

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Origin: Native to Asia, introduced in mid 1700's, sometimes planted now as an urban ornamental, has escaped into natural areas.

Status in Park: Common. The species is significantly invasive, and efforts are made to remove it wherever it is encountered.

Characteristics: Medium size tree, up to 75 feet tall and 2 feet in diameter; crown spreading and irregular; bark light brown to dark brown, slightly roughened; twigs stout and smooth, gray to light brown; flowers are either male or female but both are on the same tree, very small and yellow or green, in clusters, male flowers with unpleasant odor, June and July; fruit is a samara, with winged seeds in large clusters, yellow or orange, each fruit up to 2 inches long and with 1 seed.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, 10-30 inches long, with up to 41 leaflets; leaflets tapering to a sharp point and up to 6 inches long, usually with some teeth along edge; glossy dark green, paler beneath, unpleasant odor when crushed.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: No commercial value. Not recommended for planting because of its invasive nature. The trees have a broad root system and send up numerous suckers, which require a concerted effort to completely remove.