbaceous canopy generally included those identified in the grassland plant community.

Riparian

There were riparian corridors associated with certain creeks along the corridor (i.e., Elm Fork of the Trinity River). These riparian corridors had a diverse species composition which includes black willow (*Salix nigra*), cottonwood, hackberry, box-elder (*Acer negundo*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), sycamore (*Planera aquatica*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*).

Stations

Plant communities within the developed portions of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex are very similar in species composition and canopy stratification. Due to the large size of the station and alternatives, ground-truthing of the plant communities was limited. **Table 3-35** provides a comparison of the quantity (in acres) of each plant community for the rail alignment and each station.

TABLE 3-35 PLANT COMMUNITIES AND THEIR SIZES PRESENT WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA						
PROJECT AREA	URBAN (acres)	GRASSLAND (acres)	SHRUBLAND (acres)	WOODLAND (acres)	RIPARIAN (acres)	TOTAL (acres)
RAIL LINE						
Corridor	117.977	166.438	3.916	28.465	13.736	212.555
STATIONS						
Loop 12 (Deferred)	93.264	14.021	-	-	-	107.285
University of Dallas	23.222	18.014	3.325	62.012	-	106.573
South Las Colinas(Deferred)	28.790	34.635	5.294	17.764	10.562	97.045
Lake Carolyn	15.812	54.525	-	0.478	-	70.815
North Las Colinas	4.862	74.756	6.719	-	-	86.337
Carpenter Ranch	47.888	30.937	1.177	22.488	-	102.490
North Lake College	64.654	34.233	-	9.059	-	107.946
Belt Line Road	47.092	20.788	1.318	37.350	-	105.230
Total Project Alignment and Station Areas	443.561	448.347	21.749	177.616	24.298	996.276
Deferred Stations (not part of this project)	122.054	48.656	5.294	17.764	10.562	204.330

Source: Geo-Marine, 2006

3.11.3 Wildlife Inventory

Texas can be divided into seven biotic provinces based on the distribution of topographic features, climate, vegetation types, and terrestrial vertebrates (exclusive of birds). The Project Corridor lies within the Austroriparian and grassland Kansan Provinces (Blair 1950). Prior to urbanization, this area was a mix of grassland communities and mesic forest associations located along numerous waterways (Blair 1950; Szaro 1991). Schmidly et al. (1993) reported 66 native, 3 introduced, 9 feral and 30 exotic species of mammals; 361 bird species; 18 reptile species; and 5 amphibian species as occurring in this biotic province.

Corridor

Wildlife communities within the Project Corridor include the common wildlife associated with the floodplain areas of north-central Texas and species adapted to urbanization (Schmidly et al. 1993). Because native vegetation communities exist only on scattered portions of the Project Corridor