

Mary Todd Park

Lexington, Kentucky

96 trees

34 species



525 Rogers Rd, Lexington, KY 40505

Paved trails

Bus stops for #17 within 500 ft of the park

Nearby bike route

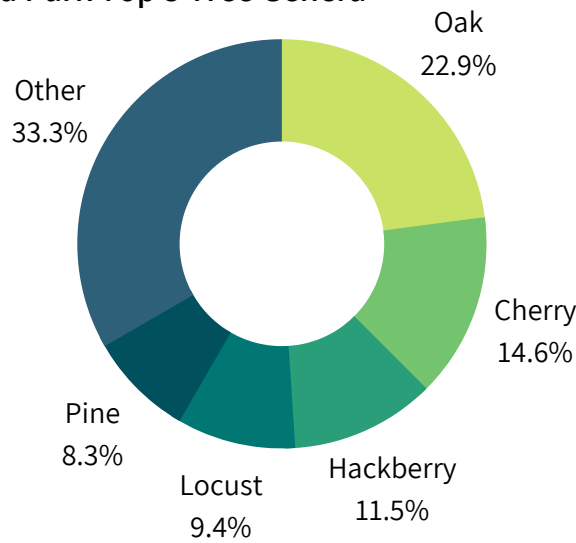
Background

In June 2022, the University of Kentucky Urban Forest Initiative (UFI) team mapped trees in Mary Todd Park as part of our Climate Adaptation Project. This is a summary of our findings.

About the Trees

Mary Todd Park is a large park in the Joyland neighborhood, featuring a small stream running through a forested area in the center of the park. The most common trees in the park are oak, cherry, and hackberry. The tree canopy is in fair overall health, and could benefit from new plantings of underrepresented tree species.

Mary Todd Park Top 5 Tree Genera



Why Trees?

Urban forests are vital resources for **climate change mitigation** (the slowing down of climate change through carbon capture, emissions reduction, etc.) and **adaptation** (the ability of our cities to withstand the impacts of climate change). Mary Todd Park provides **21.8 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's **12th District**. As such, it is an important part of Lexington's urban forest, providing numerous **ecosystem services** to the city and helping to **prepare Lexington for climate change**.



Annual tree benefits ... and growing!

48,885

gallons of stormwater captured

1,633

ounces of pollution removed

3,339

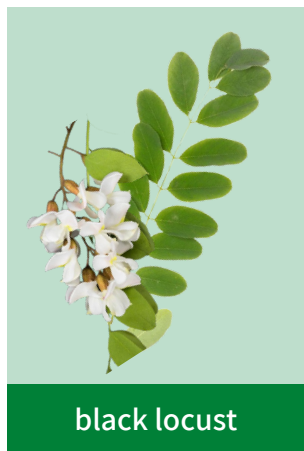
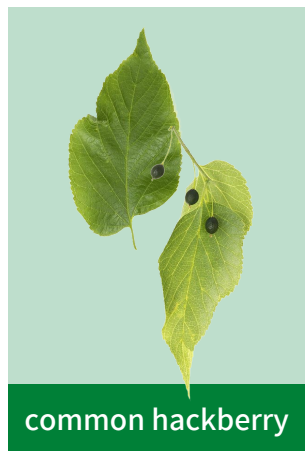
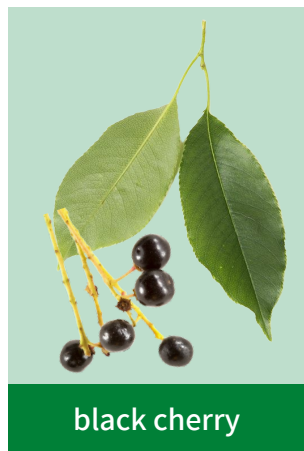
pounds of carbon sequestered

\$874

annual monetary benefits

Learn more about trees in your local park and what they do for you!

Most Common Species in Mary Todd Park* *based on 96 trees inventoried in 2022.



Need help identifying trees? Try reaching out to your local extension agent! Many great resources can also be found at https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/tree_id. Photos courtesy of Janet James.



Considerations for Mary Todd Park

- Mary Todd Park trees are in **fair health**, providing many tree benefits to the community such as shade, cooling, and carbon sequestration. The **most common health issue** was **mechanical damage** to the base of several trees.
- With black cherry representing more than 20% of the trees in the park, Mary Todd Park has **fair species diversity**, and could use **more diverse species** to **protect the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Mary Todd Park has **fair size diversity**, and it could benefit from **more small trees**, especially young trees of species capable of growing into larger sizes.
- As the **climate changes**, some tree species may no longer thrive here in Kentucky, including **40% of trees in Mary Todd Park**. Most of the park's trees, such as common hackberry, are not vulnerable to these changes, but others, such as white pine, are more sensitive to changing climate, making the park **mildly vulnerable**.
- Note that trees in the forested area of the park were not inventoried.



Managing for Climate Resilience in Mary Todd Park

- Continue to practice proper tree care, including **watering, pruning, and mulching** regularly. Visit this website to learn more about good tree care practices and resources: <https://tree-health.ca.uky.edu/tree-care>
- Plant **diverse tree species that can grow to large tree sizes** to improve tree canopy **regeneration and resilience**. As older trees in the park inevitably die, younger trees will grow up to take their place.
- Plant **climate resilient tree species** in appropriate sites that can **meet the needs of that species** to build a tree canopy capable of **withstanding changing climate**. Check out the climate resilience of trees you are interested in planting using this website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/tool/climate-change-tree-atlas>

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