

Hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Uncommon, moist, open woods, mostly on field edges in park.

Characteristics: Reaches 25 feet in height, up to 10 inches in diameter; crown widely spreading; bark brownish-gray, slightly scaly; flowers white, with five petals, about 1 inch across; fruits apple-like, spherical, red, about 1 inch in diameter.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades 1 ½ inches long, widest below middle; edges with sharp double teeth; dark green and hairless above and lightly hairy beneath.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: There are many Hawthorn species. Ours is probably Downy Hawthorn (*Crataegus pedicellata*). Wood is heavy, hard, of no commercial value. Branches have a few thorns. Flowers are about 1 inch across and appear in clusters in May. Fruits are bright red “haws” (like small apples, about 1/2 inch across) and mature in autumn.

In the past, all parts of the Hawthorn have been used medicinally, mostly for heart and circulatory problems.