LEXINGTON'S OFFICIAL TREE

Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee January 23, 2018





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.



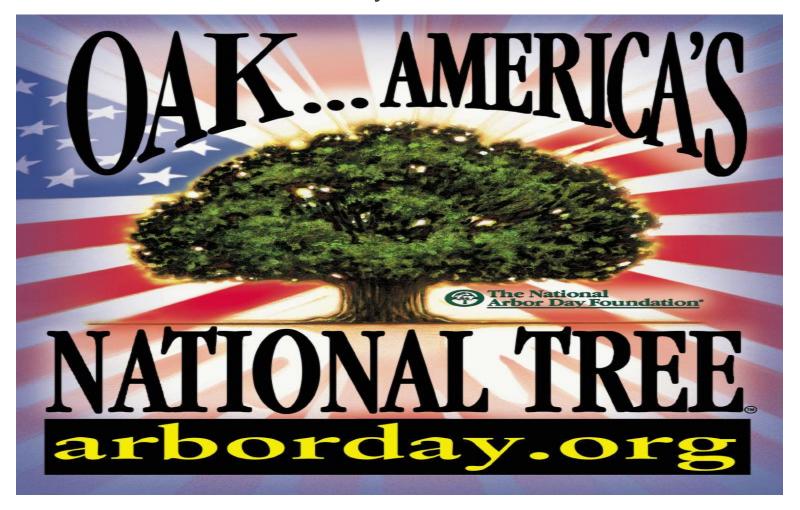
Purpose of an Official Tree Designation

- 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 tulipifiera)
- Kentucky coffeetree (Gymnocladus dioicus)







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

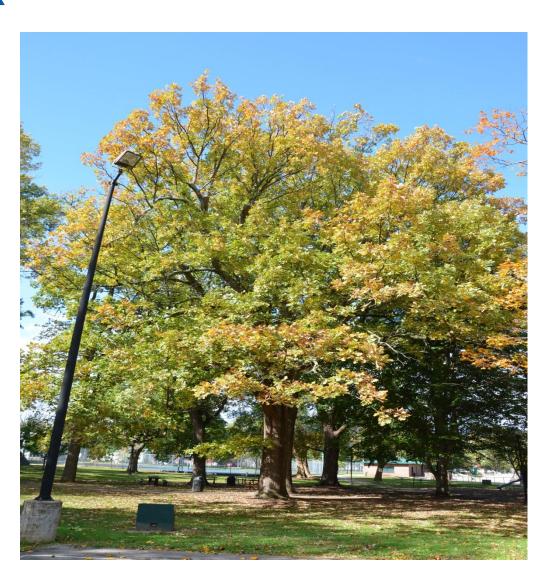


Lexington's native oak species

- 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