

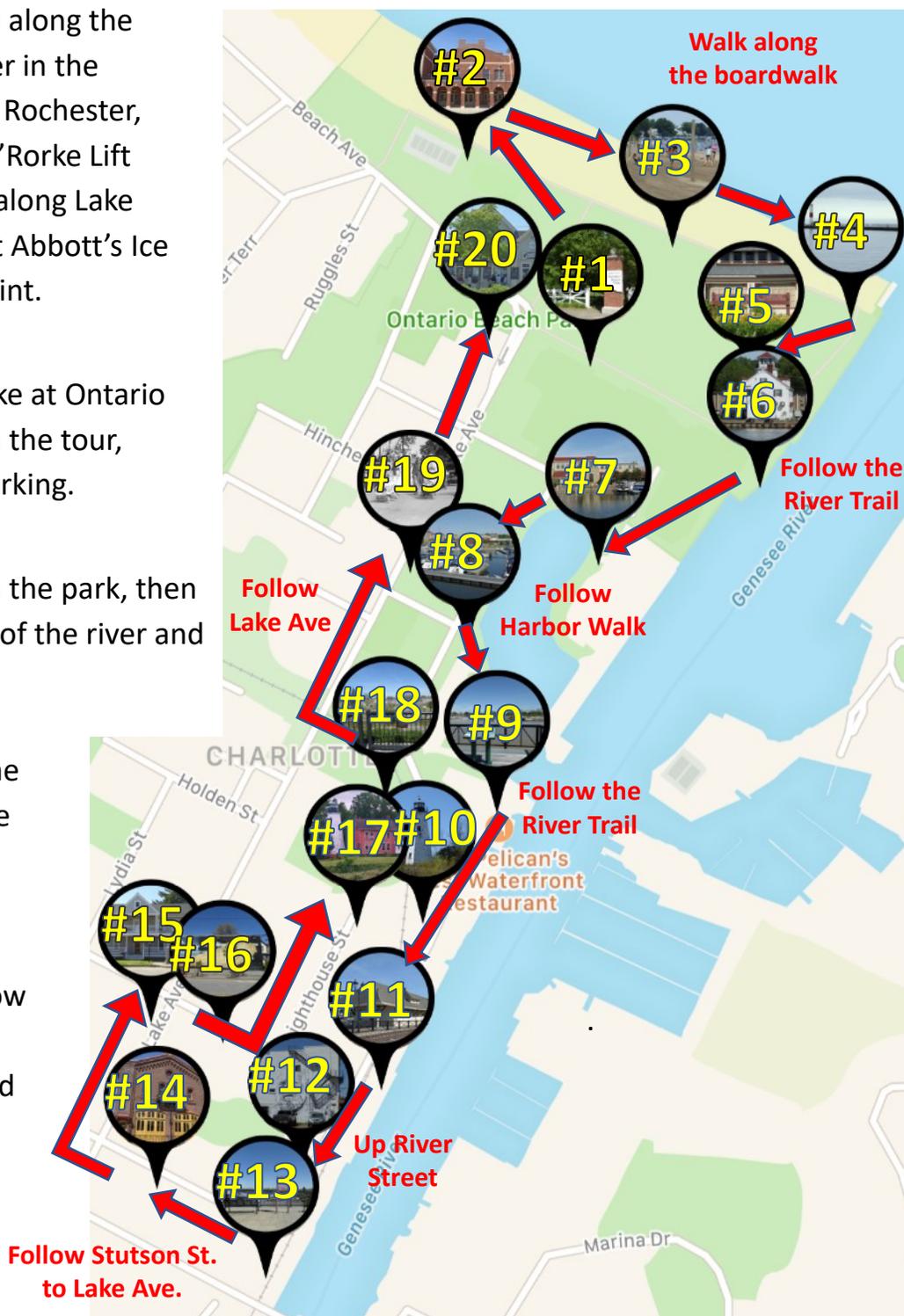
# Charlotte & Port of Rochester Walking Tour

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 top 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



## 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

# Charlotte & Port of Rochester Walking Tour



**#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 for 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.

You can use an iPhone to take a guided tour of Charlotte & the Port of Rochester



1. [Download “Tour Blend” from the App Store](#)



2. Activate the Charlotte & Port of Rochester Tour



3. Listen to the audio narration as you enjoy your walk