

In Great Smoky Mountains NP, the vascular plant checklist has been automated and developed into a series of expanded data bases. Each of the separate data bases concerns a particular theme. For example, one data base includes the status of the plants on state and national rare endangered species lists. Another data base includes the geographic and habitat distributions of the species. We have developed a data base from information about wildlife food habits and have expanded information about exotic status to record country of origin and current status in the park's flora. In all, there are seven separate themes: life history and growth form, phenology and floral biology, habitat distribution, geographic distribution and rarity, exotic status, wildlife food habits, and air pollution sensitivity. The seven themes include a total of 50 variables. With some 1500 vascular plant taxa in the GRSM flora, this makes 75,000 individual pieces of information. Additional useful themes can be envisioned -- for example, suitability of the native species for use in cultivation around park visitor centers and parking lots. We will also be adding a list of plants found along the Foothills Parkway that are not yet known within GRSM itself -- the Parkway is administered by the GRSM Superintendant.

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