

# Kirklevington Park

Lexington, Kentucky

187 trees  
34 species



396 Redding Rd, Lexington, KY 40517

- Paved trails
- Bus stops for #3 within 0.25 miles of the park
- Nearby bike route

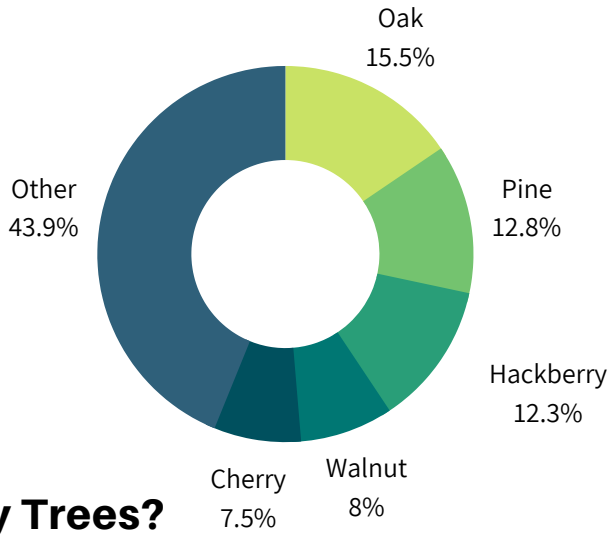
## Background

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

## About the Trees

Kirklevington Park is a large community park near Lansdowne Elementary, featuring several Bring Back the Bluegrass sites. Common trees are oak, pine, and hackberry. The canopy is in good health and shows good species diversity, but the park would benefit from more young trees of species capable of growing into large sizes to help round out the tree canopy.

### Kirklevington 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). Kirklevington Park provides **32.2 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's 4th 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**  
Good

**Size Diversity**  
Poor

**Climate Resilience**  
Poor

## Annual tree benefits ... and growing!

**112,335**  
gallons of stormwater captured

**3,815**  
ounces of pollution removed

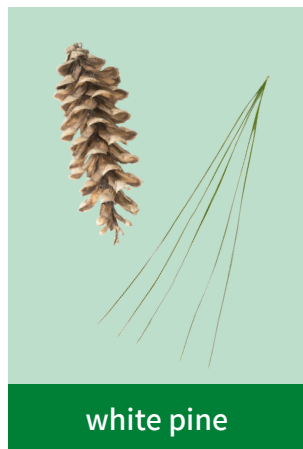
**8,011**  
pounds of carbon sequestered

**\$2,078**  
annual monetary benefits

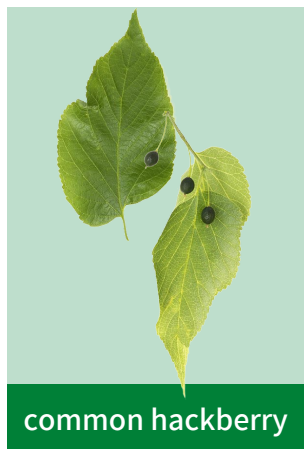
# Learn more about trees in your local park and what they do for you!

## Most Common Species in Kirklevington Park\*

\*based on 187 trees inventoried in 2022.



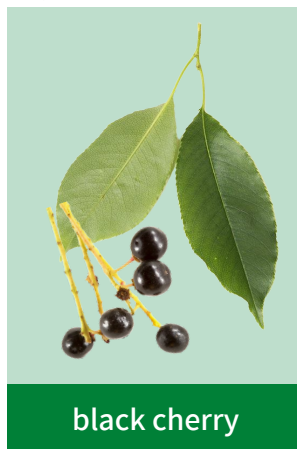
white pine



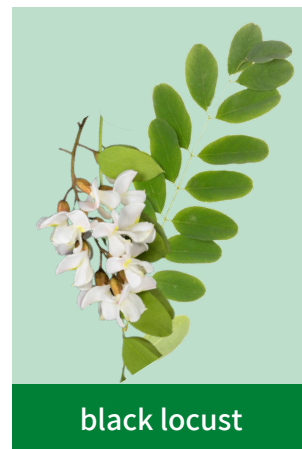
common hackberry



black walnut



black cherry



black locust

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](https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/tree_id). Photos courtesy of Janet James.



## Considerations for Kirklevington Park

- Kirklevington 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 **girdling roots**.
- Although white pine and common hackberry each represent more than 10% of trees in the park, Kirklevington Park has **good species diversity** overall, **protecting against** species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Kirklevington 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 **45% of trees in Kirklevington Park**. Many of the park's trees, such as common hackberry, are not vulnerable to these changes, but others, like white pine, are more sensitive to changing climate, making the park **moderately vulnerable**.
- Note that trees in the Bring Back the Bluegrass sites were not inventoried.



## Managing for Climate Resilience in Kirklevington 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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