

Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Rare. Several trees have been found in the park, but are far from trails and not easily seen by visitors. Three nursery trees were planted along the McGraw Tree Trail, allowing park visitors to see the species and learn about it.

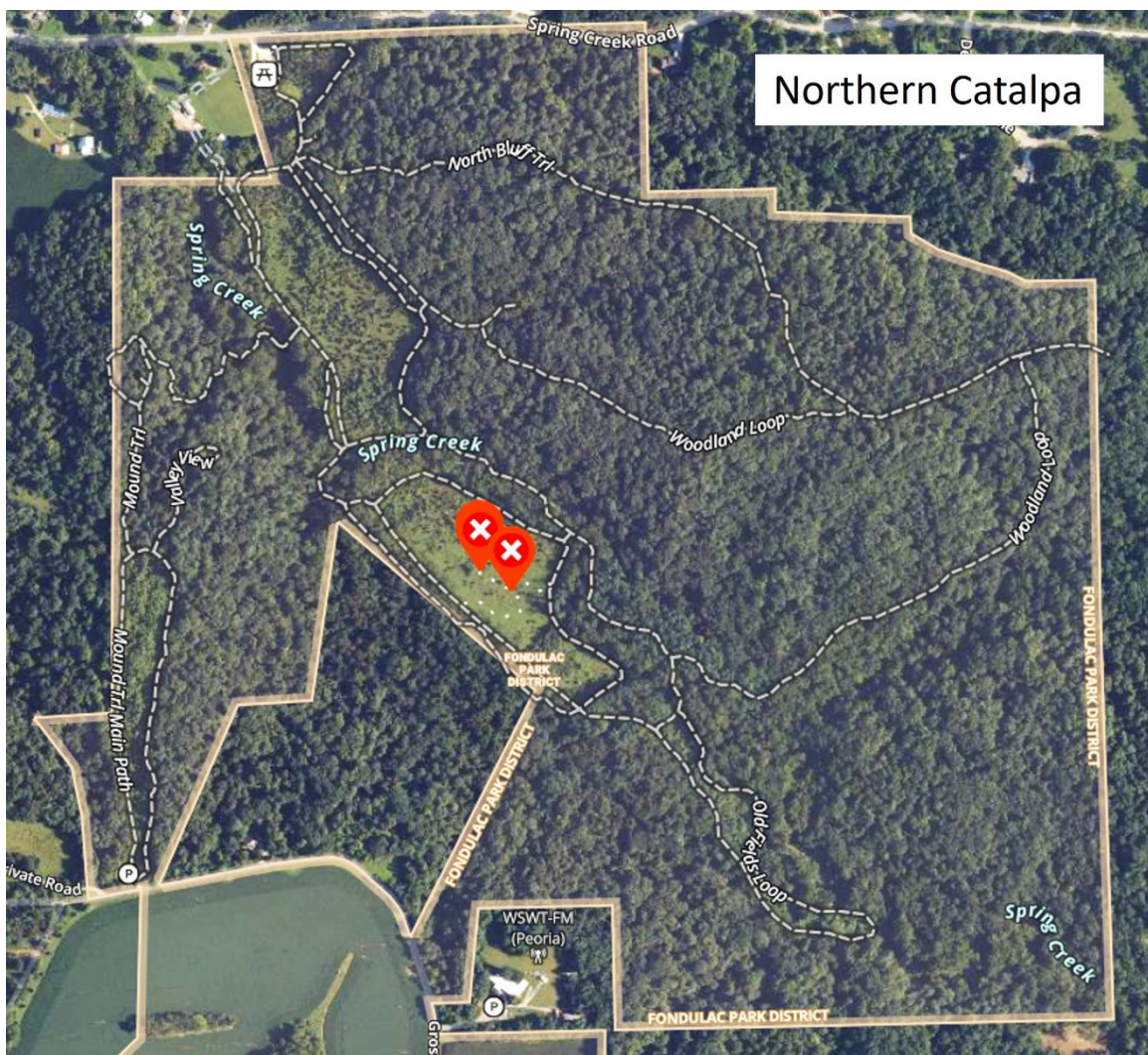
Characteristics: Medium-size tree, up to 80 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter; bark light brown, dark brown, or black, usually with rather deep furrows; twigs stout, smooth, and brown; flowers large, showy, several in an elongated cluster, clusters up to 6 inches long and individual flowers up to 2 ½ inches long, petals white and lined with purple; fruits are “Indian cigars”, beanlike, elongated, up to 18 inches long and ¾ inch thick, initially green but becoming brown; these split into two parts, releasing several winged, hairy seeds.

Leaves: Simple, whorled (several leaves emerging from one point on twig); up to 1 foot long and 2/3 as broad; sharply pointed at tip, heart-shaped at base; smooth along the edges, dark green and smooth or sparsely hairy on the upper surface, soft-hairy on the under surface; petioles stout, up to 6 inches long.





Location of tagged trees



Notes: The flowers of Northern Catalpa are visited by bumblebees, carpenter bees, and various moths.

Wood is light-weight and soft but straight-grained; used for interior finishing and other light-duty purposes.