

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Origin: Native.

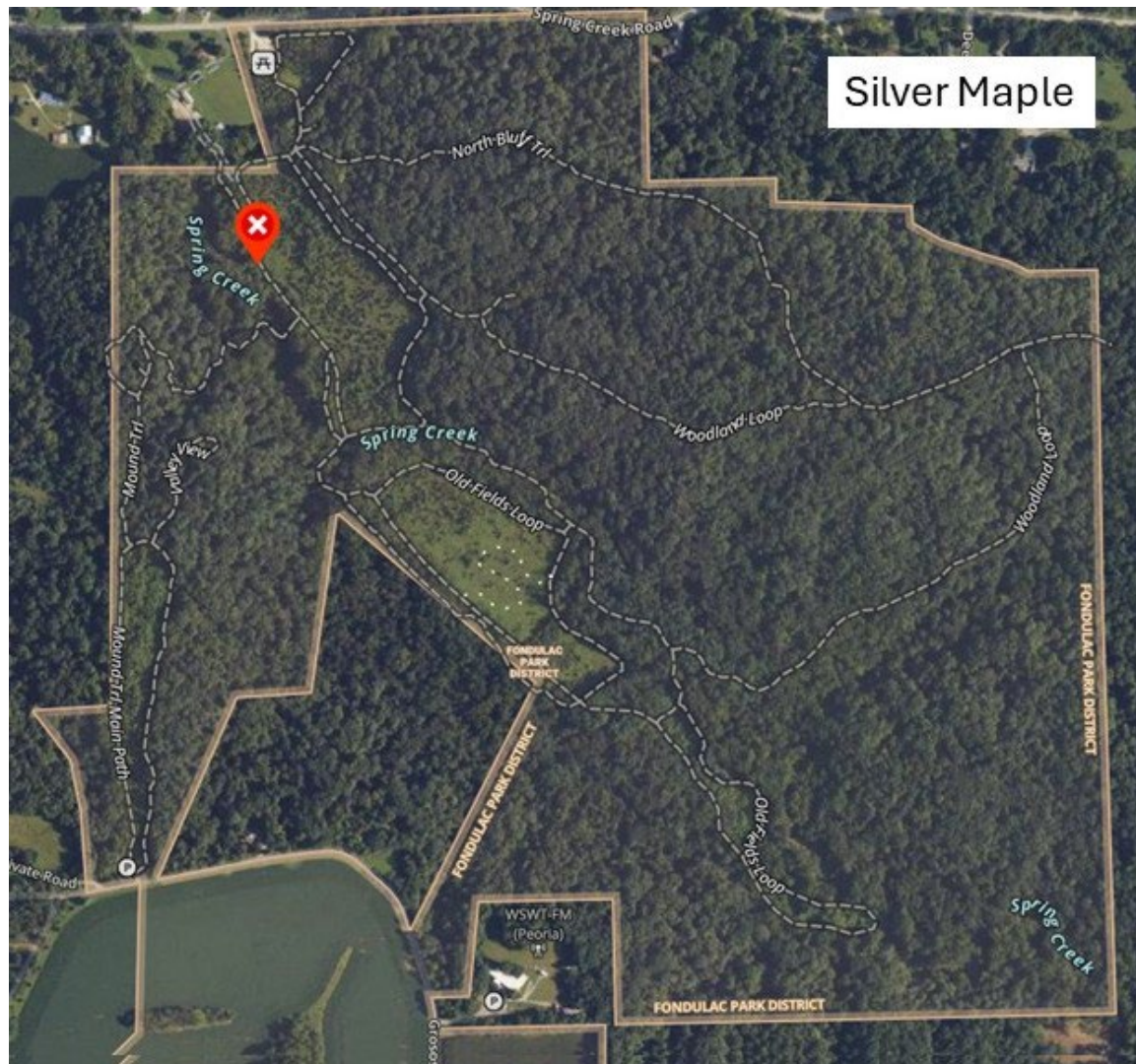
Status in Park: Rare in park, but generally common in this part of Illinois.

Characteristics: Large tree, up to 100 feet tall and up to 5 feet in diameter; crown usually broadly rounded; bark gray or silvery, smooth at first, becoming loose and scaly with age; twigs are slender, reddish-brown, smooth, often curving upward; flowers are either male or female but are usually borne on the same tree, tiny, without petals, in dense clusters, greenish yellow, opening in February and March; fruit winged samaras, often borne in pairs, samaras composed of a curved wing with a seed at the base, green or yellow, up to 3 inches long.

Leaves: Opposite, simple; blades up to 8 inches long and nearly as broad, deeply palmately 5-lobed; edges sharply toothed; pale green and smooth on the upper surface, silvery white and smooth on the undersurface; petioles smooth, up to 5 inches long.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: Wood moderately heavy, straight-grained, pale in color; used for lumber, veneer, furniture, cabinets. The sap is sometimes used for maple syrup.