

Large-Toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Occasional. Mostly on bluff top in the northern part of the park.

Characteristics: Up to 80 feet tall, 1 ½ feet in diameter; crown rounded; bark smooth, olive to yellow-gray in young trees, becoming gray, shallowly fissured and broken up with age; flowers crowded groups of catkins about 5 inches long; fruits long, narrow, flask-shaped green capsules, grouped in elongated clusters, containing many seeds with cottony hairs attached.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; 2-5 inches long; dark green above, paler beneath (top leaves in photo had dropped from the tree). Mature leaves with 6-15 coarse, uneven, blunt teeth per side. Leaves of very young trees have very tiny teeth (lowest image in photo).



Location of tagged tree:



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

Notes: The tagged tree is part of a group of 6 or 8 similar-size trees. This species usually occurs in groups, often a result of propagating from suckers. Young trees normally start out in open, sunny areas, but they can survive and grow as the forest fills in around them. Such is likely the case at Spring Creek. The wood is light-weight and soft, but is still used commercially for lumber, veneer, and furniture.