

Lytle Nature Preserve
6637 North Canal Road
Lockport NY 14094

The 111-acre Lytle Nature Preserve is located on the north side of North Canal Road and was donated to the Town of Lockport by William F. Lytle in 2008 and is protected by the Land Conservancy with a conservation easement.

Mr. Lytle was the owner of Ridgewood Lumber, a hardware and lumber retail outlet in Wrights Corners, at the intersection of NY 78 and NY 104. Mr. Lytle purchased approximately 135 acres of gently rolling land on the north side of North Canal Road in 1977. Mr. and Mrs. Lytle intended to construct a home of their own, and to develop a large portion of this area for a residential subdivision. Along with the Lytles' home at the eastern portion of the site, they were successful in developing an attractive 25-lot subdivision, Walnut Acres, spanning much of the frontage on North Canal Road.

While still engaged in their lumber business and after he retired in 1983, Mr. Lytle spent countless hours working on the property – planting walnut trees, removing extensive overgrowth and pulling out many thousands of stones. He loved being on the land and was a physically strong man his entire life. Mrs. Lytle was a warm, quiet person and an ever-present positive force. Her love of nature and her generous spirit added strong support and guidance to Mr. Lytle's evolving vision for this land. As a team, they were committed to the greater good. The establishment of this nature preserve represents one of their final acts of generosity. It is the culmination of their dream of a gift to the community which would allow present and future generations to enjoy the untarnished beauty of nature in this special place they loved so much.

The Preserve offers educational opportunities and a place for relaxation. In addition to Lytle Preserve, the Western New York Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving the region's irreplaceable natural environment, farms, forestlands and open space in order to maintain wildlife, habitat, economic resources, public recreation areas and the unique scenic character of Western New York.

Photo credits: Dennis Steirer



