

Ecton Park

Lexington, Kentucky

165 trees
27 species



956 Turkey Foot Rd, Lexington, KY 40502

- Paved sidewalks
- Bus stops for #3 within 0.5 miles of the park
- Nearby bike route

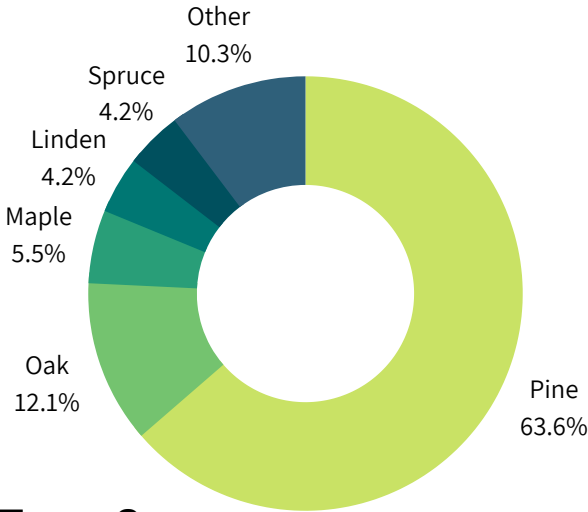
Background

In June 2022, the University of Kentucky Urban Forest Initiative (UFI) team mapped trees in Ecton Park as part of our Climate Adaptation Project. This is a summary of our findings.

About the Trees

Ecton Park is a small park in the Lansdowne-Shadeland neighborhood. Stands of white pine dominate nearly two thirds of the park's tree canopy. White pine is considered highly vulnerable to climate change, so a greater diversity of tree species are needed to improve the diversity and resiliency of Ecton Park's tree canopy.

Ecton Park Top 5 Tree Genera



Why Trees?

Urban forests are vital resources for **climate change mitigation** (the slowing down of climate change through carbon capture, emissions reduction, etc.) and **adaptation** (the ability of our cities to withstand the impacts of climate change). Ecton Park provides **11.4 acres of trees and greenspace** for the residents of Lexington's 5th District. As such, it is an important part of Lexington's urban forest, providing numerous **ecosystem services** to the city and helping to prepare Lexington for climate change.

Overall Health
Excellent

Species Diversity
Critical

Size Diversity
Fair

Climate Resilience
Critical

Annual tree benefits ... and growing!

102,012
gallons of stormwater captured

3,459
ounces of pollution removed

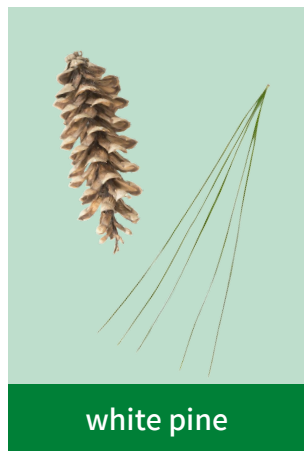
4,978
pounds of carbon sequestered

\$1,753
annual monetary benefits

Learn more about trees in your local park and what they do for you!

Most Common Species in Ecton Park*

*based on 165 trees inventoried in 2022.



white pine



Norway spruce



basswood



red maple



bur oak

Need help identifying trees? Try reaching out to your local extension agent! Many great resources can also be found at https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/tree_id. Photos courtesy of Janet James and missouribotanicalgarden.org.



Considerations for Ecton Park

- Ecton Park trees are in **excellent health**, providing many tree benefits to the community such as shade, cooling, and carbon sequestration. The **most common health issues** were **girdling roots** and **invasive plants** on trees.
- With white pine representing more than 60% of the trees in the park, Ecton Park has **poor species diversity**, and needs **more diverse species** to **protect the canopy** from species-specific pathogens and other threats.
- Ecton Park has **fair size diversity**, and it could benefit from **more small trees**, especially young trees of species capable of growing into larger sizes.
- As the **climate changes**, some tree species may no longer thrive here in Kentucky, including nearly **80% of trees in Ecton Park**. Most of the park's trees are white pine, which is highly sensitive to changing climate, making the park **highly vulnerable**.
- Note that fence row trees around the edge of the park were not inventoried.



Managing for Climate Resilience in Ecton Park

- Continue to practice proper **tree care**, including **watering**, **pruning**, and **mulching** regularly. Visit this website to learn more about good tree care practices and resources: <https://tree-health.ca.uky.edu/tree-care>
- Plant **diverse tree species** that can **grow to large tree sizes** to improve tree canopy **regeneration** and **resilience**. As older trees in the park inevitably die, younger trees will grow up to take their place.
- Plant **climate resilient tree species** in appropriate sites that can **meet the needs of that species** to build a tree canopy capable of **withstanding changing climate**. Check out the climate resilience of trees you are interested in planting using this website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/tool/climate-change-tree-atlas>