

MAIN STREET PARK ARBORETUM

For over two hundred years Main Street Park has been a focal point of Rutland's history.

Used at times as a prison and at other times as a departure point for area residents heading off to the Civil War, the Park has figured prominently in the lives of many Vermonters.

The Park now hosts a collection of trees planted over the years by residents and later by Rutland's first City Forester, David A Richards. Over forty different species of trees are included in the Arboretum.

Utilizing the new technologies of computer Geographic Information Systems, the City of Rutland proudly offers this self-guided tour map for the enjoyment of all who can appreciate the history, beauty, and magnificence of our Park and its stately treasures.

Future annual plantings of additional tree species will continue to add interest and diversity to an already impressive listing of trees and shrubs and will serve to continue the efforts of making Main Street park an interesting and enjoyable jewel in the heart of Rutland.

MAIN STREET PARK

Many New England towns had a village Common which was used as a public gathering place, or in early days sometimes for pasturing animals. Rutland was no exception. Although it is presently known as Main Street Park, in the past the common or Green went by the name of Federal or Court Square due to its proximity of the Courthouse. At an unknown date a framed and clapboard schoolhouse was erected at the northeast corner, but it burned about 1785, several years before the land became known as the Common.

According to historian James D Butler, the tract which later served as the Green was cleared by Eleazer Wheelock for Obadiah Wheeler. Wheelock received a yoke of two-year-old steers as payment. Prior to that time it was a Hemlock swamp.

Judge Samuel Williams, who became known as the father of the village due to his many civic efforts, was instrumental in acquiring the land. In January 1790 Thomas Hale sold about four acres to be used for the "exclusive purpose of a Publick Green or Common, ever to be kept open for that purpose." It was deeded to Judge Williams and others for ten pounds. This southern section was thereafter used as a parade ground for militia exercises. A few days later Nathan Osgood sold the inhabitants another acre priced at eighteen pounds. The stipulation of this transfer was that all buildings, timber and fencing were to be removed by June 1790. This acre comprises the northeast section of the park, the land that Hale deeded lies to the south and west of this acre.

At that time Nathan Osgood owned a store situated on the Green. Since all buildings were to be removed, he sold it to John McCarter who moved it to its present location at 26 West Street. The frame of the building which later became known as the American House also stood on the Green. It was moved across the road to the north side of West Street. A cottage which was built by Barzillai Dewey, was moved from the southern section of the Green to the northeast corner of South Main Street and Killington Avenue.

An editorial published in the 8 June 1830 Rutland Herald deplored the condition of the Village green. Evidently the town was in the process of upgrading the park, but the work was at a standstill.

"Permit me to enquire of my fellow citizens, through the medium of your paper, whether it is designed further to prosecute the contemplated improvement of the common in our village, or suffer what has already been expended upon it to become a loss. I was much pleased with the plan when it was first suggested to me, and expected soon to have seen this valuable portion of our village surrounded by a genteel circular railing, and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. In this way, what is now the repository of lumber and filth, might easily be made the most interesting portion of our village. If attended to now, a great portion of the labor is already expended, but if suffered to remain long in its present condition, the whole will remain to be done hereafter."

Perhaps the article had the desired effect for soon after improvements were made. In 1840 Miss Anne Hall, who resided on Court Square, drew a view of the village showing the Common. She was awarded a special premium of one dollar for this drawing at the 1849 Rutland County Fair. The scene depicts the Green encircled by a fence with four gates, shade trees, a water pump at the corner of Main Street and Court Square and a sign at the northeast corner of the park. In early days this last mentioned corner was the site of the stocks and whipping post, where people were punished for their crimes.

Washington Street and Center Street were laid through the park in 1849 and 1856 respectively. In 1858 the Village Corporation voted to fence in the entire area. In July 1860 it was reported that a crop of corn which had been planted in the southern section was doing well. That summer the bandstand was erected in the park across from the Franklin House.

The white fence and the water pump have been removed but through the years various monuments have been added. The most prominent is the Green Mountain Boy who serves as a reminder of the days when that hearty band protected the frontier. Frozen in time, this bronze soldier has remained behind to stand silent sentry over the village.

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NICHOLS ST

WEST ST

TERRILL ST

MANSFIELD PL

COURT SQ

- 1 Norway Maple Crimson King
- 2 Honey Locust
- 3 Red Maple
- 4 Red Maple
- 5 Red Maple
- 7 Flowering Crabapple
- 8 Red Oak
- 9 Flowering Crabapple
- 12 Black Tupelo
- 13 Red Maple
- 14 Red Maple
- 15 Silver Maple
- 22 Red Oak
- 24 Red Maple
- 25 Red Maple
- 26 Flowering Crabapple
- 27 Norway Maple Crimson King
- 28 Mountain Ash Cluster
- 30 Ruby Red Horse Chestnut
- 31 Norway Maple Crimson King
- 35 Horse Chestnut
- 37 Silver Linden
- 38 Sugar Maple

- 143 Red Maple
- 144 Gray Birch
- 145 Flowering Crabapple
- 146 Red Maple
- 147 Star Magnolia
- 148 Flowering Crabapple
- 149 Catalpa
- 150 Catalpa

EAST CENTER ST

CENTER ST

- A GAR by Women's Relief Corps
- B Ten Commandments
- C Green Mountain Boy
- D WW I Veterans Memorial
- E Maj. Gen. Merritt A Edson
- F GAR by Dau of Union Vets
- G Col. David L. Morgan
- H Clarence Edwards
- I Viet Nam Veterans
- J David Richards

- 224 Flowering Crabapple
- 225 Washington Hawthorne
- 226 Ginkgo
- 229 Hawthorne
- 230 Freeman Maple
- 231 Tulip Poplar
- 232 Kwanzan Cherry
- 234 Little Leaf Linden
- 235 White Ash
- 236 Ruby Red Horse Chestnut
- 238 Flowering Crabapple
- 241 Oak Leaf Mountain Ash
- 242 Hackberry
- 243 Norway Maple Crimson King
- 244 Sugar Maple
- 245 Honey Locust
- 246 Sycamore
- 247 Marshall Ash

NICK WACKETT ST

EAST WASHINGTON ST

WASHINGTON ST

- 321 Marshall Ash
- 324 Red Oak
- 325 Kentucky Coffee Tree
- 326 Little Leaf Linden
- 327 Flowering Crabapple
- 328 Honey Locust
- 329 Zelkova
- 330 Japanese Tree Lilac
- 331 Sugar Maple
- 332 Princeton Elm
- 333 Silver Linden
- 334 Callery Pear
- 335 Red Oak
- 336 Flowering Crabapple
- 337 Flowering Crabapple
- 338 Flowering Crabapple
- 339 Flowering Crabapple
- 340 Bur Oak
- 341 Flowering Crabapple
- 342 Chestnut Oak
- 343 Slippery Elm
- 344 Flowering Crabapple
- 345 River Birch
- 346 Weeping Cherry
- 347 American Chestnut
- 348 Honey Locust
- 349 Black Walnut
- 350 Norway Maple

SOUTH MAIN ST

SPELLMAN TERR

PLEASANT ST

**Main Street Arboretum
Rutland, Vermont**



Map by jmp
Rutland City GIS

MADISON ST