

In 1991 the Village of Fayetteville established a Tree Commission to guide tree planting, selection, and maintenance. Commission members and other unpaid citizen volunteers also trim and tend street trees, old and new. The pruning of larger street trees is the responsibility of the Fayetteville Department of Public Works, which also plants the new trees. From 1991 to present, the village has planted nearly 1,000 new trees in public spaces.

Tree varieties chosen for planting have followed the current philosophy that calls for a variety of tree species so that trees planted together are less likely to be struck down by a single disease, such as Dutch Elm disease.

Each location for street trees is also studied so that trees planted will be appropriate in size and height and will avoid utility lines. Tree planting has been used to fill in and replace trees lost to storm, disease and age. The village's Labor Day storm in 1998 did particular damage in Fayetteville, not only taking down whole trees but topping off others.

Fayetteville's tree planting and maintenance program has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation with a "Tree City USA" designation since 2001.

Note on tree naming: the botanical names of plants are given in Latin. The genus or family name comes first (*Quercus* for oak, say, or *Acer* for maple) followed by the species name. Hence *Quercus alba* is the botanical name for white oak; *Acer saccharum* for sugar maple, while *Ulmus spp.* refers to multiple species of elm.



315.637.9864

Fayetteville, NY 13066

425 E. Genesee St.

Village of Fayetteville

supplied by Barbara S. Rivette, Village Historian.

This guide to Fayetteville's trees was produced in 2005 by the Fayetteville Tree Commission, with historical references

Historic Fayetteville Trees

A Walking Tour



For its first 100 years, the village of Fayetteville (chartered in 1844, though first settled around 1800) relied on the efforts of private citizens for its street trees. Residents went out into nearby woods, dug up native oaks, elms, and maples, and planted them along the village streets. They also put them in parks and cemeteries. Some of these early trees survive today in the older parts of the village

The **Pioneer Burial Ground (1)** on Genesee St. is Fayetteville's oldest landmark, with burials starting about 1800, many without markers. In the center is a mature horse chestnut tree (*Aesculus spp.*). This burial ground is cared for by the Town of Manlius.

Fayetteville Cemetery (2) along the Fayetteville-Manlius Rd. (NY 257) has 21 acres of magnificent trees and shrubs. Particularly noticeable are the mature oak trees (*Quercus spp.*) and large peegee hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora') with creamy flowers in August that later turn to bronze. **The three largest white oak trees** (*Quercus alba*)

(3), near the cemetery's toolhouse, were in place when the cemetery roads were laid out in 1863. Some of the hydrangeas may be part of the initial planting of more than 200 trees and shrubs by Samuel J. Wells, a cemetery trustee. His fruit farm, which supplied hotel tables as far away as Boston and New York City, occupied the surrounding land.

Wellwood Middle School (4) and Beard Memorial Park (5).

Wellwood Middle School, part of the Fayetteville-Manlius system, is located close to the foundation of the home of Samuel J. Wells. The land surrounding the house, now also occupied by Fayetteville Elementary School and homes on Franklin St., Wellwood Dr., and Concord Place, was used for grape, currant and raspberry cultivation. The pond in the center of Beard Memorial Park was once a reservoir for the Ledyard Dyke, a power canal completed in 1845. The reservoir allowed the dyke to maintain steady water power for the mills downstream.

Fayetteville's **oldest tree (6)** may be this white oak (*Quercus alba*) on the banks of the Ledyard Dyke behind Fayetteville Elementary School. At 78 feet tall, 100 feet across at the crown, and 18 1/2 feet in circumference, the white oak is thought to be more than 200 years old. It has been protected from many stresses because it is close to the F-M school campus and away from street traffic. This tree was designated a Bicentennial tree in 1976 (for having been alive in 1776, the year of American independence) and the Onondaga County Champion White Oak in 1993. The oldest tree, surrounded by younger oaks, is clearly visible from Fayette's rear parking lot, where visitors may park when school is not in session.

Washington Park (7) contains the remains of a double row of maples (*Acer spp.*) planted about 125 years ago. Many now have magnificent burls, round protrusions produced by rapid growth in reaction to perhaps a bug invasion or to cover branch scars. Young trees in a variety of species have been planted here by the village to replace these mature maples as they succumb to age. This is Fayetteville's oldest park, named to honor George Washington.

Grover Cleveland Park (8) contains 4 katusas (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) and 20 flowering crabapples (*Malus floribunda*)

planted here in 1994 by the village. When President Grover Cleveland visited Fayetteville, his boyhood home, in 1887, he spoke from a platform set up here.

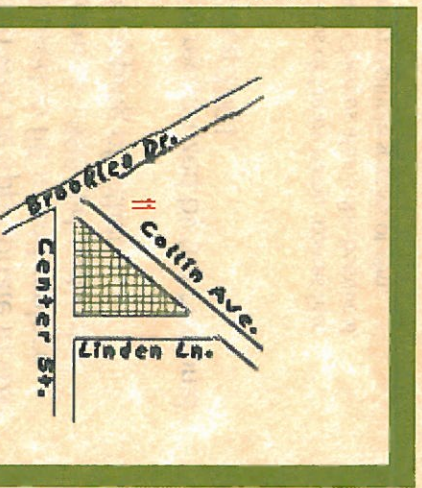
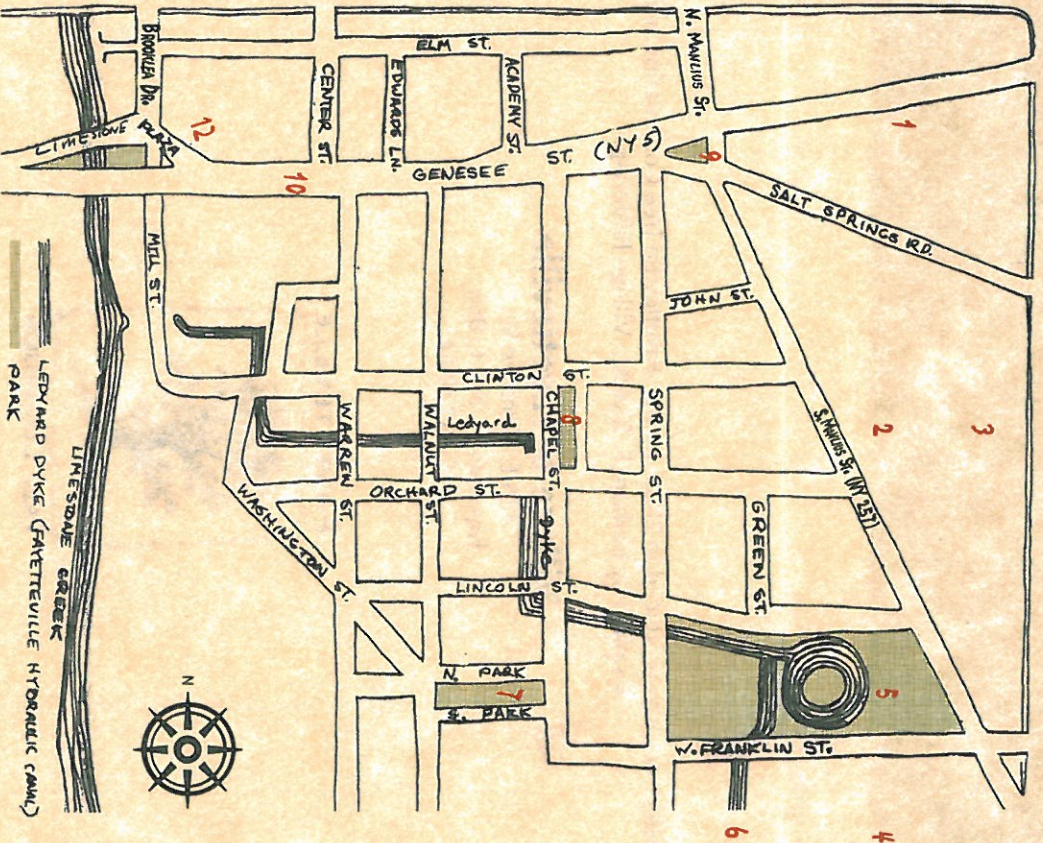
Veterans Park (9) was created in 1871 to fill the open space between Genesee St. (NY 5) and Salt Springs Rd. The centerpiece of the park's mature trees is a grafted elm tree near the west edge. Samuel J. Wells, local fruit grower, had the skill to successfully combine this European elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia*) with a sturdy native elm root to produce this tree that has survived the devastation of the Dutch Elm disease that swept through here in the 1960s. A

ring around the trunk, about four feet above the ground, marks the juncture between the root stock and the main trunk. One colorful village legend is that the tree is a maple and elm combination, accomplished to win a barroom bet. Not so.

The Genesee Street hill (10) between **Veterans Park (9)** and **Limestone Plaza (12)** was planted

with flowering trees, beginning in 1952, by the Fayetteville Garden Club, which includes village beautification in its mission. The initial planting was 37 trees -- pink flowering crabapple (*Malus spp.*), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*), Paul's Scarlet hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*) plus weeping willows (*Salix spp.*) on the Limestone Creek bank.

The Blacklocust tree (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (11)



at the junction of Center St., Collin Ave., and Brooklee Dr., is a very mature and taller-than-usual specimen that may be about 150 years old. It is about 80 feet tall and has a trunk 17 feet in circumference with dramatic ridges. Because of its creamy cascading flowers in the spring, it is sometimes called the "Silver Chain" or "Honey Flower" tree. Long before the surrounding houses were built, it was on the edge of the farm known as Oak Grove, owned by the Collin family, early settlers.