



Rochester, NY



Rochester, New York, was founded by Col. Nathaniel Rochester and several others who purchased a 100-acre tract on the west bank of the Genesee River. The construction of the Erie Canal and the water power generated by the three waterfalls of the Genesee River led to the development of lumber and grist mills and Rochester's nickname of "Flour City."

Rochester's museums include the George Eastman Museum, which contains collections of photography, cinema, photographic and cinematographic technology, and photographically illustrated books and is located on the grounds of the National Historic Landmark home and gardens of Kodak founder George Eastman. The Susan B. Anthony House is another National Historic Landmark and was her home when she advocated for suffrage, temperance, and abolition. The Rochester Museum & Science Center is home to the Strasenburgh Planetarium and focuses on science, technology, and local history. The Museum's Cumming Nature Center is a 900-acre preserve located in the Bristol Hills surrounding Canandaigua Lake. The Strong Museum and its National Museum of Play also features the National Toy Hall of Fame; the region's only indoor butterfly garden; and a collection of toys, dolls, and other play-related artifacts.

The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester has a permanent collection that spans 50 centuries of world art. The Centennial Sculpture Park is located on ten acres of the Gallery's grounds.

Rochester has many opportunities for performing arts. Geva Theater Center presents a variety of theatrical works as well as Geva Comedy Improv and Big Theatre for Little People. The University of Rochester's Eastman Theatre hosts 700 concerts a year that include professional and student performances as well as those by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The Water Street Music Hall offers an eclectic format of live music entertainment. Nazareth College Arts Center hosts touring and academic productions, Rochester Children's Theatre, Garth Fagan Dance, and the Rochester City Ballet, which also performs at the Eastman Theatre. Auditorium Theatre presents large-scale Broadway musicals. Hochstein Performance Hall hosts faculty and student performances and is home to the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. The Rochester Jewish Community Center offers performances by CenterStage, its resident professional theater company, and Theatre Young Kids Enjoy (TYKES). Other performing arts venues include the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, Blackfriars Theatre, Multiple Use Community Cultural Center, Highland Bowl Amphitheater, and Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

The annual nine-day Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival offers 228 shows in 13 venues during the month of June. The First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival, which runs for ten days in September, presents 500 performances and events.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The neighborhoods of Grove Place, St. Paul Quarter, and East End contain a majority of the downtown's residential properties and include town houses, condominiums, and loft-style, mixed-use buildings. Some of these residences are in converted buildings and others are new construction.

Adjacent to the downtown is Corn Hill, Rochester's oldest residential neighborhood. Corn Hill has historic 19th-century mansions as well as modern townhouses and apartments. The South Wedge neighborhood dates from the 1820s and has a range of housing from 19th-century Victorian houses to a four-story, brownstone apartment building that was completed in 2010. Examples of every major style of domestic architecture between 1840 and 1960 are found in the East Avenue Historic Preservation District, which contains large homes set back from the street on large lots.

The Highland Park neighborhood is located on the site of a former nursery and features late 19th- and early 20th-century single-family homes, many in the Classic American Foursquare style. This neighborhood is also home to Warner Castle, which boasts such gardens as the Sunken Gardens, Iris and Daylily Bed, Old-Fashioned and Miniature Rose Beds, and a 13th-Century Herb Garden.

The Maplewood neighborhood has early 20th-century homes in a variety of two and a half story styles that include Victorian, Tudor, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, Eclectic, Shingle, Colonial Revival, and Georgian Revival set on small lots. Large houses fronted by extensive lawns and big trees characterize the Brown-croft neighborhood, which has over 400 houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cobbs Hill neighborhood has large 20th-century homes on tree-shaded streets.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Rochester has 124 parks and recreation centers with amenities that include

indoor and outdoor pools, playgrounds, baseball fields, soccer and football fields, ice-skating rinks, and basketball and tennis courts.

Two parks are located on the shores of Lake Ontario. Durand-Eastman Park features a swimming beach; a golf course; playgrounds; and hiking, bridle, and cross-country ski trails. Ontario Beach Park offers swimming, boating, fishing, and the historic 1905 Dentzel Menagerie Carousel. The 1812 Bicentennial Peace Garden Trail commemorates the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and identifies historic battle sites along the shores of Lake Ontario.

Fredrick Law Olmsted designed many Rochester parks connected by the Genesee Riverway Trail, including Genesee Valley Park, Highland Park, Seneca Park, and Maplewood Park, as well as several smaller neighborhood parks. Maplewood Park's rose garden contains more than 3,000 rose bushes. The 800-acre Genesee Valley Park features golf courses; baseball, cricket, and soccer fields; canoeing and fishing opportunities; playground areas; cross-country ski trails; and a sports facility with an indoor ice arena and an outdoor swimming pool. Highland Park is the home of the international Lilac Festival held each May and features 500 varieties of this shrub. In addition, the park is home to the Lamberton Conservatory, historic Warner Castle, John Dunbar Memorial Pavilion (Highland Park Bowl), the Arches Pavilion, and many plant collections. Seneca Park is home to the Seneca Park Zoo and also features Trout Lake and playgrounds.

The 109-acre Cobb's Hill Park features Lake Riley; baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields; basketball and tennis courts; a playground; cross country skiing; fishing; and hiking trails. Washington Grove is an undeveloped 100-acre sanctuary filled with large oaks, wildlife, and hiking trails.

Professional sports teams in Rochester include the Rochester Red Wings (baseball), Rochester Rhinos (soccer), Rochester Rattlers (lacrosse), Rochester Knighthawks (lacrosse), Western New York Flash (women's soccer), and the Americans (ice hockey).

Seabreeze Park is the fourth oldest operating amusement park in the country.

EDUCATION

Rochester City School District educates approximately 30,000 students in 27 traditional elementary schools (pre-kindergarten through grade 6 or kindergarten through grade 6), 14 kindergarten through grade 8 or kindergarten through grade 12 schools, and 25 secondary schools.

Higher education is available at the University of Rochester, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in such fields as medicine and dentistry and nursing. Rochester Institute of Technology has undergraduate and graduate degree programs that focus on career education and features a cooperative education program. Monroe Community College's Damon City Campus is located in downtown Rochester. Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School is an ecumenical theological college with over 20 different denominations represented.

HEALTH CARE

Rochester is served by the following health care facilities:

- Highland Hospital: 261 licensed beds
- Monroe Community Hospital: 39 licensed beds
- Rochester General Hospital: 528 licensed beds
- Strong Memorial Hospital: 830 licensed beds
- The Unity Hospital of Rochester: 311 licensed beds
- The Unity Hospital of Rochester-St Mary's Campus: 40 licensed psychiatric beds

CITY STATS

2015

City Population	209,802
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,081,954
Per Capita Personal Income, Rochester, NY, MSA	\$46,076