



Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve with areas of serpentine grassland outlined in yellow.

Serpentine grassland at Jasper Ridge occurs as a discontinuous band 1.5 mile long and up to 800 feet wide that obliquely bisects the ridgeline of JRBP, covering about 35 acres. The grassland's topographically diverse habitat includes hilltops, seeps, gently sloped expanses, and steeper slopes with various exposures. The largest "island" of serpentine grassland covers 24 acres, the smallest about 1/6 acre. A road that roughly follows the gentle ridgeline of Jasper Ridge has existed for many decades and serves as a fire road and provides access for tours. Narrow trails traverse some of the serpentine islands.

Ongoing surveys have recorded 120 vascular plant species in the serpentine grassland, including 12 species that are restricted to serpentine, 30 that are considered serpentine "indicator species," and 24 native grass species. *Plantago erecta* ranges from common to locally abundant. A working list for the serpentine flora is located at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0AqB1HyCAc9xxcGJWQ3INZVU0X0NCzhpQ3U5VGtyZVE#gid=0>. The native grass flora is described at <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/JRBP/plants/SerpentinePrairie.pdf>.

The long narrow band of serpentine grassland is bordered by nearly every upland plant community at Jasper Ridge, forming multiple transition zones and complex species assemblages, including a "bare zone" assemblage at the contact between serpentine grassland and serpentine chaparral. In total, the serpentine flora includes more than 260 taxa, and the transition zones to other substrates further enrich this flora.

Ongoing research in the serpentine grassland is designed to have minimal footprint. Various monitoring locations are marked by nothing more than a stake; manipulations are typically less than a square meter in area; and only one experiment has an installation that is designed to be permanent—a very sensitive GPS antenna that is part of the Bay Area Regional Deformation (BARD) network for monitoring crustal deformation for earthquake hazard reduction studies (http://jrpb.stanford.edu/db/projects/project_display.php?project_id=111).