

# Meadowthorpe Park

Lexington, Kentucky

119 trees  
37 species



333 Larch Ln, Lexington, KY 40511

- Paved trails
- Bus stops for #12 within 0.75 miles of the park
- Nearby bike route

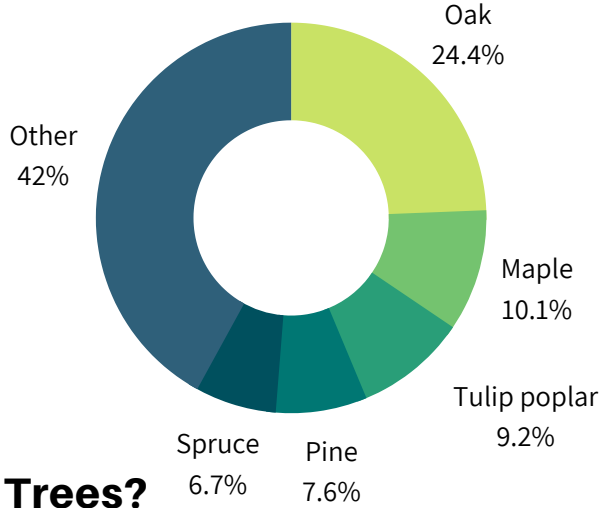
## Background

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

## About the Trees

Meadowthorpe Park is a small park in the Meadowthorpe neighborhood. Trees are planted around the perimeter of the park, composed primarily of oak, maple, and tulip poplar. With many newly planted saplings, the park shows good size and species diversity, but proper tree care will be necessary for maintaining this diversity and building a healthy, resilient tree canopy for years to come.

## Meadowthorpe 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). Meadowthorpe Park provides **5.5 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's **11th 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!

**24,372**

gallons of stormwater captured

**1,096**

ounces of pollution removed

**2,403**

pounds of carbon sequestered

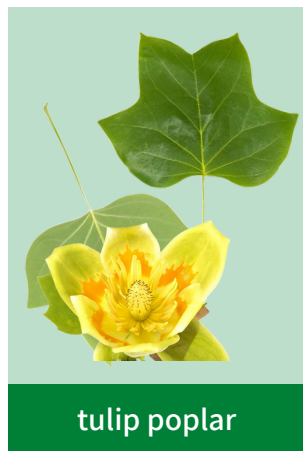
**\$579**

annual monetary benefits

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

## Most Common Species in Meadowthorpe Park\*

\*based on 119 trees inventoried in 2022.



tulip poplar



white pine



northern red oak



sugar maple



spruce

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 and [missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org).



## Considerations for Meadowthorpe Park

- Meadowthorpe 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 trees from mowers and weed wackers.
- With no one species representing more than 10% of the trees in the park, Meadowthorpe Park has **excellent species diversity**, **protecting the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Meadowthorpe 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 Meadowthorpe Park**. Most of the park's trees, such as northern red oak, are not vulnerable to these changes, but others, such as white pine, are more sensitive to changing climate, making the park **mildly vulnerable**.



## Managing for Climate Resilience in Meadowthorpe Park

- Continue to practice proper **tree care**, including **watering**, **pruning**, and **mulching** regularly. Take special care to prevent damage to trees by mowers and weed wackers. Visit this website to learn more about good tree care practices and resources: <https://tree-health.ca.uky.edu/tree-care>
- Continue to **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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