

Waverly Park

Lexington, Kentucky

64 trees
15 species



4244 Southmoor Park, Lexington, KY 40514

- Paved trails
- Bus stops for #13 & #58 within 2 miles of the park
- Nearby bike route

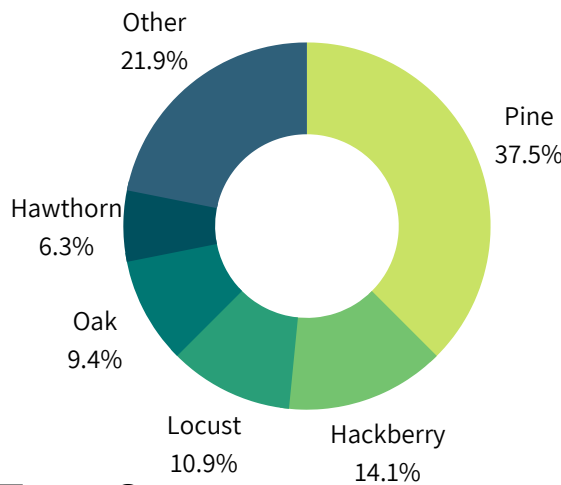
Background

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

About the Trees

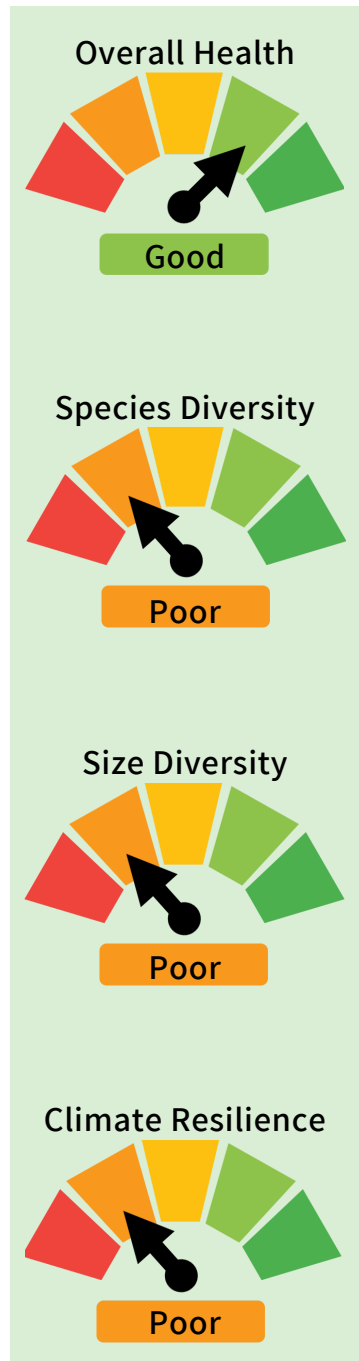
Waverly Park is a mid-sized park in the Wyndham Downs neighborhood featuring a forested area in the center of the park. Other trees are planted along the walking path, where the most common trees are pine, hackberry, and locust. The tree canopy is in good overall health, but would benefit from the planting of more young trees of underrepresented species.

Waverly 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). Waverly Park provides **11.1 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's **9th 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!

12,500

gallons of stormwater captured

1,671

ounces of pollution removed

2,511

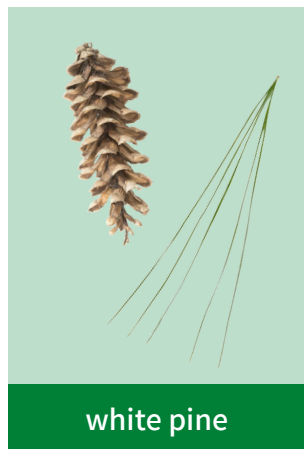
pounds of carbon sequestered

\$832

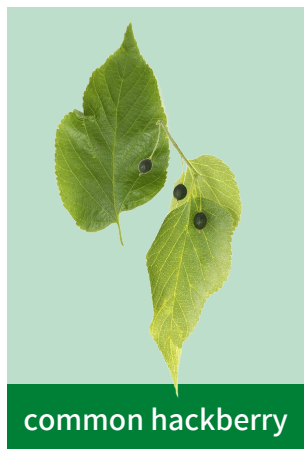
annual monetary benefits

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

Most Common Species in Waverly Park* *based on 64 trees inventoried in 2022.



white pine



common hackberry



black locust



white oak



white ash

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 Waverly Park

- Waverly 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**.
- With white pine representing more than 30% of the trees in the park, Waverly Park has **poor species diversity**, and could use **more diverse species** to **protect the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Waverly 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 **60% of trees in Waverly Park**. Many 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 **highly vulnerable**.
- Note that trees in the forested area in the center of the park were not inventoried.



Managing for Climate Resilience in Waverly 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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