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# FRANKLIN SYCAMORE

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Located in front of 404 Franklin Street in Buffalo, NY, this Sycamore tree is thought to be the oldest tree in the city. Read about it inside!



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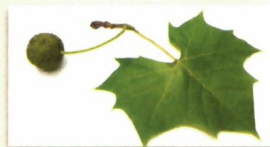
Our services include...

\*insect and disease treatments  
-spray, fertilize, inject.

\*pruning and removal

\*stump grinding

\*consulting



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# THE SISTER

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Across the street (behind the chimney in the picture) is the “sister” Sycamore tree. This tree is roughly the same age and size. Before the settlers arrived, before the city of Buffalo, these two trees grew along the banks of a stream that is now buried 65 feet below the street. Sycamore trees are known survivors. On my frequent trips down south I’ve noticed many large Sycamore growing in ditches along the highway. Water required!

THE TREE DOCTOR  
4752 Shisler Rd., Clarence, NY  
(716) 759-1138  
[www.treedoctorconsulting.com](http://www.treedoctorconsulting.com)

# HOW TREES GET OLD AND BIG

How is it this tree has survived for nearly three centuries? To get old trees need a lot of luck and water. With growth in trees, the sky's the limit. They can live (almost) forever. A tree will stop getting taller but growth continues as the tree gets wider, like a bodybuilder putting on extra muscle. Trees often "retrench" and get shorter: the top dies back to support new trunk width.

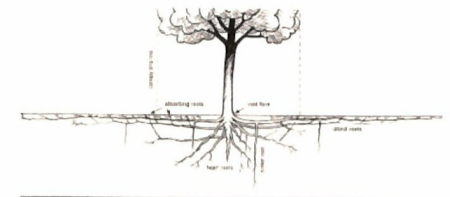


*Standing at the base of the Franklin Sycamore, looking up at the three main stems.*

In 1942 the Franklin Street Sycamore was designated the oldest tree in Buffalo...for the first time. Boy Scout Charles Thorn found the tree as part of a contest to locate the biggest tree in Buffalo. He won \$15. Later, in 1960, the American Lumberman's Association hung a plaque on the tree calling it the oldest at "about 250 years old". However, in 1981, the Buffalo city forester used a process called "increment boring" to determine the tree's true age. The procedure was repeated on a white Oak in Delaware Park that was thought older. The Oak tree proved to be 15 years older. The Sycamore sprouted from a seed in 1751 and is 267 years old as of this year, 2018. This tree, and it's sister, grew up along a stream that is buried 65 feet below the city streets. These cohorts are Buffalo's ancient forest, fed by Buffalo's historic waters.

## THE ROOT SYSTEM:

Every tree's root system is very similar to the drawing on the right. Most of the roots are "absorbing roots" within inches of the surface. Other roots are either "oblique", "sinker" or "heart" roots. These roots are used mostly to retrieve water from deeper soils when the surface is hot and dry. The Franklin Sycamore likely uses deep roots to stay hydrated in the sweltering city.



## A MASSIVE TRUNK:

At its base this tree has a diameter of 90 inches (7.5 feet across). The diameter at breast height (DBH) is 75 inches. This tree is about 100 feet tall and 100 feet wide. It takes 4 people to encircle the tree in a hug. Some of the width is "reaction wood" from the lean.



## GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK:

As the city was built around the Sycamore tree it was lucky to avoid the chainsaw, lucky enough to not break under the force of lake Erie's westerlies, lucky enough to attract donors who pay for treatments when it's been sick. When luck isn't enough, call The Tree Doctor.



*Unlucky trees cleared for a pipeline.*



*Unlucky tree... Unlucky homeowner.*