

Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

Origin: Native in much of Illinois, except in the northeastern part of the state.

Status in Park: The species was not present in the park until it was planted along the McGraw Tree Trail.

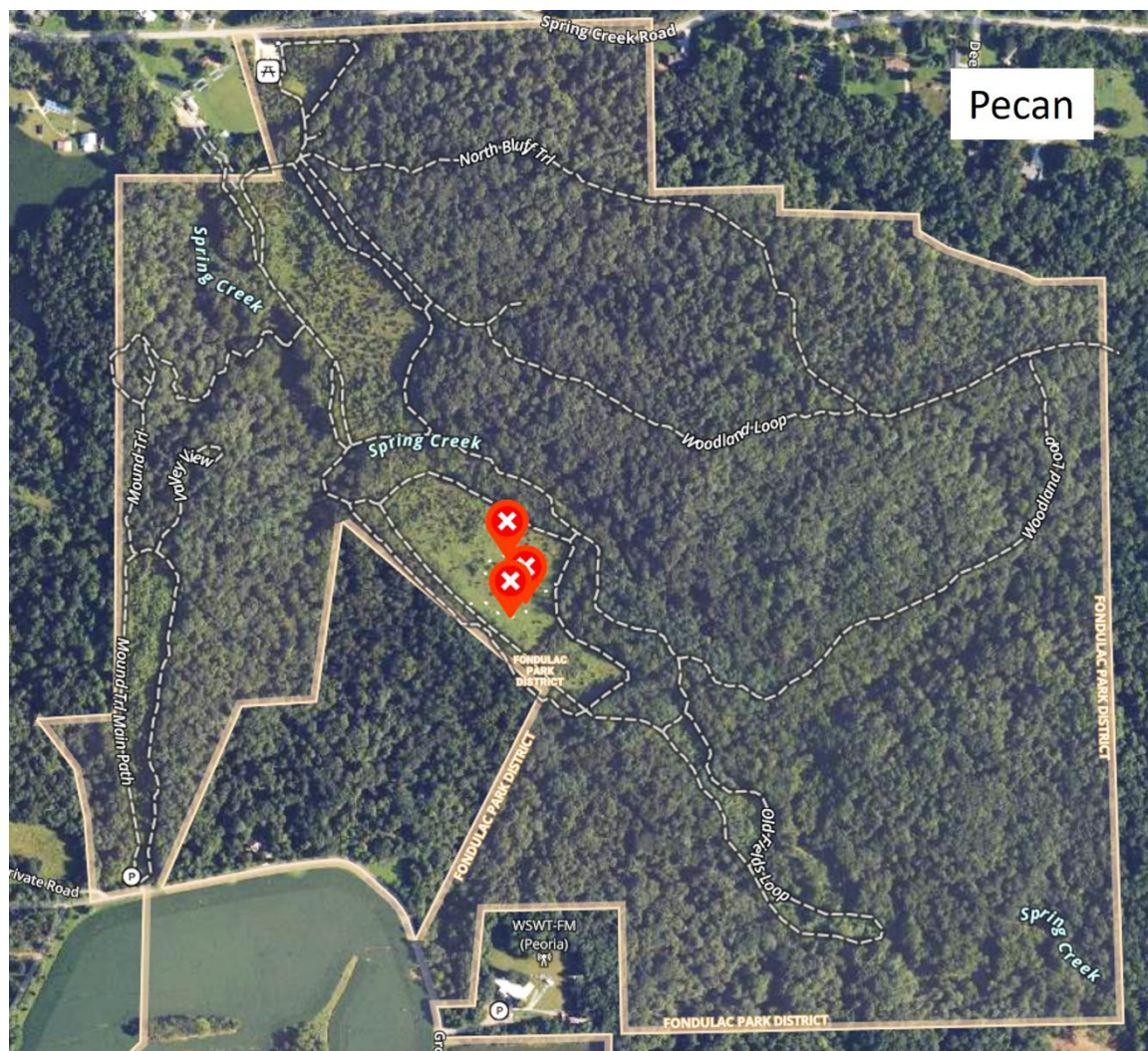
Characteristics: Large tree, up to 120 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter; crown widely spreading and rounded; trunk rather short, stout, and straight. Bark is reddish- or grayish-brown, becoming roughened into scaly plates with age. Twigs are rather stout, brown and hairy in young trees but become smooth later on. Flowers are either male or female, but both sexes are present on the same tree. Male flowers are in slender, drooping catkins; female flowers are in short spikes. All are yellowish-green in color and do not have petals; fruit a nut, ellipsoid, up to 2 inches long and 1 inch broad, reddish brown, with a thin shell, and enclosed in a dark brown husk with yellow scales.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, with 9-19 leaflets; leaflets lance-shaped, long-pointed at the tip, rounded at the base, and 3-8 inches long; finely double-toothed, yellow-green, and usually smooth on the upper surface; paler and either smooth or hairy underneath.





Location of tagged trees:



Notes: The nut meats are sweet and are often used in baking. The hard, heavy, coarse-grained wood is used for furniture, cabinets, flooring, and veneer.