

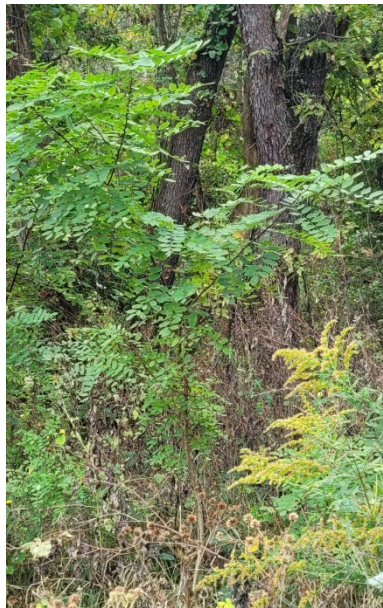
Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Origin: Native in extreme southeastern Illinois but has been introduced into our area years ago.

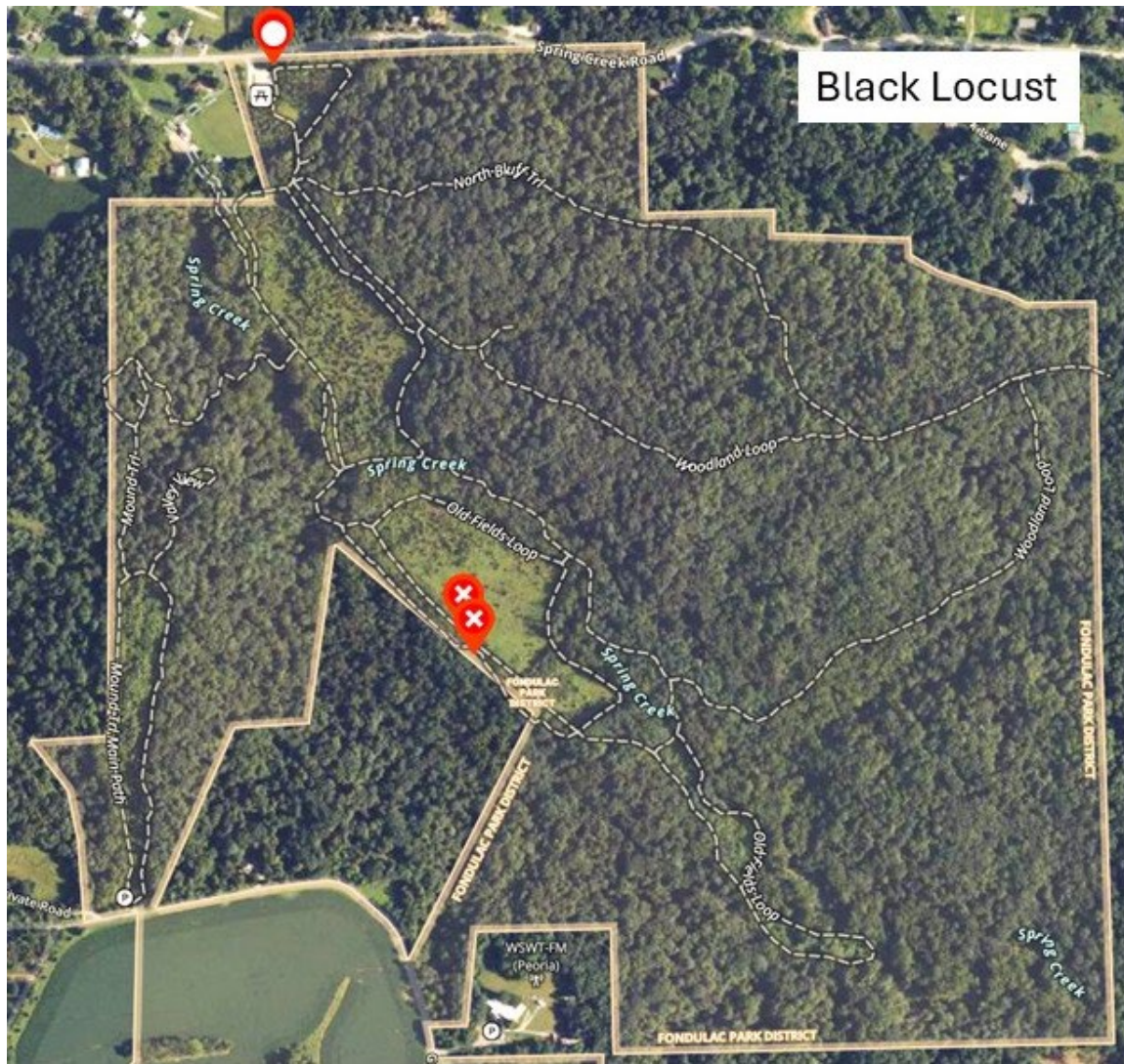
Status in Park: Widespread throughout park, common in forest and aggressively invades open areas; young tree pictured below..

Characteristics: Can become 80 feet tall and 2 ½ feet in diameter, crown narrowly oblong, with irregularly ascending or spreading branches; twigs have paired spines, about 1/2 inch long; bark dark brown, deeply furrowed; flowers white, about 1 inch long, in drooping clusters, fragrant, May-June; fruits pods about 4 inches long, reddish brown, each with 4-8 seeds.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, with 7-21 leaflets up to 2 inches long, edges smooth; dull green above and paler beneath, smooth.



Location of tagged trees:



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

Notes: The decay-resistant wood has been used for fence posts, railroad ties, stakes, and pilings. In earlier days it was used in ship-building.

It has become invasive in the open fields and efforts have been made to thin or remove it. Interestingly, the seeds fall into the forest as well as the open fields, but black locusts do not reproduce well in deep shade.