

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

Origin: Native

Status in Park: Occasional. Most are on edges of old fields. Most are large trees.

Characteristics: Can reach 100 feet in height, 48 inches in diameter; crown broadly rounded, sometimes flat-topped, usually with drooping branches; bark grayish, with coarse, oblique ridges of corky scales; flowers greenish red, very small, in drooping clusters of 3 or 4, appearing before leaves unfold; fruits flat, winged, notched to top, about ½ inch across, each with one seed.

Leaves: Alternate, simple. Blades 4-6 inches long, thick, slightly rough above, abruptly pointed, with rounded asymmetrical bases; edges with sharp teeth; dark green above and smooth, paler and either smooth or soft hairy beneath.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: Wood is tough and flexible and is durable in water. It has many uses, including for boat frames, wharves, wheel hubs and spokes, and various handles. The wood is nearly odorless and has been used for crates and barrels for food.

American elms suffered from Dutch elm disease, especially between 1930 and 1960. The disease was caused by a fungus, which was carried by an introduced insect, the Smaller European Elm Bark Beetle. Millions of trees died although a population of these elms has persisted at Spring Creek. The introduction of disease-resistant varieties has helped preserve the species.