

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Occasional. Moist lowlands, near Spring Creek.

Characteristics: Reaching 80 feet in height, up to 5 feet in diameter; crown usually oblong, with many small branches; bark pale brown to silver gray, with wart-like bumps on irregular, corky ridges; flowers small, yellowish green, in drooping clusters; fruits dark purple, fleshy, round, about 1/3 inch in diameter.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades 2-6 inches long, broader at base and tapering to tip; edges with 15-40 coarse sharp teeth per side; bluish-green and rough above, paler beneath with hairy network of veins.



Location of tagged trees:



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

Notes: Wood has an attractive grain but is weak and has little commercial value. In April or May, as leaves expand, it has tiny, green, wind-pollinated flowers without petals. It generally produces good crops of reddish-purple berries about 1/4 inch in diameter in September or October. The berries are eaten by birds and small mammals.