Rochester's Genesee Riverway and Trail Guide

GENESEE RIVERWAY

The Genesee Riverway is the 13 mile-long corridor of the Genesee River stretching from the Erie Canal as it enters the city, bisecting the central business district and flowing north into Lake Ontario at the River Harbor in Charlotte.

The Genesee River's current route, carved by glacial erosion 10,000 years ago, features a series of three waterfalls. At the turn of the 19th century, immense hydropower generated by the falls attracted millers, industrialists and workers to this frontier wilderness. When the Erie Canal opened up trade routes in the 1820's, Rochester became America's first "boom town".

Today, long past the era of hydropower, the Riverway is as integral to community life as ever. Its breathtaking scenery (including a spectacular mid-city gorge), and more than 30 miles of connected waterfront, from beaches to forever wild areas, now serve as the setting for countless recreational activities.

Riverway resources range from passive and active recreational to the cultural, historical and educational. It provides the setting for 11 parks (including a zoo), a sports arena, convention center, historic/ nightlife entertainment district, diverse residential neighborhoods, manufacturing and retailing. It is the lifeline of our heritage, connecting our past with our future.

The river corridor is also the backdrop for special events like:

- An international regatta that attracts competing crews from the U.S., Canada and Europe
- A River Romance Weekend with a full raft of activities to highlight the river's assets
- The Maplewood Rose Festival
- The Lakeside Winter Celebration
- The Rochester Harbor Festival
- Neighborhood celebrations and festivals
- Concerts at various sites from Spring through Autumn

The Genesee Riverway is:

Attractions	Map Location
Scenic Views & Special Attractions	
Lake Ontario	1 2 3 4
Lighthouse, Pier and Carousel	1 2 3
Three Waterfalls	11 12 13
Dynamic River Gorge	5 8 9 11 12 13
Historic Parks & Gardens	4 8 9 28 31
Zoo	8
Nature Walks	4 5 8
Skyline	24 25 27 28
Water Activities	
Swimming	1 4 31
Fishing	1 8
Tour Boats, docking	2 24
Canoeing, kayaking, rowing	2 4 5 25 27 31
Sports and Activities	
Volleyball	1
Golf	4 31
Field Sports	31
Tennis	9 31
Spectator Events	16 17 21 29 31
Ice Skating	31
History & Culture	
Historic Sites & Districts	3 6 7 10 11 13 14 15 18 19 20 22 23 26 28 30 31
Museums	3 13 17 20
Library, Concerts, Theater	13 17 19 20 21
University	29
Services	
Restrooms	1 4 8 9 13 28 31
Restaurants, Shops, Entertainment	2 10 13 14 17

Find recorded updates of corridor activities by calling the City's Special Events Hotline at 585-428-6697. Direct inquiries about group accommodations or Riverway attractions to Visit Rochester at 8005-677-7282 or 585-279-8300 (TTY 585-546-8484).

GENESEE RIVERWAY TRAIL

The Genesee Riverway Trail is a multi-use trail and greenway linking the Riverway's vast array of recreational, historical and cultural attractions, diverse neighborhoods and the Seaway Trail, Erie Canal Heritage Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail.

The Genesee Riverway Trail is intended for walking, running, bicycling, skating, skiing and other non-motorized uses. The trail also provides access to the river for canoeing, kayaking, rafting, fishing, bird-watching, etc.

With 24 miles paved the trail is nearly complete. In some areas the trail parallels both sides of the river while in other sections it crosses the Genesee using the river's many bridges, including the 6 pedestrian only structures. New trail links are underway.

The trail is supported by a signage system that includes kiosks at major access points, directional signs, trail markers and warning signs.

The majority of the Genesee Riverway Trail is accessible. Sections of the trail that have steep, rough, or narrow areas are noted on detailed kiosk trail maps and on warning signs along the trail.

For comments or questions on the trail, call:
Department of Environmental Services
585-428-5990 (TDD: 585-647-1598)
Department of Parks
585-428-6755.

Genesee Valley Park

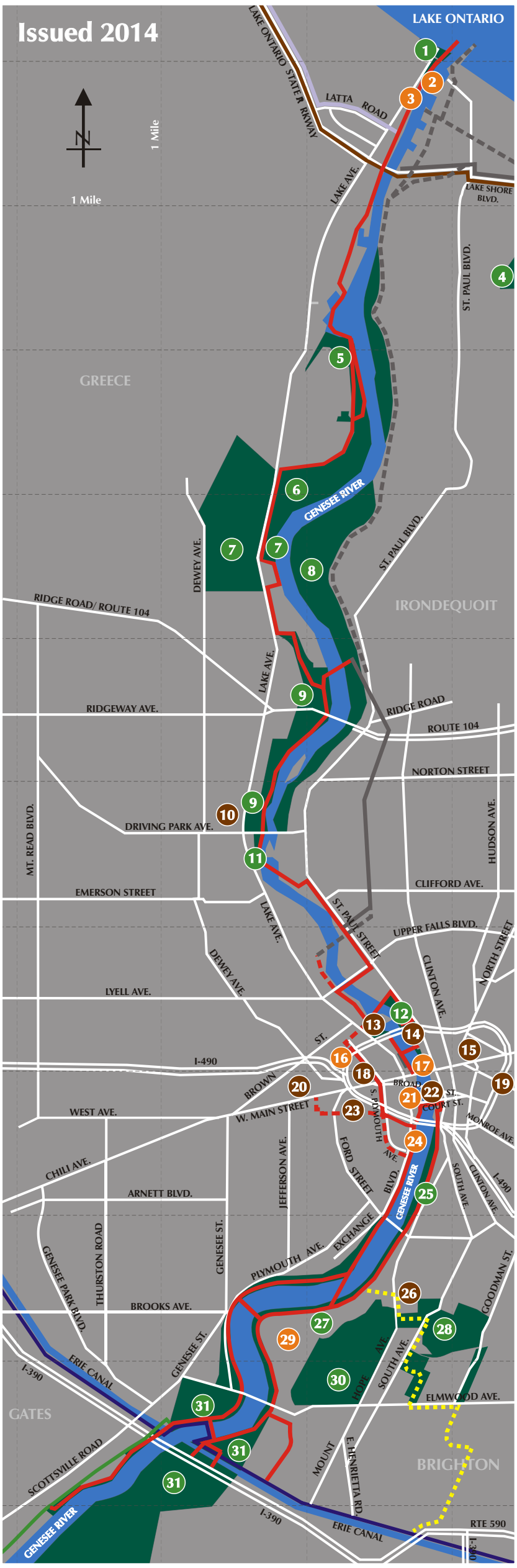
High Falls

Turning Point Park

Charlotte Lighthouse

Genesee Valley Park

Corn Hill Landing



ATTRACTIONS

PARKS

Bausch & Lomb Riverside Park (27)
Trails and canoe access.

Durand Eastman Park (4)
Beach, hiking, picnic areas, golf, arboretum, and scenic views of Lake Ontario. Restrooms.

Genesee Gateway Park (25)
Promenade with views of the City Skyline. Boat mooring, canoe launch, playground, basketball.

Genesee Valley Park (31)
Historic Frederick Law Olmsted park, at the confluence of the Genesee River and Erie Canal, and the junction of the Genesee Riverway Trail, the Erie Canal Heritage Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail. Picnic areas, play fields, tennis, golf, outdoor pool, indoor ice-skating, canoeing and rowing. Restrooms.

High Falls Terrace Park (12)
Scenic overlook to High Falls and the river gorge.

Highland Park (28)
Historic Frederick Law Olmsted park. Annual Lilac Festival, arboretum, conservatory, gardens, amphitheater, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden and AIDS Memorial Garden. Restrooms.

Lower Falls Park (11)
Scenic overlooks to the Lower Falls, the Middle Falls and the river gorge.

Maplewood Park (9)
Historic Frederick Law Olmsted park. Rose Garden, tennis, playground, trail and scenic overlooks. Restrooms.

Ontario Beach Park (1)
Beach, bathhouse, boardwalk, pier, historic carousel, playground, picnic areas, volleyball, band shell, community center and concessions. Restrooms.

Seneca Park (8)
Historic Frederick Law Olmsted park. Trails with scenic overlooks to the river gorge, pond, picnic groves, playground, Zoo with concessions. Restrooms.

Turning Point Park (5)
Wooded trails and piers with scenic views of the river gorge.

CEMETERIES

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (7)

Mt. Hope Cemetery (30)
Historic burial place of Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass and other notables.

Riverside Cemetery (6)
Historic cemetery with scenic drives, distinguished architecture and statuary.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS / SITES

Bridge Square / Cascade (18)
Erie Canal era warehouses adapted to high-tech business and residential loft district.

Brown's Race / High Falls (13)
Scenic views of High Falls and the river gorge. Historic visitor interpretive center, laser-light show, dining and entertainment.

Corn Hill (23)
Victorian residential district. Campbell-Whittlesey House Museum. Dining and services.

East Avenue (19)
Avenue of mansions, museums and stately trees. George Eastman House and Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Erie Canal Aqueduct (22)
1842 stone arch canal structure subsequently used as a subway, rail line and now roadway.

Grove - Gibbs (15)
Brick townhouse district.

Mt. Hope (26)
Arboretum district with historic homes, dining and services.

Maplewood (10)
Tree-lined residential neighborhood with Seneca Parkway, dining and services.

Old Rochesterville (14)
Former industrial area now converted to upscale housing, dining and nightlife.

Susan B. Anthony (20)
Victorian neighborhood with narrow streets, Susan B. Anthony Square (designed by Olmsted Brothers), and the Susan B. Anthony House Museum.

TRAIL LEGEND

- Genesee Riverway Trail
- Planned Genesee Riverway Trail
- Canalway Trail
- Genesee Valley Greenway Trail
- NYS Seaway Trail
- Irondequoit Lakeside Trail
- Lake Ontario State Parkway Trail
- ElCamino Trail
- Proposed ElCamino Trail
- Proposed Irondequoit Seneca Trail
- Proposed Highland Crossing Trail

POINTS OF INTEREST

Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial (21)
Venue for indoor professional sports and other large events. Plaza on the river.

Center City (17)
Downtown dining, shopping and entertainment. The Strong Museum, The Eastman School of Music, historic architecture and parks.

Corn Hill Landing (24)
Mooring and services for boats.

Frontier Field (16)
Venue for outdoor sports and other large events.

Genesee / Charlotte Lighthouse (3)
Historic stone lighthouse (1822) overlooking the Port. Tours, interpretive center and scenic vistas.

Port of Rochester (2)
Beach, boat mooring, marine services, cruises, dining and entertainment.

University of Rochester and Medical Center (29)

City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor