

Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Occasional. There are numbers of the huge trees along Spring Creek, but there are very few elsewhere in the park.

Characteristics: Reaches 100 feet in height, 6 feet in diameter; crown spreading or broadly rounded, with some drooping branches; bark in mature trees dark gray and furrowed, in young trees smooth and yellowish-gray; flowers catkins, appearing before leaves unfold; fruits are greenish capsules up to ¼ inch long, in clusters, which split open in May-June, releasing tufts of silky, white hairs.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; 4-9 inches long, firm, triangular-shaped, smooth shiny green above, paler below; edges uniformly toothed.



Location of tagged trees:



White-centered symbol indicates leaves are too high to be easily seen.

Notes: The wood is soft and lightweight and warps easily, but it does find use for crates, pallets, pulpwood, and some furniture. This is a remarkably fast-growing tree and dominates locations along water courses such as Spring Creek. It is not generally suitable for city landscaping because the moisture-seeking roots clog pipes and buckle sidewalks.