

# LEXINGTON'S OFFICIAL TREE

*Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee*

*January 23, 2018*



**LEXINGTON**



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## 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.



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## 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*)





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## 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



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## 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