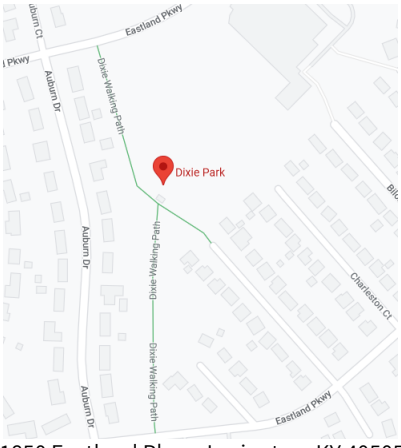
Dixie Park

Lexington, Kentucky

87 trees

17 species



1850 Eastland Pkwy, Lexington, KY 40505

Paved trails

Bus stops for #7 & #59 within 0.5 miles of the park

Nearby bike route

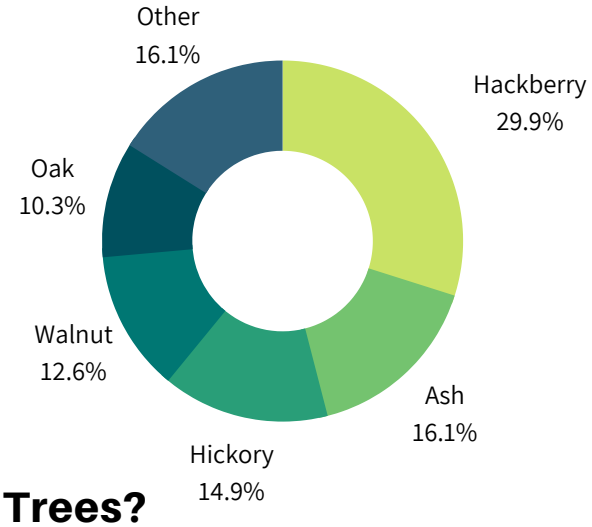
Background

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

About the Trees

Dixie Park is a small park bordering Dixie Elementary School, featuring playgrounds, exercise equipment, and a naturalized "Bring Back the Bluegrass" site. The park trees are dominated by hackberry, followed by ash, hickory, and walnut. The park's tree canopy would be strengthened by improved tree care and additional species and size diversity.

Dixie 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). Dixie Park provides **8.6 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's **6th 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

Species Diversity

Size Diversity

Climate Resilience

Annual tree benefits ... and growing!

45,093 gallons of stormwater captured

1,808 ounces of pollution removed

2,514 pounds of carbon sequestered

$781 annual monetary benefits

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

Most Common Species in Dixie Park*

*based on 87 trees inventoried in 2022.


common hackberry


blue ash


black walnut


bur oak


shellbark hickory

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 Dixie Park

- Dixie 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 **rotting** on the root flare of trees.
- With common hackberry representing nearly 30% of the trees in the park, Dixie Park has **poor species diversity,** and could use **more diverse species** to **protect the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Dixie Park has **poor size diversity**, and 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 **35% of trees in Dixie Park.** Most of the park's trees, such as common hackberry, are not vulnerable to these changes, but others, such as shellbark hickory, are more sensitive to changing climate, making the park **mildly vulnerable.**
- Note that trees in the Bring Back the Bluegrass sites were not inventoried.

Managing for Climate Resilience in Dixie 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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