



**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 (due to urbanization), areas containing intact communities of wildlife were rare. The number and kinds of animals that use an urban area depend upon the degree to which the vegetation has been eliminated (Andren 1994; Schmidley et al. 1993).

A mixture of residential, industrial, and commercial areas represents the majority of the urban habitat type observed during the field surveys of the Project Corridor. Although local urban areas could potentially provide habitat for 97 bird species, 16 mammal species, 29 snake and lizard species, 6 turtle species, and 3 amphibian species (Johnston and Short 1989), during the field surveys, only 19 bird species, 2 mammal species, 2 reptile species, and 1 amphibian species were observed along the Project Corridor. Industrial areas are used by only the most tolerant of species (i.e., house sparrow [*Passer domesticus*], house mouse [*Mus musculus*], and Norway rat [*Rattus norvegicus*]) (Andren 1994; Erlich 1988; Jones et al. 1992; Pulich 1988).

The Project Corridor contained several microhabitats that were relatively undisturbed. These consisted of open grasslands with less than 25 percent cover of trees and/or shrubs, wetlands, and riparian woodland areas where streams or rivers crossed the corridor. When natural and intact, grasslands and shrubs have high vegetative productivity and could potentially support 59 bird species, 20 mammal species, 35 snake and lizard species, 4 turtle species, and 16 amphibian