

# Rochester's Genesee Riverway and Trail Guide



### **GENESEE RIVERWAY**

The Genesee Riverway is the 18 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:

#### 

#### **Water Activities**

Swimming		
Fishing		
Tour Boats, docking		
Canoeing, kayaking, rowing 2 4 5 25 27 31		

### **Sports and Activities**

Volleyball	1
Golf	31
Field Sports	31
Tennis	31
Spectator Events	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
Library, Concerts, Theater 13 17 19 20 21
University

## Service

Services	
Restrooms	1 4 8 9 13 28 3
Restaurants, Shops, Ente	rtainment ② 🔟 🕦 💤
	1

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 800-677-7282 or 585-279-

## **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 18 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.

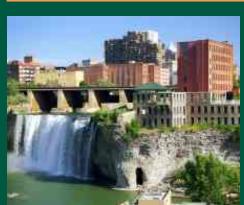
The trail is supported by a signage system that includes kiosks at major access points, directional signs, trail markers and warning signs.

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.

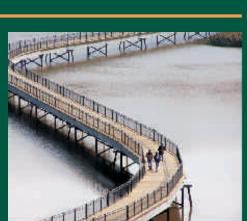
For comments or questions on the trail, call: Department of Environmental Services 585-428-5990 (TDD: 585-647-1598) Department of Recreation and Youth Services 585-428-6755.

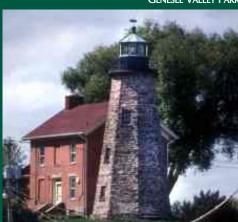


GENESEE VALLEY PARK



HIGH FALLS







GENESEE VALLEY PARK



CORN HILL LANDING



## **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

Proposed ElCamino / Butterhole Trail

Proposed Irondequoit Trail

Proposed Highland / Canal Trail

## **ATTRACTIONS**

#### **PARKS**

#### **Bausch & Lomb Riverside Park**

Trails and canoe access.

#### **Durand Eastman Park**

Beach, hiking, picnic areas, golf, arboretum, and scenic views of Lake Ontario. Restrooms.

### Genesee Gateway Park

Promenade with views of the City Skyline. Boat mooring, canoe launch, playground, basketball.

#### **Genesee Valley Park**

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 iceskating, canoeing and rowing. Restrooms.

#### **High Falls Terrace Park**

Scenic overlook to High Falls and the river gorge.

#### **Highland Park**

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

#### **Lower Falls Park**

Scenic overlooks to the Lower Falls, the Middle Falls and the river gorge.

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

#### **Ontario Beach Park**

Beach, bathhouse, boardwalk, pier, historic carousel, playground, picnic areas, volleyball, band shell, community center and concessions. Restrooms.

#### Seneca Park

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

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**(19)** 

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**(10)** 

#### **Turning Point Park**

Wooded trails and piers with scenic views of the river

#### **CEMETERIES**

#### **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery**

#### Mt. Hope Cemetery

Historic burial place of Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass and other notables.

## Riverside Cemetery

Historic cemetery with scenic drives, distinguished architecture and statuary.

### **HISTORIC DISTRICTS / SITES**

## Bridge Square / Cascade

Erie Canal era warehouses adapted to high-tech business and residential loft district.

## Brown's Race / High Falls

Scenic views of High Falls and the river gorge. Historic visitor interpretive center, laser-light show, dining and entertainment.

Victorian residential district. Campbell-Whittlesey House Museum. Dining and services.

## **East Avenue**

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

## **Erie Canal Aqueduct**

1842 stone arch canal structure subsequently used as a subway, rail line and now roadway.

## **Grove - Gibbs**

Brick townhouse district.

## Mt. Hope

Arboretum district with historic homes, dining and

## Maplewood

Tree-lined residential neighborhood with Seneca Parkway, dining and services.

Former industrial area now converted to upscale housing, dining and nightlife.

## Susan B. Anthony

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

## **POINTS OF INTEREST**

## Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial

Venue for indoor professional sports and other large events. Plaza on the river.

## **Center City**

Downtown dining, shopping and entertainment. The Strong Museum, The Eastman School of Music, historic architecture and parks.

## **Corn Hill Landing**

Mooring and services for boats. Frontier Field

Venue for outdoor sports and other large events.

## **Genesee / Charlotte Lighthouse**

Historic stone lighthouse (1822) overlooking the Port. Tours, interpretive center and scenic vistas.

## **Port of Rochester**

Beach, boat mooring, marine services, cruises, dining and entertainment.

University of Rochester and Medical Center

