

Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

Origin: Native in central and southern Illinois.

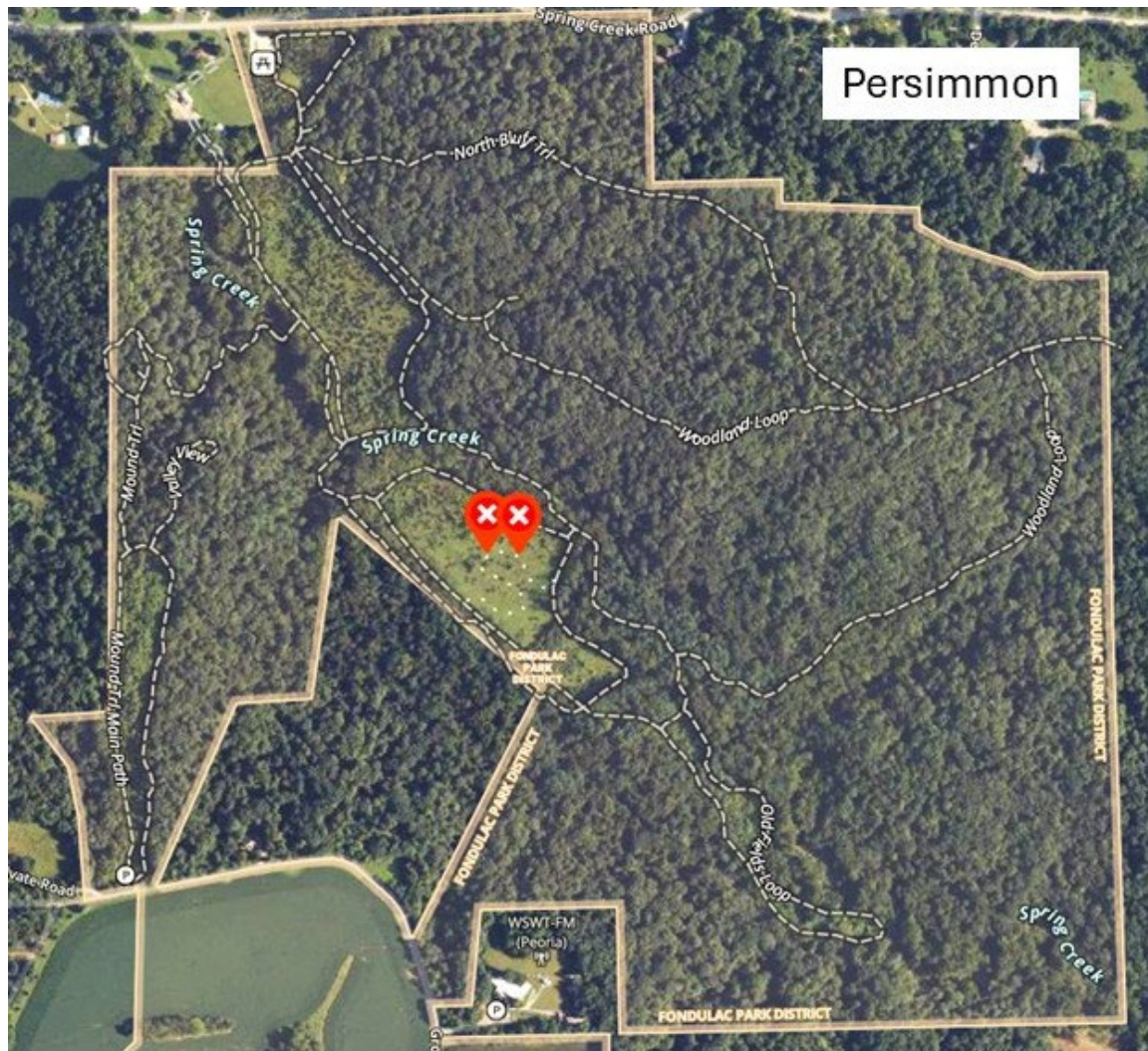
Status in Park: Absent until nursery trees planted along McGraw Tree Trail.

Characteristics: Medium-size tree, up to 80 feet tall and 2 feet in diameter; crown broad and rounded or flattened; bark dark gray to black, broken into squarish blocks when mature; twigs slender and brown; male and female flowers borne on separate trees; flowers of both sexes yellow-green, tubular with 4 lobes, up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, in May-June; fruit a berry, spherical, yellow-orange to orange, with a green calyx at its base, up to 2 inches long, edible and sweet when ripe.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades oval, rounded at base and narrowing at the tip; up to 5 inches long; smooth along the edges; dark green and smooth and shiny on the upper surface, paler and smooth below



Location of tagged trees:



Notes: Wood is hard and heavy, dark brown or black in color, used for lumber, furniture, and veneer.