Tree Watertown Washington Street Arboretum

The Washington Street Arboretum was developed by Tree Watertown in 2001 as a way to show residents and visitors the unique variety of tree species that are located within the 200 Block of Washington Street. Over 30 different varieties and species of trees have been identified in this area. The various trees are shown on the accompanying map and are listed by botanical name and common name in the tree legend. The numbers in the tree legend on the map correspond to the numbers in this narrative and to the location of the tree. Located in front of each tree is a signpost that contains more information on that tree. The tour begins on the grounds of the Historical Society.

1. **Liriodendron tulipifera**, Tuliptree – The Tuliptree or Yellow Poplar is distinctive because of its unusually shaped leaf. The Tuliptree is one of the largest broad-leafed trees in the eastern United States and has a flower that looks similar to a tulip. Early pioneers used to hollow the trunks of these trees to make lightweight canoes. At maturity, the Tuliptree can attain a height of over 75'.

2. **Robinia pseudoacacia**, Black Locust – The Black Locust or Yellow Locust is a medium sized tree with an irregular open crown of upright branches. Growing to a height of over 50', the Black Locust has very fragrant white flowers in the spring and produces bean-like seeds. At one time, this tree was used for shipbuilding and is still sometimes used for fence posts.

3. **Fagus sylvatica 'pendula'**, Weeping European Beech – The Weeping European Beech is identifiable through its weeping form and distinctive leaf. Planted as an ornamental or specimen tree, the Weeping Beech is a horticultural variety of the European Beech.

4. **Quercus macrocarpa**, Bur Oak – The Bur Oak is known as the long-lived majestic oak tree. The tree is tolerant to urban conditions and adapts well to various soils. The leaves of the Bur Oak are 4 to 10 inches long with Autumn colors of yellow-green, yellow, and yellow-brown. The fruit of the Bur Oak is an acorn that ripens in the fall and is over half covered by a fringed cup.

5. **Tilia americana**, Basswood – The Basswood, or American Linden, is distinctive because of its large heart-shaped leaves. Sometimes called the Bee Tree, the Basswood produces small creamy white blossoms, which are very attractive to bees. Indians used to make ropes from the tough and fibrous inner bark of this tree, which can grow up to 70' tall in the forest.

6. **Catalpa speciosa**, Northern Catalpa – The Northern Catalpa is a rapidly growing tree with large heart-shaped leaves. The catalpa flowers are tubular, white, spotted with yellow and purple and bloom in showy clusters after the leaves have developed. Each flower produces an 8-20" long, brown, seed capsule giving this 50-70' tall tree its second name the Cigar Tree.

7. **Gledistsia triacanthos**, Honeylocust – The Honeylocust is native to central and south-central U.S. The Honeylocust is very thorny, has spreading branches, and usually a short trunk. The leaves of this tree are compound, 7-8" long, having an even number of 1-1.5" long leaflets. The Honeylocust grows inconspicuous flowers and long, flat, leathery seed pods 1-1.5' in length. Honeybees feed on the nectar from the flowers and cattle relish the seed pods and seedlings.

8. **Picea pungens 'glauca'**, Colorado Blue Spruce – The Colorado Blue Spruce is distinguished by its pyramidal shape and its unusual bluish or gray-green needles. The Blue Spruce can grow upwards of 75' and produces light brown pine cones 2"-4" long.

9. **Aesculus hippocastanum**, Common Horsechestnut – The Common Horsechestnut is a European native which has been planted extensively in North America as a shade tree and street tree. The tree gets its name from the shape of the leaf scar that looks like a horseshoe. The Common Horsechestnut produces beautiful white flowers in the Spring.

10. **Malus sp. 'Adirondack'**, Adirondack Flowering Crabapple – The Adirondack Flowering Crabapple's crimson buds open to crystalline white flowers with tints of red that densely clothe the strongly vertical form. The tree's red to orange fruits are one-half inch in diameter and last well into December.

11. **Tsuga canadensis**, Canadian Hemlock – The Canadian Hemlock is a coniferous tree that can grow as tall as 60' to 80'. Hemlocks reach maturity in 250-300 years and may live to be almost 1000 years old. This evergreen tree has flat needles with two silver bands on the underside.

12. **Juglans nigra**, Black Walnut – The Black Walnut is identifiable by the large black walnuts that form in the canopy of the tree. Commercially, this tree is very valuable as lumber and is used for making fine furniture. The nuts of the Black Walnut are edible, but are quite hard to get to because of the thick hard shell that is protecting it.

13. **Fagus purpurea**, Copper Beech – The Copper Beech is a variety of the European Beech and is distinctive because of its smooth pale gray bark, as well as its purplish leaves. Beech trees produce edible beechnuts, which are readily consumed by wildlife and sometimes used to feed farm animals. While it can be pruned and clipped into arbors and hedges, the typical height of a Copper Beech is well over 70'.

14. **Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'**, Red Sunset Maple – The Red Sunset Maple is a variety of the Red Maple. Although it is called a Red Sunset Maple the leaves on this particular tree are green during the growing season. The Red Sunset Maple has ruby red blossoms and reddish fruits in early summer. In the fall, the leaves turn a very beautiful red and the twigs and buds have a reddish color throughout the winter. The Red Sunset Maple can grow 50'-60' tall.

15. **Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Summit'**, Summit Green Ash – The Summit Ash is a horticultural variety of the Green Ash selected for its straight trunk, upright form, and golden yellow fall color. These trees, along with the Red Sunset Maples (No. 14) and the Glenleven Littleleaf Lindens (No. 16) were planted in the Spring of 1998, following the ice storm. The trees were purchased through the cooperative effort of the City of Watertown and several Washington Street businesses, including the Watertown Daily Times and Community Bank.

16. **Tilia cordata 'Glenleven'**, Glenleven Littleleaf Linden – The Glenleven Linden is a variety of the Littleleaf Linden. The Glenleven Linden is selected for its broad columnar form, as well as its cold hardiness. At maturity, the Glenleven Littleleaf Linden can reach heights of over 60'.

17. **Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'**, Crimson King Maple – The Crimson King Maple is distinguishable by its large crimson red leaves. Often mistakenly referred to as a Red Maple, the Crimson King Maple is a variety of a Norway Maple selected and planted for its red color. The large dark colored leaves produce a dense shade as the tree reaches its mature height of 40'-50'.

18. **Ginkgo biloba**, Ginkgo – The Ginkgo is one of the oldest trees known to man. Probably eliminated in North America by the glaciers, the Ginkgo persisted in China and was exported to England in 1754 and to the United States 30 years later. The Gingko has an attractive and unusual fan-shaped leaf and in perfect conditions can grow well over 150' tall. This particular tree is a female Ginkgo, which produces a 1" long plum-like, orange- yellow fruit that has a very strong odor. The male variety of this tree is more commonly planted today to avoid the mess and odor from the fruits from the females.

19. **Acer saccharum**, Sugar Maple – The Sugar Maple is perhaps one of the most widely planted and well known trees in the north country. A very beautiful tree in the Fall with its bright orange, red and yellow color, the Sugar Maple is also very valuable commercially. Not only is the wood used for lumber, the sap from the Sugar Maple is tapped and then boiled down to make maple syrup. The Sugar Maple, however, is not as tolerant of urban conditions as some of the other trees on the tour, and tend to decline at an earlier age than if they were planted in the forest or in the country.

20. **Quercus robur**, English Oak – The English Oak tree planted here in front of the Flower Memorial Library was a tree that was planted as part of an Arbor Day Ceremony by Tree Watertown in 1998. The English Oak is not typically found this far north as it is somewhat limited by the colder weather conditions. However, in the downtown area, temperatures can remain slightly more moderate than in some of the outlying areas allowing the planting of a wider variety of species. Other trees typically not found in Zone 4 (that is Watertown's cold hardiness zone) include the Tuliptree, the Magnolia, and Katsura tree.

21. **Aesculus glabra**, Ohio Buckeye – The Ohio Buckeye is distinguishable by its leaves, as well as its nuts that mature during the Summer months. The spiny nuts are said to be poisonous to humans, cattle, horses and other wildlife.

22. **Magnolia x soulangiana**, Saucer Magnolia – The Saucer Magnolia is a small ornamental tree, usually having multiple trunks and a wide spreading crown. This popular magnolia has beautiful Spring flowers and is a hybrid of two Chinese Magnolia species. One of the first trees to blossom in the Spring, the Magnolia, while somewhat limited in hardiness in this area, can be found throughout Watertown in various protected sites.

23. **Amelanchier x grandiflora**, Serviceberry – The six Serviceberry trees that line the entrance walk to City Hall can come in both a shrub form, as seen here, or a tree form with a single trunk. These Serviceberry trees have white flowers, which bloom very early in the Spring. The fruit that develops is readily consumed by birds and is edible by humans.

24. **Quercus rubra**, Red Oak – This Red Oak tree was also planted in 1994 and is a large shade tree. The ends of the Red Oak leaves are pointed and are green throughout the growing season until they turn a reddish brown color in the Fall. The Red Oak produces a bitter tasting acorn that is sometimes passed over by squirrels and other animals. This particular tree is very tolerant of urban conditions and can be found throughout Watertown.

25. **Picea pungens**, Colorado Spruce – The Colorado Spruce is nearly identical to the Colorado Blue Spruce, except for its darker green color. Both the Colorado Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce have been planted throughout the United States and can live in some areas as long as 400-600 years.

26. **Malus sp. 'Red Jade'**, Red Jade Crabapple – The Red Jade Crabapple is a Crabapple variety that is selected for its white flowers and weeping form. Planted as a specimen at this site, the Red Jade Crabapple stands out with its white flowers against the dark green and blue background of the nearby Spruce trees. In the wintertime, the Red Jade Crabapple has small bright red crabapples that persist into Winter.

27. **Cercidiphyllum japonicum**, Katsura Tree – The Katsura Tree has small heart-shaped leaves and produces a fruit that looks like a small bunch of bananas. The Katsura Tree has an upright shape and can grow as tall as 50'. In the Fall, the leaves turn yellow and the dried leaves have a caramel or cotton candy scent.

28. **Gymnocladus dioicus**, Kentucky Coffeetree – The Kentucky Coffeetree is an unusually shaped tree when it is young, but develops into a stately tree as it matures. Often very late to leaf out in the Spring, the Coffeetree produces flat reddish brown seed pods that can cling to the tree for most of the Winter.

29. **Betulus papyrifera**, Paper Birch – The Paper Birch is a small to medium sized tree, which is distinguished by its gleaming white bark. Often planted as an ornamental or specimen tree, the Paper Birch was used by Native Americans to build canoes and tepees.

30. **Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'**, Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac – The Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac grows best in full sun and well-drained soil. This tree lilac is drought-resistant and grows up to 25' with a 15-20' spread. Its off-white clusters of flowers cover the tree in June – later than most lilacs.