

## Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Widespread, on bluffs, slopes, and in old fields.

Characteristics: Up to 80 feet tall, 3 feet in diameter; crown rounded, with rigid branches; bark thin, smooth, brown at first, becoming deeply furrowed and black; flowers white, about 1/2 inch across, in hanging clusters, May; fruit fleshy, juicy, spherical, dark purple, about 3/8 inch across, August-September.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; up to 6 inches long, finely toothed; deep green above, shiny, hairless, paler and smooth beneath.



Location of tagged trees:



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

Notes: Wood of medium density, strong, straight-grained, light reddish-brown. A prized timber species, for lumber, face veneer, furniture, flooring, cabinets, and other uses. All parts of the tree except the berry flesh contain hydrocyanic acid, a poison that has sickened cattle, and children have died from chewing on twigs.