

Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Occasional, mostly near Spring Creek.

Characteristics: Can reach 60 feet tall, 3 feet in diameter crown wide-spreading; bark in young trees grayish-brown and smooth, becoming darker with narrow ridges; flowers greenish yellow, small, in clusters, as leaves begin to unfold; fruit winged samaras up to 2 inches long, in pairs, in drooping clusters. Box elder is a maple and has typical maple seeds.

Leaves: Opposite, pinnately compound, 3-5 leaflets (rarely 7), 3-10 inches long, with coarse-toothed leaf margins; yellowish-green above, grayish-green below.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: A hardy, fast-growing tree. Wood is occasionally used for crates and boxes but is generally of little commercial value.