



# ROC THE RIVERWAY Weekend

OCTOBER 3 - 4

**FUN Events, Walking Tours and More!**



City of Rochester, NY  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council

**ROC THE RIVERWAY**  
Believe IN THE POWER OF THE GENESSEE



Believe.



City of Rochester, NY  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council



**The Genesee River is the lifeblood of the Greater Rochester Region.** From the abundant farms of the Genesee Valley to the industrial heritage of the City, the Genesee River has defined who we are and how our community developed.

**In 2018 the City along with our partners at the State of New York,** launched an ambitious \$500 million initiative to truly release the full potential of our river. ROC the Riverway is a series of projects which celebrate the past and build for the future.

**Together, we will transform** this former industrial waterway into a community recreational corridor that provides opportunities for all to interact with water.

**Celebrate this transformation with us!** Come out, experience a weekend of activities and learn more about our community's vision for the future.



SAT.  
OCTOBER

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 9 A.M. - 12**

**P.M.: MAPLEWOOD ROSE GARDEN**

**CLEAN-UP.** Get outside, get active and get involved in making Rochester a greener, cleaner city! The City of Rochester's Department of Recreation and Youth Services is partnering with the Seneca Park Zoo Society to sponsor a series of 'park clean-up events' along the Genesee Riverway Trail. Tools and gloves will be provided. Please dress for the weather and bring water to stay hydrated. Masks Required. Meet at the Maplewood Rose Garden parking lot at the corner of Driving Park and Lake Avenue.

To register yourself/your group for one of the clean-up dates, please email Dave Will at: [DWill@senecazoo.org](mailto:DWill@senecazoo.org). Please include the clean-up date and the number of participants in your message.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10 A.M.-12**

**P.M.: ROC THE RIVERWAY GUIDED**

**BIKE RIDE.** PowerPoint presentations not your thing? Experience all the progress on ROC the Riverway projects up close and on two wheels! Join Erik Frisch and Kevin Kelley, City officials and co-architects of the ROC the Riverway vision, on a roughly five-mile bike tour of key RTR project sites to see progress first-hand and learn what is coming next.

Ride limited to 15 participants. Meet at the center of the Andrews Street Bridge

over the Genesee River. The ride will take you south along the river to the University of Rochester and back north again to Downtown and last approximately 2 hours. To register for the free ride, please visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/roc-the-riverway-weekend-bike-tour-tickets-121031136387](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/roc-the-riverway-weekend-bike-tour-tickets-121031136387). Masks are required.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.: GUIDED PADDLE OF THE LOWER RIVER FROM THE NEW PETTEN ST. DOCK.**

Join Genesee RiverWatch and the Genesee Waterways Center for a guided paddle on the Lower Genesee. We will leave from, and return to, the brand new, ADA compliant, canoe and kayak dock at the foot of Petten Street. Enjoy a rare, water-level view of Turning Point Park and Rochester's unique "wilderness in the city" hidden in the gorge of the Genesee. Guides will describe the history of the Lower Genesee, including its role as a lake port and terminus of the Underground Railway. Cost is \$25.00 per person and includes canoe or kayak rental. Maximum two adults per canoe. All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required: [geneseewaterways.org/event-3976917](http://geneseewaterways.org/event-3976917) Call 585-820-8860 with questions. Meet at the parking lot at the river end of Petten Street off Lake Avenue. Masks are required.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10 A.M. - 1P.M.: PORT TO HIGH FALLS GUIDED BIKE RIDE.** This 13 mile ride will take you south from the Port of Rochester to explore the Lower Gorge of the Genesee River. You will learn about the geologic, natural and industrial heritage of our City from the first residents of the area till today, and enjoy exceptional views of Lower and High Falls.

Ride limited to 15 participants. Meet in front of Bill Grays at the William Johnson Jr. Terminal Building at the Port of Rochester. To register for the ride, please contact Jim Farr at [James.Farr@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:James.Farr@cityofrochester.gov). Masks are required.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10 A.M. - 5P.M.: GUIDED PADDLE OF THE GENESSEE RIVER AND ERIE CANAL FROM THE GENESSEE WATERWAYS CENTER.** Join the Genesee Waterways Center and Genesee RiverWatch for a final celebration of the Genesee River and Erie Canal. From 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. we will be offering discounted paddling at the Genesee Waterways center for all participants. NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Simply show up at our Genesee Valley Park Facility and we will provide you with a paddle, PFD, and a canoe or kayak for up to 3 hours of paddling. Cost is \$15/ person. Enjoy a riverside view of downtown Rochester, explore the southern Genesee River, or travel



east on the Erie Canal and see the beautiful Red Creek all from our docks at GWC. Contact [info@genesseewaterways.org](mailto:info@genesseewaterways.org) for more information. Masks are required.

## CHARLOTTE SCAVENGER HUNT: Questions to test your knowledge of Charlotte history

1. What year was the Keeper's house erected at the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse?
2. Ontario No. 1 and Ontario No. 2 ferries carried coal and people to what Canadian town?
3. President Benjamin Harrison rode on the trolley in 1892 to have breakfast at what location in Charlotte?
4. Julia Roberts, a woman entrepreneur, lived at 4215 Lake Avenue and ran this Charlotte industry that started in 1858?
5. What Charlotte building was the summer Motherhouse for the Sisters of Mercy from the 1920s to the 1950s?
6. This man owned 3750 Lake Avenue and 710 Latta Road and was President of the BR&P Railroad. What was his name?
7. What art deco building on Lake Avenue houses eight WPA murals painted by Carl Peters?
8. What Charlotte inventor patented the rotary snow plow and racing canoes and also built the house at 4353 Lake Avenue?
9. What is the address of the oldest house in Charlotte?
10. Miller's Boat yard was located at the site of what current Charlotte restaurant?
11. In 1980, the City of Rochester declared this Charlotte treasure a historic landmark?
12. What area of Irondequoit can you see right across the river from River Heights?
13. Which pier is longer- the Charlotte pier or the Summerville pier?
14. The "secret sidewalk" on Beach Avenue was a route to Parma via this method of transportation?
15. #42 school (Lake at Stonewood) is named after what Rochester pioneer?
16. Sam Patch jumped from High Falls on Friday the 13th of November and he is buried where?
17. The Rochester Feldspar Company was located in what is now Turning Point Park. What is feldspar used to manufacture?
18. This man was Charlotte's earliest settler and lived in a bluff overlooking the Genesee River?
19. The old Spirit of Rochester tour boat is still moored near this street in Charlotte?
20. The year 2022 marks the Bicentennial of what building in Charlotte?

## ANSWERS

1. 1863
2. Cobourg, Ontario
3. Ontario Beach Park
4. Blast Furnace (Iron Foundry)
5. Former Ira Jacobson Post -50 St.
6. Arthur Yates John's Park
7. Former Charlotte High, 4115 Lake Ave.
8. George Rugles
9. 4435 Lake Ave.- Latta-Meech House
10. Pelican's Nest
11. Dentzel Carousel
12. Rattlesnake Point
13. Charlotte pier
14. Manitou Trolley
15. Abelard Reynolds
16. Charlotte Village Cemetery
17. Glass and ceramics
18. William Hincher
19. Petten Street
20. Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse



# WALKING TOUR: CHARLOTTE AND PORT OF ROCHESTER



This walking tour takes you along the mouth of the Genesee River in the Charlotte neighborhood of Rochester, from Lake Ontario to the O'Rorke Lift Bridge. It then loops back along Lake Avenue, with a final stop at Abbott's Ice Cream near the starting point.

You can park your car or bike at Ontario Beach Park, the first stop on the tour, which has plenty of free parking.

The tour takes you through the park, then south along the west bank of the river and back along Lake Avenue.

Along the way, you'll see the oldest remaining lighthouse on Lake Ontario, a historic train station, a restored firehouse, and two large murals. You'll also learn how the British landed here during the War of 1812, and see one of the houses they occupied.

## Walking Tour Healthy Precautions:

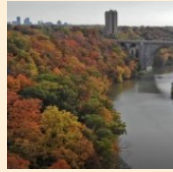
- Stay home if you're not feeling well
- Wear a mask if people are nearby, and stay at least six feet away from others
- Don't touch, sit on, or lean against, benches, fences and other objects
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after returning home



## YOU CAN ALSO USE AN IPHONE TO TAKE ALL OF THESE GUIDED TOURS!



**1. DOWNLOAD  
"TOUR BLEND"  
FROM THE  
APP STORE**



**2. ACTIVATE  
YOUR  
FAVORITE  
TOUR**



**3. LISTEN TO THE  
AUDIO NARRATION  
AS YOU ENJOY  
YOUR WALK**



**#1 Ontario Beach Park** – Whether taking a romantic stroll along the pier or boardwalk, riding the Historic 1905 Dentzel Carousel, picnicking or swimming, Ontario Beach Park provides a perfect summer day at the beach.



**#2 Bath House** – This Georgian style building, now called the Robach Community Center, was designed by J. Foster Warner, who also designed the East Avenue home of George Eastman. Although the original cupolas have been removed, the building maintains its original exterior from 1931.



**#3 Ontario beach** – This is one of the best natural sand beaches along the Great Lakes. It has been a popular swimming spot since the 1880s. Lifeguards are on duty during times when swimming is allowed.



**#4 Charlotte Pier** – In 1829, the U.S. Government erected two parallel piers out into Lake Ontario. Over the years, sand accumulated on west side of the western pier from the force of the waves, creating Ontario beach at Charlotte.



**#5 Dentzel Carousel** – This historic carousel was installed here in 1905. It features 52 hand-carved animals including horses, mules, ostriches and a tiger. This was the third carousel at the amusement park which was located here from 1884 until 1919.



**#6 View of Coast Guard Building** - The white building across the river, built in 1939, is the U.S. Coast Guard station. Drownings were a leading cause of accidental deaths at the time.



**#7 Port of Rochester Building** – The original terminal building opened in 1932. In the early 2000s, the building was totally rebuilt. Arrival and departure halls were added and used for the "Fast Ferry" to Toronto, which operated from 2004 – 2005.



**#8 Marina** – This boat harbor opened in 2016, at a cost almost \$20 Million dollars. The harbor area was once the site of a blast furnace that operated from 1868 until 1927.



**#9 Hojack Bridge site** – The Hojack swing bridge rotated around a center pivot bearing which was located on top of a pier in the center of the Genesee River.



**#10 Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse view** – Up the bluff on the west bank of the river, you can see the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse. The white stone tower, built in 1822, is 40 feet tall. It was originally lit with 10 lamps fueled by whale oil.



**#11 Railroad Station** - Charlotte was once served by three different railroads. This New York Central station was built in 1902, to replace an earlier station that was destroyed by a fire. It is now a seasonal restaurant.



**#12 River Street Mural** - The mural on the south side of this brick along River Street was created by the German artist known as "ecb" in 2014. In the mid-1800s, some fugitive slaves left the U.S. aboard steamers bound for Canada, after being hidden in buildings along River Street.



**#13 Bill Davis Overlook** – This overlook is located at what was once the western approach road to the Stutson Street Bridge, a cantilevered drawbridge completed in 1917. It is named after the man who created the historical society and museum at the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse and promoted the use of the Genesee River as a regional asset.



**#14 Hose 22** - This historic firehouse, built in 1916, has been meticulously restored and now houses a restaurant. Two earlier fire companies combined to create Hose Company 22, which operated out of this building until 1962.



**#15 Latta - Meech House** - This house, at 4545 Lake Avenue, is the oldest house in Charlotte and the second oldest in the county. During the War of 1812, a British raiding party landed at Charlotte and some soldiers stayed in Samuel Latta's house.



**#16 Mural by OverUnder** - This untitled mural, by the artist known as OverUnder, was created in 2014. It depicts seed pods, flowers, and sailboats. Erik Burke lives in Reno, Nevada and creates place-specific murals throughout the world.



**#17 Charlotte Lighthouse Grounds** - The Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse was built in 1822, at a cost of \$3,300. Giles Holden was hired to be the first lighthouse keeper. He was paid \$350 per year and allowed to stay in a two-room home built near the lighthouse. In 1863, the original keeper's house was replaced with the large brick house, which still stands today.



**#18 Harbor Overlook** - This overlook provides a nice view of the mouth of the Genesee River and the Port of Rochester. During the War of 1812, the British sailed into this port on four separate occasions.



**#19 Charlotte – History and Future** - Lake Avenue in Charlotte has been a parade route as well as a gateway to a major port, an industrial site featuring a blast furnace, a grand amusement park. Today it is the main route to a sandy beach park featuring summer concerts and picnics



**#20 Abbotts Custard** - In the early 1900s, Arthur Abbott entertained crowds at summer carnivals while perfecting his recipe for a special frozen dessert. In 1926, he opened an ice cream stand here, across the street from Charlotte Beach.

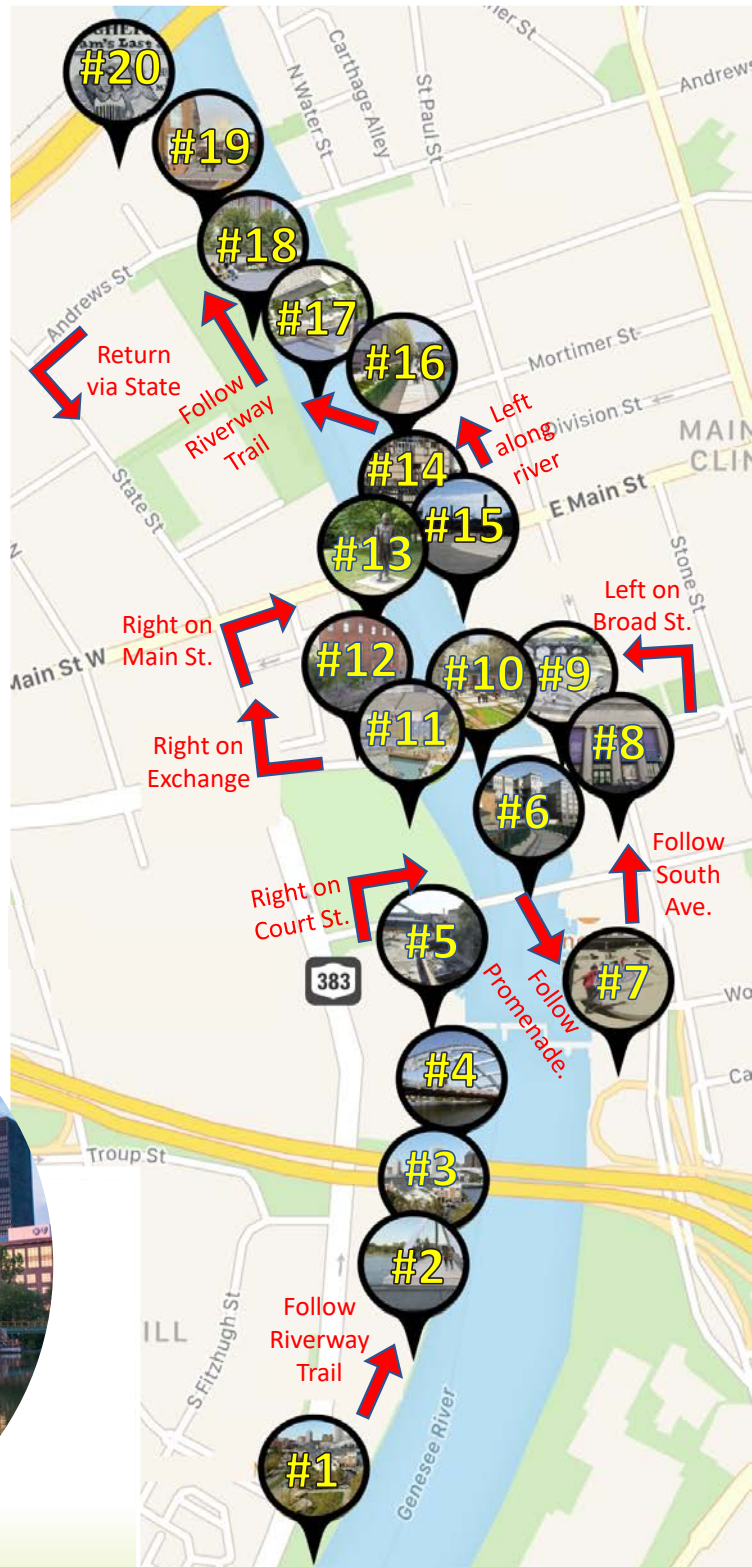
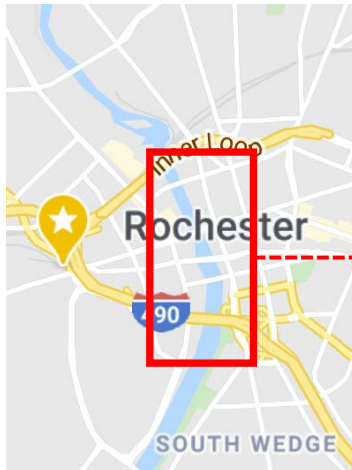


# WALKING TOUR: DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT



This tour begins at Corn Hill Landing Park and heads north along the river trail. You'll cross several bridges, including the historic aqueduct which once carried the Erie Canal over the Genesee River.

Along the way, you'll see several new projects being developed by "ROC the Riverway", including a skate park and a terrace which will offer close-up views of the waterfalls used to cool the Rundel Library.



# WALKING TOUR: DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT



**#1 Corn Hill Landing Park** – This park is nestled in the heart of Corn Hill, one of Rochester's most historic and diverse neighborhoods. The promenade along the Genesee River provides a wonderful view of downtown Rochester.



**#2 Bridge the River** - One idea for reclaiming the river is to build a pedestrian bridge at this spot. The bridge would connect Corn Hill and the South Wedge, making it easy to walk or bike between these two vibrant neighborhoods.



**#3 Corn Hill Landing** – This mixed-use complex, completed in 2007, includes apartments which feature river views. Corn Hill Landing was designed to provide public access, along with private housing, retail spaces, and public parks.



**#4 Freddie-Sue Bridge** - The Frederick Douglass – Susan B. Anthony Memorial Bridge was completed in 2007. This triple steel arch bridge carries about 75,000 vehicles per day over the Genesee River.



**#5 Hydro Station 26** – Along the bank of the river, you can see RG&E Hydroelectric Power Station 26. This hydro station generates 3 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 2,500 homes.



**#6 Court St. Bridge and Promenade** - The pedestrian walkway on the south side of the Court Street bridge leads to the new Genesee Riverway Promenade. This walkway takes you behind the popular Dinosaur Bar-B-Que restaurant, and along The Nathaniel apartments.



**#7 Skate Park** – The land beneath the Freddie – Sue Bridge is being developed into a skateboard park. The park, scheduled to open in the fall of 2020, will feature a skate promenade, mini-ramps, ledges, and competition bowls.



**#8 Rundel Library** – The library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by the Rochester firm of Gordon & Kaelber and completed in 1936. The building, framed in reinforced concrete and faced with Indiana limestone, sits on stilts above the Johnson & Seymour Raceway, which was built in 1817.



**#9 Library Terrace** - The North Terrace of the Rundel Library had structural issues and is being redeveloped. Water diverted from the Genesee River, which is used to heat the library in winter and cool it in summer, flows over many waterfalls below the building. The new terrace will provide views of these water falls.



**#10 Erie Canal Aqueduct** - This historic aqueduct was completed in 1842 and carried the Erie Canal over the Genesee River until 1918. Today, there are many ideas for how to repurpose this historic structure as the centerpiece of a revitalized riverfront. These include removing the upper roadbed and creating a re-watered replica of the Erie Canal or a flexible greenspace, or converting the upper level to a flexible greenspace and using the lower level to provide a climate-controlled connection between the Rochester Convention Center and the Blue Cross Arena.



**#11 Blue Cross Arena** - The arena is home to the Rochester Americans hockey team and the Rochester Knighthawks indoor lacrosse team. The Kimball Tobacco Factory was built here in 1882 on a man-made island, with the Genesee River to its east and the Rochester-Fitzhugh-Carroll raceway to its west.



**#12 Child's Basin** - After the Erie Canal was completed, a small inlet located at this spot, and named for Rochester's first mayor, was the busiest point on the canal in Rochester. The brick Aqueduct Building was erected in 1880, and now features an iconic statue of Mercury, the Roman god of commerce.



**#13 Aqueduct Park** – This privately owned, publicly accessible green space was created in 1974. It features a statue of Fredrick Douglass, just steps from the Talman Building at 25 East Main Street, where he published the North Star abolitionist paper.



**#14 Main Street Bridge** - This historic stone arch bridge, built in 1857, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Until the mid-1960s, buildings completely filled both the north and south sides of the bridge. In 1988, Rochester artist Albert Paley created the two 30-foot long railings



**#15 Convention Center Terrace** - A new public terrace along the Genesee River was recently added to the Riverside Convention Center. In the future, the south end of the terrace will lead to a promenade along the RG&E Station 6 river front, providing a connection to the Genesee Riverway Trail.



**#16 Riverside Trail** - Once fully completed, the Genesee Riverway Trail will provide access to both sides of the river. On the east bank, this portion of the trail runs in front of the Rochester Riverside Hotel.



**#17 Sister Cities Bridge** - This pedestrian bridge was completed in 1970 and connects the public spaces on the east bank of the river with Charles Carrol Plaza on the west bank. The bridge features flags and plaques representing each of Rochester's Sister Cities around the world.



**#18 Charles Carroll Plaza** - This large greenspace along the Genesee River is named for one of Rochester's founding fathers. ROC the Riverway is planning to reinvigorate this public space by improving access, safety, and connectivity, and providing programs such as summer concerts. The project may include improved lighting, greenspaces, and river views.



**#19 Front Street Promenade** - This unused land along Front Street may become a mixed-use development. The proposals include a pedestrian walkway along the river which will connect with the Mill Street tunnel under the Inner Loop.

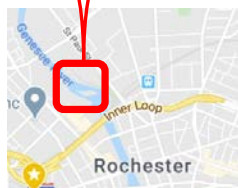


**#20 Sam Patch Passage** - Imagine building a passage here under the Inner Loop, allowing you to walk along the river to High Falls. The passage would connect two of the most impressive and historic sites along the Genesee River, the falls which powered Rochester's mills, and the Erie Canal Aqueduct, which was used to transport flour and other products to markets across America. This passage would also retrace the final steps of Sam Patch, one of Rochester's most legendary visitors. In 1829, he jumped High Falls from a 25' platform located near here on Brown's Island.





# WALKING TOUR: ECOLOOP





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**#1 FlourGarden** - In 1817, Matthew and Francis Brown built a hydropower raceway at this site. It diverted water from the Genesee River to power dozens of mills. Today, the raceway has become the FlourGarden, a 300-foot-long sustainable garden.



**#2 Barton Edge Tool Company** - This building, at 250 Mill Street, was built in 1865 for the Barton Edge Tool company, which made tools such as carpenter's planes and chisels. It's now the Metro Business Center, home to a variety of small businesses.



**#3 Rochester Marshmallow Works** - This building, at 281 Mill Street, was once home to the first company in America to make and distribute marshmallows, starting in 1895. It later housed the Rochester Plumbing Supply and was recently converted into apartments.



**#4 Genesee Riverway Trail** - The "EcoLoop" mural marks the south entrance to a new portion of the Genesee Riverway Trail, an off-road trail for walking, running and bicycling along the Genesee River.



**#5 Coal chute** - This metal structure was part of a facility which unloaded coal from railroad cars. At the bottom of the chute, conveyers moved the coal to a manufactured gas plant and to Beebe Station, a coal-fired power generating facility.



**#6 Pollinator pathway** - Dead trees were replaced with flowering trees and butterfly bushes along this pathway, and the area was seeded with a customized pollinator seed mix.



**#7 Gorge overlook** - This overlook provides a view of the Genesee River gorge. Centuries ago, the gorge was the border between the lands of the Five Nations of the Iroquois to the east and the tribes of the Erie people to the west.



**#8 View of Kodak Tower** - Kodak Tower was completed in 1914 and was the tallest building in Rochester for the next 50 years. Starting in the 1990s, 43 Peregrine falcons, an endangered species, were hatched in a nesting box near the top of the tower.



**#9 Rochester Garbage Disposal** - Below the bridge, on the west side of the gorge, is an abandoned garbage incinerator with a tall smokestack. This area of the Genesee River gorge was used to sort, recycle, and burn Rochester's trash, beginning in 1910. The steam produced by the boiler was supplied to nearby buildings and factories.



**#10 Bausch Memorial Bridge** - On New Year's Day in 1931, the city of Rochester dedicated this bridge in honor of John Jacob Bausch, the founder of Bausch & Lomb. Born in Germany in 1830, Bausch was a pioneer manufacturer and industrial leader, who helped Rochester become the world leader in optics.



**#11 Halfway Done** - If you started at the FlourGarden, you've now walked halfway around the EcoLoop! Walking is one of the simplest ways to get active and stay active. With each step you take, you travel further down the path to a healthier lifestyle.



**#12 Site of Bausch & Lomb factories** - In 1853, J.J. Bausch and Henry Lomb established an optical shop on Rochester's Main Street. In 1874, their growing company moved here to St. Paul Street, where they remained for the next hundred years.



**#13 Labor Lyceum building** - The church on the east side at 580 St. Paul street was built in 1912 for the Progressive Working People's Lyceum, which presented speakers, papers and debates on a range of topics including trade unions and child labor.



**#14 Genesee Brewery** - This brewery is one of the largest and oldest continually operating breweries in the U.S. The Aqueduct Spring Brewery, Rochester's first brewery, opened in 1819. By the end of the century there were 50 breweries in Rochester, reflecting the city's vibrant German heritage.



**#15 Germanow - Simon Corp** -The building on the east side of the street is Germanow-Simon Corporation, which was founded in 1916 as a small machine shop and grew to become a major supplier of thermometers and plastic molded optics.



**#16 Brew House** - Once a century-old packaging center, the Genesee Brew House has been transformed into a beer destination, featuring interactive exhibits and multimedia content, with a gift shop, pilot brewery and pub-style restaurant.



**#17 High Falls viewing** - Looking out over the gorge, you can see rock formations of shale, limestone, and sandstone, with bands of iron ore. The red "Medina sandstone" is often found on Rochester sidewalks, curbs, and older buildings.



**#18 Pont De Rennes Bridge** - This bridge, built in 1891, is 850 feet long and was originally meant for carriages. It is named in honor of Rochester's Sister City, Rennes, France.

# WALKING TOUR: GENESEE RIVER SOUTH LOOP



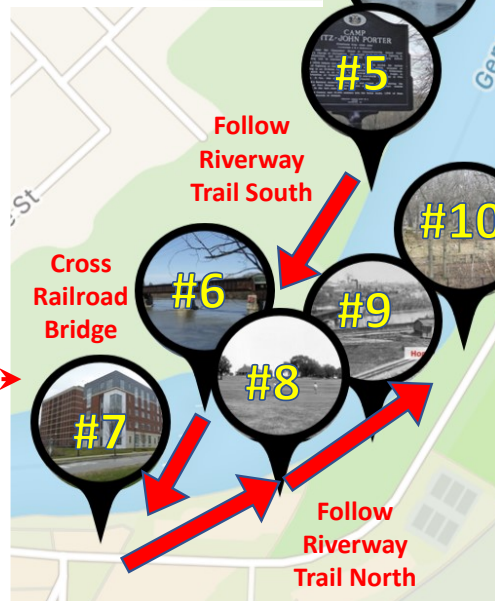
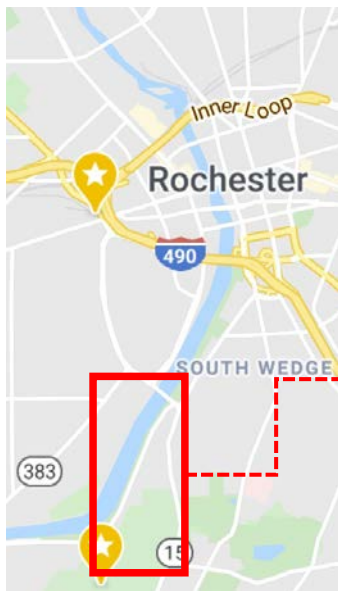
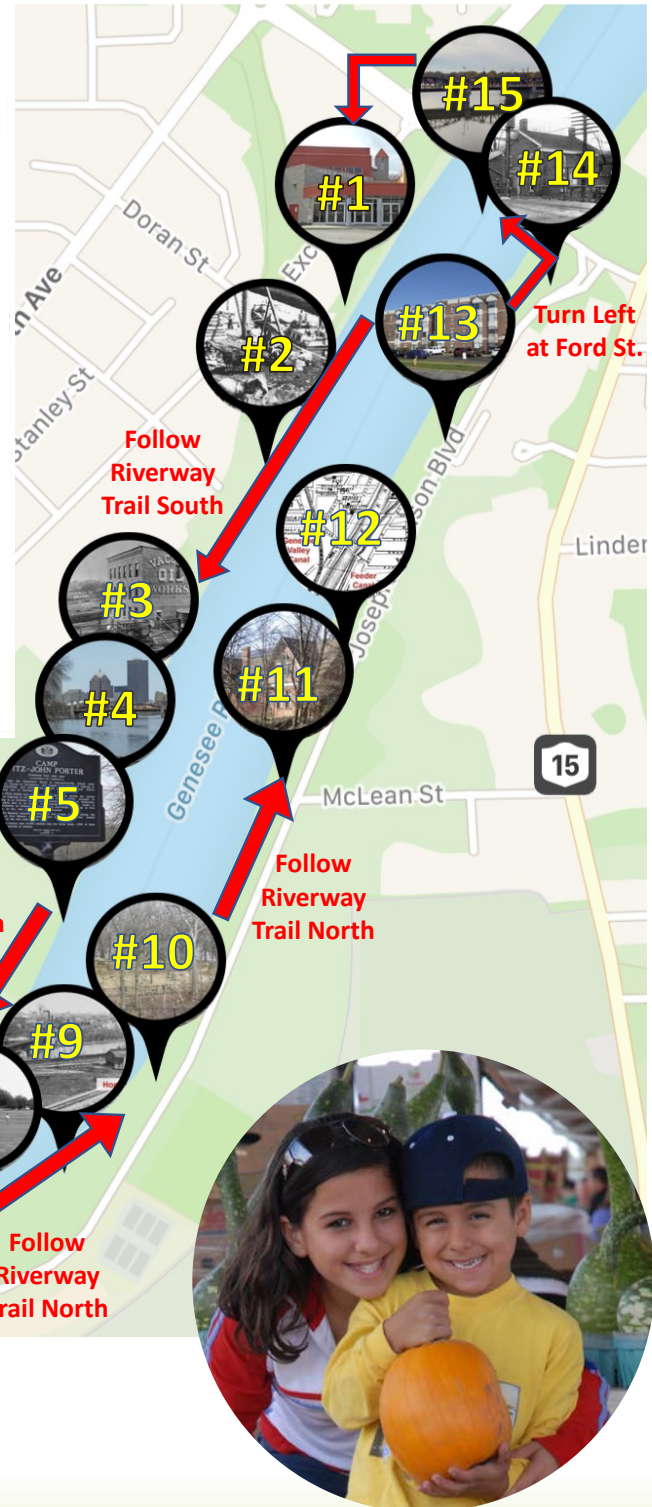
This tour begins on the western bank of the Genesee River, near the historic Clarissa Street Bridge, now called the Ford Street Bridge.

You'll walk south along the west bank of the river and walk north along the east bank to return.

As you walk south, you'll see where Rochester's Civil War recruits trained, and learn how petroleum-based lubricants, invented by Vacuum Oil, led to the invention of gasoline powered autos.

These toxic chemicals created a brownfield, so please stay on the trail.

You'll cross to the east bank on a historic converted railroad bridge and walk back while learning about a historic golf course, a hospital used to quarantine patients with small-pox, a Victorian cemetery and the distillery which created "Corn Hill Rye" whiskey.





# WALKING TOUR: GENESEE RIVER SOUTH LOOP



**#1 Church of Love Faith Center** – A hundred years ago, the Delaware & Hudson Coal Yard was located here, where the church and parking lot are today. The trail you'll be following south along the river was once the Erie Railroad track, which served passengers and freight.



**#2 Genesee Valley Canal** - The low land west of where you are standing was once part of the Genesee Valley Canal. This canal, which ran south for 107 miles all the way to Olean, operated between 1840 and 1878. It included 106 locks, to accommodate a 911 foot change in elevation. North bound canal boats brought gypsum and lumber, as well as wheat and other crops, to the Erie Canal in downtown Rochester. Many then continued east or west along the Erie Canal and beyond.



**#3 Vacuum Oil Refinery** – A refinery and petroleum storage facility operated here from the 1860's to the 1930's. Vacuum Oil, now part of ExxonMobil, first produced leather-softening materials for horse collars and then developed kerosene for lamps and high quality industrial lubricants used in early internal combustion engines.



**#4 Rochester Skyline View**- This lookout, at the river bend, offers one of the best views of the Genesee River and the Rochester skyline. The river starts from a spring on a farm in northern Pennsylvania and is one of only 33 rivers in the world that flows north.



**#5 Civil War Camp** – In 1862, a recruiting camp for Civil War soldiers was built to the west of this spot, on flat land above the Genesee River and the Genesee Valley Canal. It was named after Fitz-John Porter, a Union general, and was the initial training ground for the 108th and 140th New York infantry regiments. Both fought at Gettysburg and were at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered.



**#6 Erie Lackawanna Railroad Bridge** - This bridge was constructed in 1915 to carry the Rochester branch of the Erie Railroad over the Genesee River. The heavy plate girder structure is supported by cut stone piers. It was converted into a pedestrian bridge in 2011 and now links the University of Rochester's River Campus and Rochester's 19th Ward.



**#7 University of Rochester** – From the east end of the railroad bridge, you can see the north end of the University of Rochester's River Campus. The nearby red brick buildings are student housing. The main quad lies to the south, along the river. The University of Rochester was initially located on Prince Street, where it still hosts the Memorial Art Gallery. The main campus was moved here in the early 1930's.



**#8 Oak Hill** - The renowned Oak Hill Country Club, now located in Pittsford, was formed here in 1901. Golf was a new sport in America at the time and the original course, on 85 acres located here along the East Bank of the Genesee River, had only 9 holes. Members paid a \$25 initiation fee and yearly dues of \$20. The original clubhouse was a converted farmhouse.



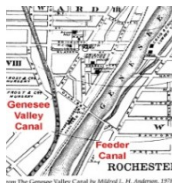
**#9 Hope Hospital** – The hospital, located here between 1868 and 1903, was used to quarantine patients with infectious diseases. From 1902-03, a small-pox epidemic spread to more than 500 Rochester residents, with 87 deaths.



**#10 – Mount Hope Cemetery** - Beneath the trees above the sports fields across the road, you can see the western edge of historic Mt. Hope Cemetery. One of the most beautiful Victorian cemeteries in America, it's the final resting place for Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. There are over 350,000 people buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, more than the current number of residents living in the city of Rochester.



**#11 Highland Crossing Trail** - The Highland Crossing Trail, a new multi-use neighborhood connecting trail, begins here at McLean Street, passes Highland Park, and connects to the Erie Canalway Trail. Up the bluff to the east is the former home and private gardens of George Ellwanger, who joined with Patrick Barry to form the Mount Hope Nursery in 1940 and later donated the land which became Highland Park.



**#12 Feeder Canal** - You're walking on what was once the Lehigh Valley Railroad bed, which was located between the Genesee River and a "Feeder Canal". The Feeder Canal fed water from the Genesee River into the Erie Canal in downtown Rochester. It also provided a detour for canal boats, in case the Broad Street Aqueduct was broken.



**#13 Episcopal Church Home** – This nursing home, located on the east side of the road, was founded in 1868 by four women in order to help orphans and widows. After a fire in 1937, the Episcopal Church Home decided to focus care on older adults. The original building was replaced in the 1960s.



**#14 Wolcott Distillery Site** - The Wolcott Distillery was established in 1827, and the building shown in the photo was built in 1840. Their products included "Corn Hill Rye" whisky and "Malted Wheat" whisky, as well as denatured alcohol. The distillery was located on the southeast end of the old Clarissa Street bridge, and the bridge railing was attached directly to the Wolcott building.



**#15 Clarissa Street Bridge** - There have been four Clarissa Street Bridges at this site. The first was built in 1844, the second in 1862, and the third, a steel truss bridge, was built in 1892. The current bridge, built between 1917 and 1920,

# WALKING TOUR: LOWER FALLS



This tour takes you past a spectacular 110' waterfall and over a hydro power station.

It starts at Maplewood Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which features a nationally accredited rose garden and also includes Kelsey's Landing, a National Underground Railroad Network site.





## WALKING TOUR: LOWER FALLS



**#1 Maplewood Park** - Maplewood Park was designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted. Mr. Olmsted, known as the father of American landscape architecture, also created Highland Park and Central Park in New York City.



**#2 Rose Garden** - The Maplewood Rose Garden is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's a nationally accredited Rose Garden which features over 3,500 bushes and more than 250 varieties of roses. The garden also features peonies, perennials, evergreens, and the Stecher Memorial Fountain.



**#3 Kelsey's Landing** - On the banks of the Genesee River below this point, steam ships transported flour, lumber and passengers to Canada and the Great Lakes. Kelsey's Landing was a final stop on the Underground Railway, where escaping slaves boarded ships which crossed Lake Ontario to Canada.



**#4 Glen House Site** - In 1870, Rochester's first luxury resort hotel was built along the riverbank at the bottom of this cliff. The Glen House featured scenic views of the Genesee River, along with dining and dancing.



**#5 "Hawkeye" plant** - The building across the river is the "Hawkeye" plant, where Kodak made camera lenses and optical equipment starting in 1912, and developed film from spy satellites during the cold war. It is now being converted into mixed use property with offices and affordable housing.



**#6 Driving Park bridge** - This single arch bridge above you was built in 1988, replacing a historic wrought-iron bridge built in 1890. In 1819, the Carthage bridge was built here using pine timber and iron bolts. Standing almost 200 feet above the river, it was an engineering marvel, until 15 months later, when the center section collapsed into the river.



**#7 View of hydro plant** - This building houses three turbines, which together generate 46 MegaWatts of electricity, enough to power over 30,000 homes. Known as Station 5, this hydro plant began operating in 1917. To reach the turbines, water flows down a 2,000-foot-long tunnel. The tunnel begins upstream, at a rack house above the Middle Falls, which you'll see later in this tour.



**#8 View of Lower Falls** - The Lower Falls of the Genesee River is 110 feet tall. It's capped with a small dam to help water flow to the power plant at the left side of the falls. The walls of the 200 feet deep gorge show 20 million years of geological history, revealed in a gorge that was carved over the last 10,000 years.



**#9 Lower Falls Lookout** - From this lookout, you can see the top of the Lower Falls. The Genesee River starts from a spring on a farm in northern Pennsylvania. The river is about 150 miles long and is one of only 33 rivers in the world that flows North.



**#10 McCrackenville Site** - This area was once a thriving manufacturing settlement, known as McCrackenville. Starting in the 1820s, water was diverted from the middle falls, to power equipment used for many businesses, such as paper milling and furniture making.



**#11 Middle Falls Crossing** - On the south side of this bridge over Middle Falls is a rack house, where water enters the long tunnels which lead to the hydroelectric turbines at the base of the Lower Falls. This hydro generating station was modernized in 2012, at a cost over \$100 million dollars.



**#12 Seat of Forgetting and Remembering** - This weathered sculpture, by Adriana Ippel Slutzky, includes four monoliths which represent the world. They were formed from concrete covered steel and use casts of the hands and faces of over 600 children and adults to celebrate the community's diversity.



**#13 Future Falls Overlook Site** - If you look up the bluff, you'll see what might someday serve as the perfect location for viewing the Lower Falls. Imagine if a restaurant or visitor center, accessible from Lake Avenue, was located near the trees at the top of this bluff. It would provide one of the most spectacular views in Rochester.



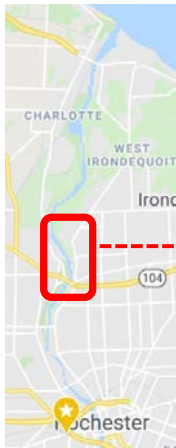
**#14 Falls View from Bridge** - From the center of the Driving Park Bridge, you can enjoy a wonderful view of the Lower Falls. Depending on the wind direction and the amount of water flowing over the falls, some of the mist may create a shower or a rainbow.



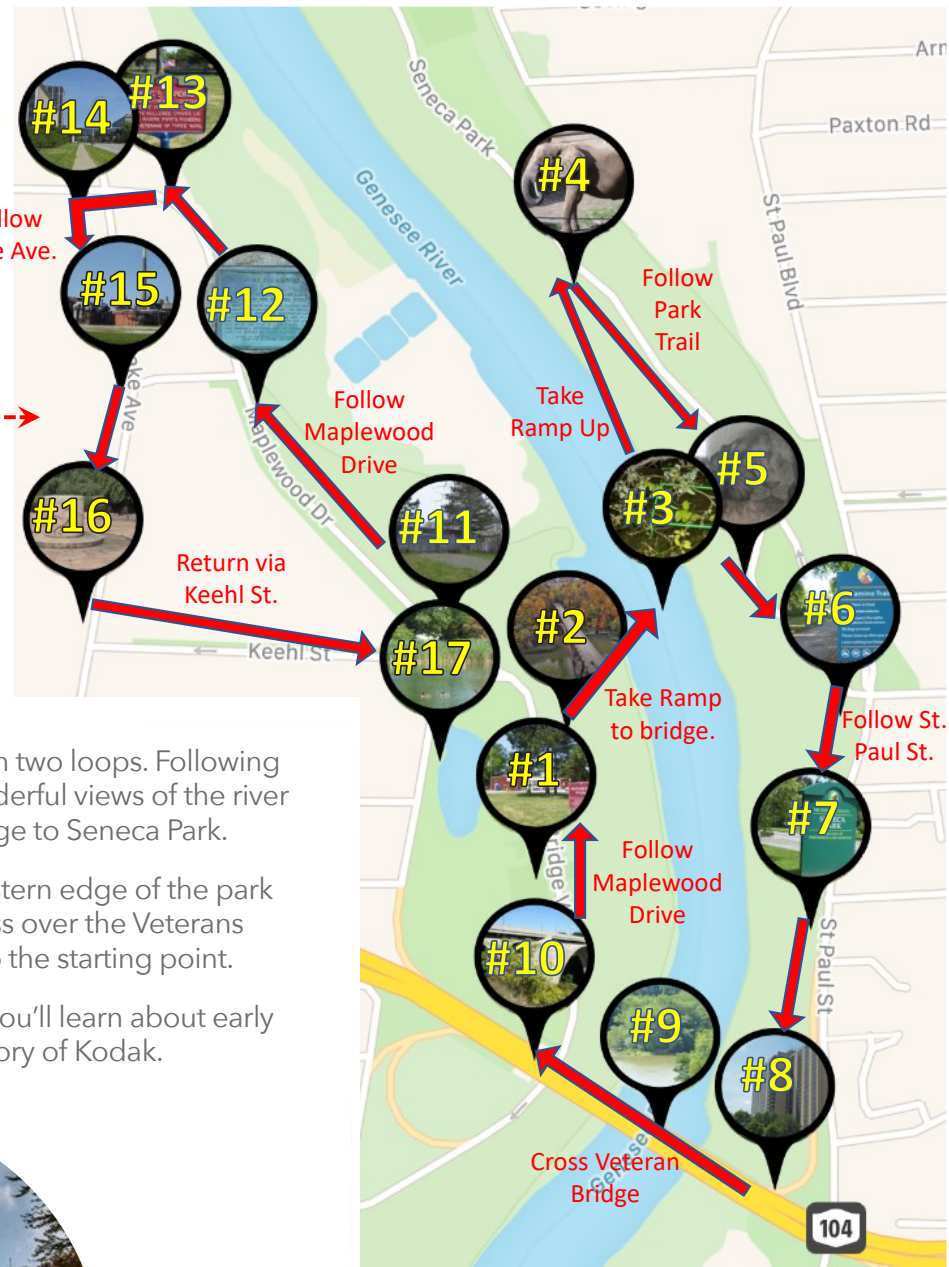
**#15 Maplewood YMCA** - The original building, designed by Claude Bragdon, opened in 1916. The center entrance features a arched porch flanked by stone columns. Colorful ceramic tiles surround the doorway and railing. Today, the Maplewood YMCA includes an Aerobics Studio, an Indoor Pool, and a Gym, as well as a Literacy and Computer Center, Senior Center, and Teen Center.

The Lower Falls Foundation is helping to revitalize and to share the history of the Lower Falls Gorge. To learn more, including answers to questions you may have about locations on this tour, see: <https://lowerfallsfdn.org/about/>

# WALKING TOUR: LOWER GENESEE LOOPS



**You can park at  
Maplewood Park  
210 Bridge View Dr.**



This walking tour is arranged in two loops. Following the first loop, you'll enjoy wonderful views of the river as you cross a pedestrian bridge to Seneca Park.

You'll walk south along the eastern edge of the park at St. Paul Street, and then cross over the Veterans Memorial Bridge and return to the starting point.

On the second, shorter loop, you'll learn about early Rochester settlers and the history of Kodak.





# WALKING TOUR: LOWER GENESEE LOOPS



**#1 Lower Maplewood Park** - Designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, the park provides a dramatic natural landscape on the west side of the Genesee River gorge. The park includes a playground and a pond.



**#2 Clean Waters Bridge**- The bridge was built to hide two 6-foot-diameter pipes which bring excess wastewater from the west side of the river to a treatment plant in on the east side. Built in 1985, the twin arch ribs are 80 feet tall. Ramps and stairs provide safe pedestrian access to the bridge.



**#3 One Cubic Foot** – In 2015, photographer and environmentalist David Liittschwager documented the biodiversity of the Genesee River ecosystem. He placed a one cubic foot frame into a shallow region of the river and recorded everything that moved in and out of the cube within a 24-hour period, creating a beautiful portrait of the rich biodiversity of the river.



**#4 Seneca Park Zoo** - The Zoo started in 1894 by displaying deer and birds, and visitors could ride a Swan Boat around the pond located north of the current zoo. In 1975, a grotto was built to house the Zoo's two famous polar bears. They were named Penny and Nickels, since they were acquired with pennies and nickels collected by school children.



**#5 Lion Mural** – This small mural was created near the top of a vertical cylinder which rises from the east end of the Clear Waters bridge. The cylinder is part of a siphon, in which the wastewater from the pipes on the east side rises so that it flows by gravity to the treatment plant.



**#6 El Camino Trail Entrance** - The small Pocket Park, located across from the entrance to Seneca Park, is the northern end of the El Camino trail. This multi-use trail leads south thru the City of Rochester.



**#7 St. Paul Street** –This was once a toll road, and in 1893 a tollgate house was erected north of this point. An electric trolley line was constructed the same year. It operated only in the summer, taking people to the shores of Lake Ontario.



**#8 Seneca Towers and Carthage** - Two hundred years ago, the area south of Seneca Towers was a settlement called Carthage. Caleb Lyon, the first settler, built a house on land which is now part of the Rochester School for the Deaf.



**#9 Seth Green Island** - Just south of this bridge is a small island named for the "father of American fish culture". Raised in Carthage, Seth founded a fish hatchery in Caledonia, the 1<sup>st</sup> in the U.S., which still raises brown trout.



**#10 Veterans Memorial Bridge** – This bridge was dedicated by the Gold Star Mothers in 1931. It is a concrete arch faced with white granite. The bridge spans 981 feet, making it the longest bridge in Rochester.



**#11 Palisaded Fort Site** - In 1880, George Harris discovered the remains of a three-acre palisaded village, built here by Native Americans along this hillside. The location featured numerous fresh-water springs and a quarry on the edge of the bluff where they obtained flint to make weapons and tools.



**#12 Kings Landing & Hanford Landing Site** – In 1797, King's Landing became the first settlement in what is now the city of Rochester. The water flowing through streams in this area was ideal for powering small mills. But within a few years, Gideon King and his sons succumbed to "Genesee fever". In 1809, the Hanford Brothers built mills, warehouses, and a hotel here.



**#13 Kings Landing Cemetery** - Gideon King and his sons were the first to be buried here, in the oldest cemetery in Rochester. A memorial stone near the historic marker lists the names of all those known to be buried here.



**#14 Kodak Research Labs** - The buildings to the north were all part of Kodak Research Labs, which was once one of the premiere research facilities in America. A remarkable invention, the color image sensor, which is used today in products ranging from Smart Phones to Digital Cinema Cameras, was developed here by Kodak scientists Peter Dillon and Al Brault.



**#15 Eastman Business Park** - Kodak began manufacturing photographic film here in 1890. In the 1980s, Kodak Park employed over 35,000 workers and had its own railroad locomotives, fire department, bowling alley, and shoe stores. Today, Eastman Business Park is a hub for new battery and energy storage technologies, and offers customers unique facilities for chemical development and production as well as food processing.



**#16 Eastman Memorial** - This monument is inscribed, "George Eastman, 1854-1932" and his ashes rest in a bronze urn below. Mr. Eastman not only founded Kodak, he also established the Eastman School of Music, and schools of dentistry in Rochester and London. He funded the construction of the MIT campus and made major donations to Tuskegee University and Hampton University, historically black universities.



**#17 Maplewood Pond** - The pond is a nice spot to view geese and ducks. Families have come here to watch the waterfowl for over 100 years.

# ROC the Riverway Project Status



Below is a list of ROC the Riverway projects that are either recently completed, ongoing or expected to begin in 2021. Numerous other projects will soon enter the design phase. Expect to see a variety of projects implemented in subsequent years as we continue to transform the riverfront! Follow the project website for status updates and a link to the overall Vision Plan at [www.cityofrochester.gov/roctheriverway](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/roctheriverway)

Project	Completion	Status	Description
Main Street Revitalization	Fall 2018 (Ph. I)	Phase I Complete	The first phase of this major streetscape redesign was recently completed, providing new street furniture, wayfinding kiosks, bike lanes, on-street parking, street trees, and playful sidewalk features. Phase II will connect Phase I west to the river.
	Summer 2021 (Ph. II)	Phase II Design	
Riverside Convention Center - South Terrace	Fall 2023	Initiation	The north terrace of the Convention Center was renovated to provide greater public access to sweeping views of the downtown riverscape, while the Convention Center received decorative exterior lighting. The second phase will expand the south terrace and construct a river-facing addition to the Convention Center.
Petten Street Boat Launch	Summer 2020	Complete	A new cartop boat launch providing greater access to the river in Charlotte opened in September 2020.
ROC City Skate Park	Fall 2020	Under Construction	This state-of-the-art skate park, expected to open in late October 2020, will be a major attraction for locals and visitors alike, enlivening the Genesee Riverfront south of downtown.
Corn Hill Navigation	Spring 2022	Additional Fundraising	Corn Hill Navigation will be returning its popular tour boat service to downtown, featuring sunset cruises, educational programs, and historic excursions.
High Falls Terrace Park & Brewery Line Trail	Summer 2021	Design	Revitalization of one of the City's oldest parks is underway. New park amenities, public art, and improved lighting were completed in 2018. Major trail upgrades and other enhancements are in design.
High Falls Overlook Feasibility Study	Spring 2021	Study Underway	Exploration of alternatives for stabilizing and re-using the former RG&E Station 4, located adjacent to High Falls, as a river overlook and visitor attraction.
Blue Cross Arena	Spring 2021 (Exchange Blvd Addition)	Under Construction	The first phase of improvements will include construction of an addition and interior renovations at the west side of the arena along Exchange Boulevard. A portion of the first floor will be reconfigured and the second floor will include an expanded public concession area. The second phase involves an addition on the east side of the arena along the river. This later phase will convert the first level into a bar and restaurant with an expanded concession area above.
	Spring 2023 (Riverside Addition)	Design	
Inner Loop North Transformation Study	Fall 2021	Study Underway	Exploration of options for removing or reconfiguring the northern segment of the Inner Loop, following the success of the nationally-acclaimed Inner Loop East project.
Rundel Library North Terrace	Fall 2021	Under Construction	This dynamic new public space adjacent to the library will include a major public art installation and enhanced views of the river.
Improvements	2021	Construction	Ford Street to provide a new trail alignment, lighting, landscaping, a new public landing and accessible docks.
Genesee Gateway Park	Fall 2021	Design	A complete redesign of the park will enhance connectivity to and along the riverfront, provide direct access to the water, and improve playability for people of all ages.
Charles Carroll Plaza and Sister Cities Bridge	Fall 2022	Under Construction	Completely renovate Charles Carroll Plaza and the Sister Cities Bridge to create a greener, more welcoming public space and provide full accessibility and Genesee Riverway Trail connectivity.
Pont de Rennes	Fall 2023	Initiation	This historic 1898 bridge, converted to a pedestrian bridge in 1982, affords beautiful views of High Falls and the downtown skyline. Significant structural repairs will be made while a more dynamic public space on the bridge with new lighting, artwork, plantings, benches, and more will be provided.