

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Tompkins County

# Tompkins County Community Beautification Program



**Providing beauty, habitat and ecosystem services, placemaking, wayfinding, and opportunities for increased volunteer involvement throughout the entirety of the county.**

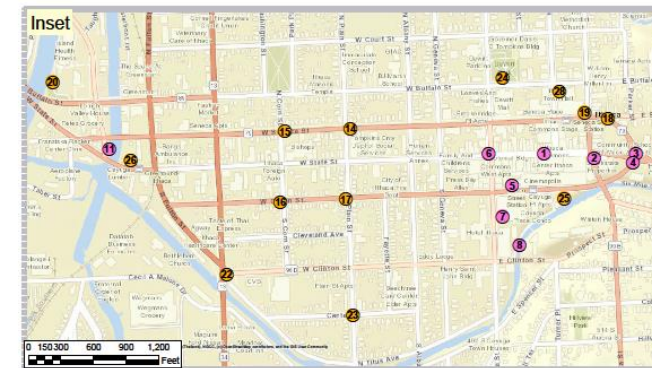
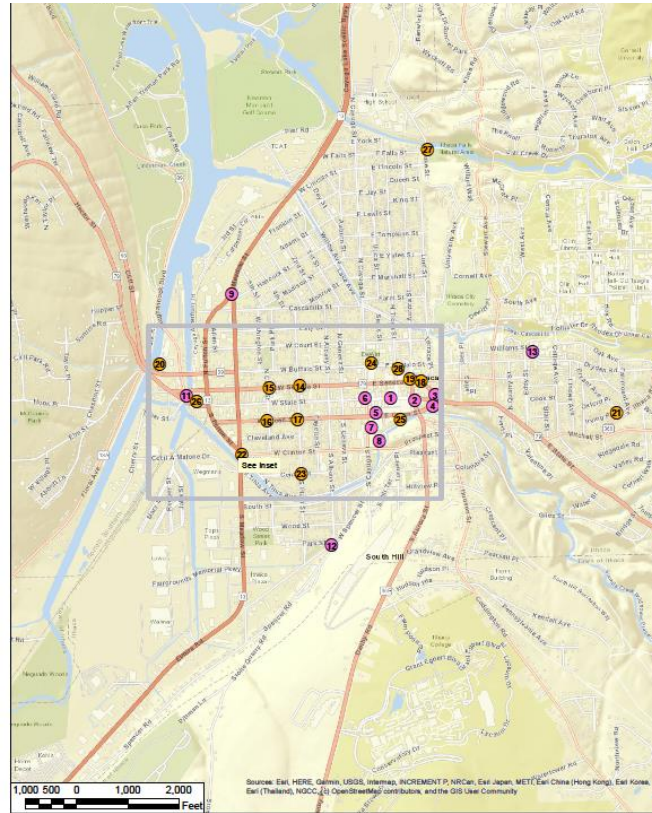


# Community Beautification by the Numbers

- Serving Tompkins County for **21** years
- Care for **28** areas
- Plant thousands of plants each year
- More than **100** volunteers
- Donated **over 700** hours



# 2023 Beautification Plantings



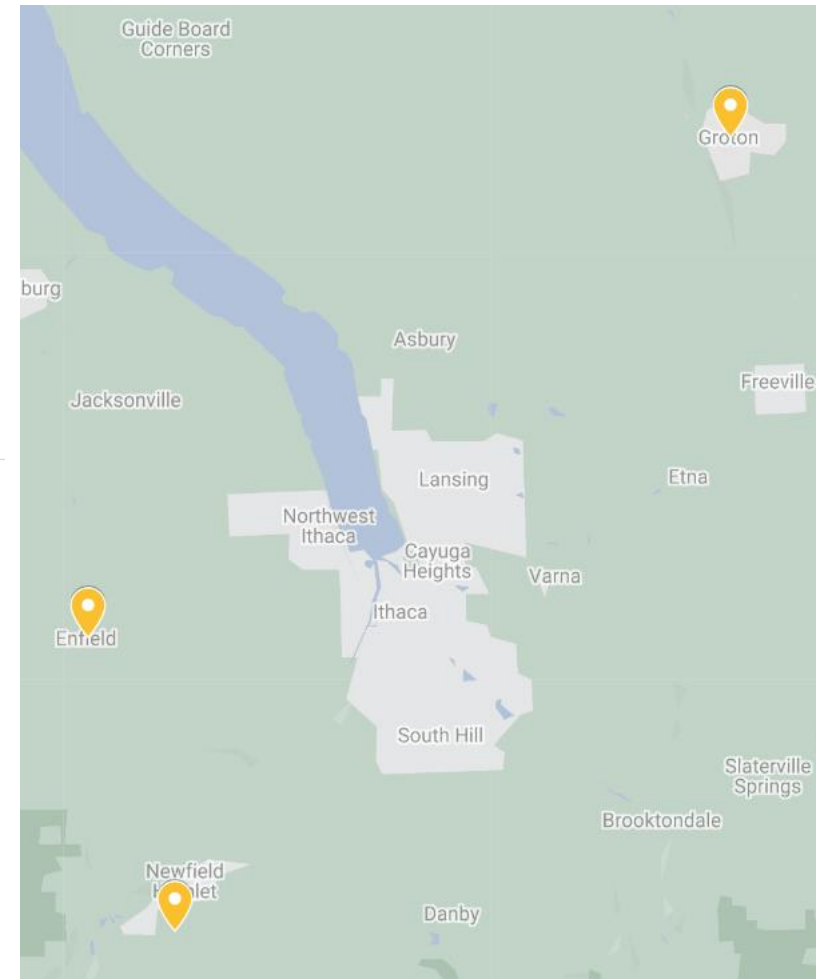
## Primary Plantings

- 1 The Ithaca Commons
- 2 Aurora St Triangle
- 3 Zelkova Triangle
- 4 Sign Triangle
- 5 City Hall
- 6 Cayuga/West State St Planters
- 7 Tompkins County Public Library
- 8 Creek Walk
- 9 Purity Point
- 10 Stewart Park
- 11 Van Horn Park
- 12 The Rotary
- 13 Dryden Rd/People's Park

## Secondary Plantings

- 14 Seneca/Plain St Bump-out
- 15 Seneca/Corn St Bump-out
- 16 Green/Corn St Bump-out
- 17 Green/Plain St Bump-out
- 18 Seneca Point
- 19 Rainshadow
- 20 Brindley Park
- 21 Bryant Park
- 22 Clinton St
- 23 Plain and Center St Rotary
- 24 Dewitt Park Sidewalk Strips
- 25 Tompkins County Mental Health
- 26 Pedestrian Refuge
- 27 Ithaca Falls
- 28 Town Hall

# Rural Grant Awardees



# What's new in 2023?

- New Staff
  - Marissa Nolan, Horticulture Team Lead
  - Biagio Abbatiello, Beautification Assistant
- Ithaca Falls planting area redesigned and replanted and is doing very well!
- Containers on W. State/Cayuga St. got a facelift. Some were rebuilt with funds/work from city and DIA.
- “Triangles” plantings are mapped, signs were reinstalled, and QR codes are active!



**Before...**

**...After!**





- Added native species
- Increased biodiversity
- Flowering shrubs and perennials are attractive to pollinators
- City Forestry purchased the plants, Beautification purchased compost and mulch
- Forestry crew cuts down tall weeds behind fence to maintain water view.

Beautification Brigade



# Aurora St. Triangle

Planted and maintained by the  
Tompkins County Community  
Beautification Program



Scan this QR code with  
your phone's camera  
to see an illustrated  
planting plan and learn  
about each plant!



Supported by the Tompkins County Tourism Program  
*Learn more at [cctompkins.org/beautification](http://cctompkins.org/beautification)*

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Beautification Brigade



## Sign Triangle Planting

Planted and maintained by the  
Tompkins County Community  
Beautification Program



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Learn more at [cctompkins.org/beautification](http://cctompkins.org/beautification)

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# Beautification Year in Review

- Evaluate prior year successes/challenges
- Rural Grant prep and administration
- Preparation of educational materials about our plantings- plant fact sheets, etc.
- Make planting plans
- Order seeds and equipment
- Arrange greenhouse space (Cornell or other)
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Garden work throughout the season
- Volunteer Appreciation Event



# CHALLENGES

- Water
- Animals (mainly groundhogs and deer)
- Tough locations, traffic, noise
- Construction
- Vehicles
- Garbage
- Camping in the gardens

# CAN'T DO THIS ALONE - PARTNERS OTHER THAN TOURISM

- VOLUNTEERS!
- City Forestry
- Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA)
- Rotary Club (annual grant)
- Harold and Sabrina Mills- Water Usage at Rotary
- Early Bird Farm (plants and cleanup space)
- Moore's Tree Farm (winter greens)
- Bottle & Can Retrieval Centers (Lansing and Ithaca)-ongoing fundraiser
- Larry Hershberger and Saoirse McClory (canna storage)
- Friends of Stewart Park

Questions?

Thank you!

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