

LEXINGTON'S OFFICIAL TREE

Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee

January 23, 2018



LEXINGTON

Summary

- The LFUCG Tree Board has investigated the designation of a significant native tree species as Lexington's Official Tree.
- Similar municipal programs with official trees were reviewed.
- A public survey has been completed.
- The Tree Board is providing a recommendation for future Council action.



Purpose of an Official Tree Designation

- Provides awareness and “showcases” historic and significant trees in Lexington.
- Educates the public about the value of our native historic trees.
- Enhances Lexington’s designation as a Tree City USA.

America's Official National Tree

- 2004 – National Arbor Day Foundation - Oak



Kentucky's Official State and Heritage Trees

- Tulip poplar or yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)



Examples of “Official City Trees” from other communities

- Los Angeles, CA -- coral tree (*Erythrina caffra*)
- Savannah, GA – southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*)
- San Diego, CA -- Official Urban Tree -- Jacaranda
Official Native Tree – Torrey Pine



Lexington's native oak species

- bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
- chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
- Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

bur oak





chinkapin oak





Shumard oak





Public Asked To Vote (Fall 2017)

- Total votes 968 (online and paper ballots)
 - bur oak – 697
 - chinkapin oak – 173
 - Shumard oak -- 93
 - write-in's –5

Recommendation

- The Tree Board recommends Urban County Council adopt the bur oak – (*Quercus macrocarpa*) as Lexington's Official Tree





Questions