

Cross Keys Park

Lexington, Kentucky

73 trees
26 species



1240 Cross Keys Rd, Lexington, KY 40504

- Paved trails
- Bus stops for #8 & #58 within 0.5 miles of the park
- Nearby bike route

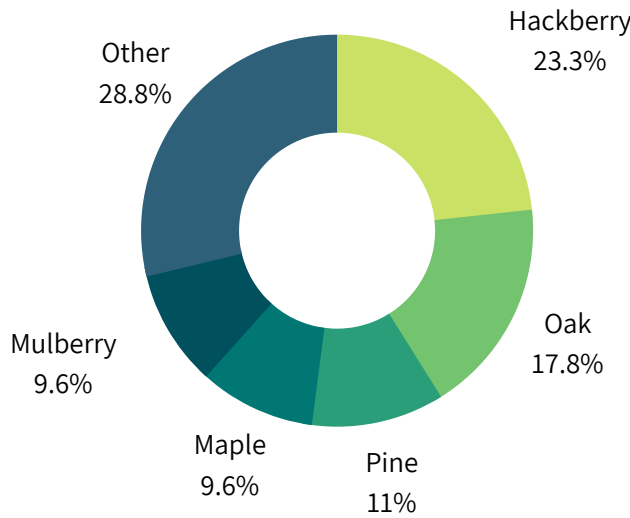
Background

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

About the Trees

Cross Keys Park is a mid-sized park in the Gardenside neighborhood featuring a large pond bordered by trees and shrubs. The most common inventoried trees were hackberry, oak, and pine. Cross Keys Park has fair species diversity, and could benefit from new plantings of underrepresented species.

Cross Keys 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). Cross Keys Park provides **10.9 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's **10th 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.

- Overall Health:** Good
- Species Diversity:** Fair
- Size Diversity:** Good
- Climate Resilience:** Fair

Annual tree benefits ... and growing!

39,617
gallons of stormwater captured

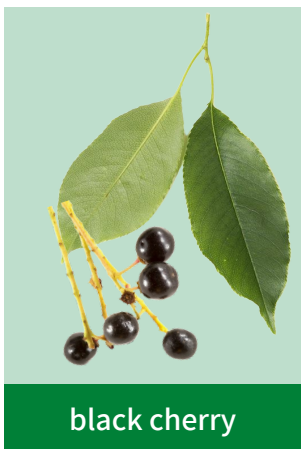
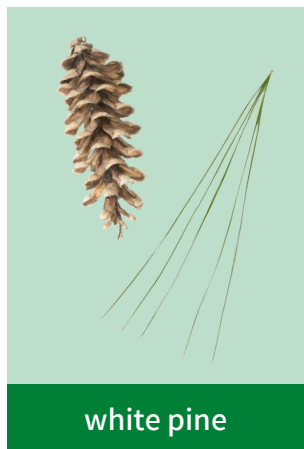
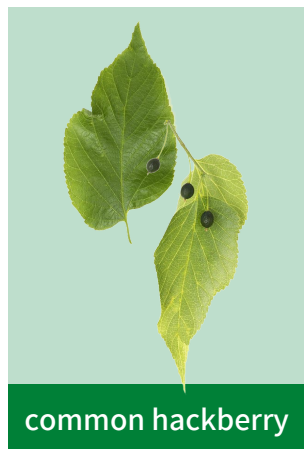
1,342
ounces of pollution removed

1,909
pounds of carbon sequestered

\$648
annual monetary benefits

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

Most Common Species in Cross Keys Park* *based on 73 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 and missouribotanicalgarden.org.



Considerations for Cross Keys Park

- Cross Keys Park trees are in **good health**, providing many tree benefits to the community such as shade, cooling, and carbon sequestration. The **most common health issue** was **invasive species** on the trees.
- With common hackberry representing more than 20% of the canopy, Cross Keys Park has **fair species diversity**, and could use **more diverse species** to **protect the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Cross Keys Park has **good size diversity**, with **many small trees** to fill in the gaps as larger trees age out.
- As the **climate changes**, some tree species may no longer thrive here in Kentucky, including **35% of trees in Cross Keys 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 around the pond were not inventoried.



Managing for Climate Resilience in Cross Keys 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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