



Rochester, New York



Rochester, New York, was founded by Col. Nathaniel Rochester and several others who purchased a 100-acre tract on the west bank at the falls 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 the city's nickname, "Flour City."

Rochester's museums include the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, which 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 Susan B. Anthony's home when she advocated for suffrage, temperance, and abolition. The Rochester Museum & Science Center is home to the Strasenburgh Planetarium and Cumming Nature Center. The National Museum of Play at the Strong® contains the National Toy Hall of Fame® and a collection of toys, dolls, and other play-related artifacts. The Center at High Falls Fine Art Gallery is dedicated to local artists and celebrates contemporary culture. The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester has a permanent collection that span 50 centuries of world art.

Rochester has many performing arts opportunities, including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rochester City Ballet, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, and the Rochester Rhapsody of Harmony for women who sing barbershop harmony. Garth Fagan Dance is a local modern dance company that performs nationally. Geva Theater Center presents a variety of theatrical works, as well as Geva Comedy Improv and Big Theatre for Little People. Other performing arts venues include the University of Rochester's Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, the Water Street Music Hall, the Highland Bowl Amphitheater, and Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial.

The annual nine-day Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival occurs in multiple venues throughout the city each June.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The downtown neighborhoods of Grove Place, St. Paul Quarter, and East End contain a majority of the downtown 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 are found in the East Avenue Historic Preservation District, which contains homes built between 1840 and 1960. In addition to mansions, this neighborhood has brick townhouses and apartments. The Maplewood neighborhood has early-20th-century homes in a variety of styles that include Victorian, Tudor, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, Eclectic, Shingle, Colonial Revival, and Georgian Revival. The primarily large scale, two-and-one-half-story houses in the Maplewood Historic District feature hardwood floors, stained or leaded glass windows, and fireplaces with elaborate mantles. Large houses fronted by extensive lawns and big trees characterize the Browncroft 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. 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 with its signature front porch. This neighborhood is also home to Highland Park and the 22-room Warner Castle, which is now the home of the Rochester Civic Garden Center.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Rochester has 124 parks and recreation centers, which include 3 outdoor and 2 indoor pools. Other park amenities include playgrounds, lighted and unlit

baseball fields, soccer and football fields, and basketball and tennis courts. Durand-Eastman Park is located on the shore of Lake Ontario and features a swimming beach, a golf course, and cross-country skiing trails. Ontario Beach Park is also located on the shores of Lake Ontario and offers swimming, boating, fishing, and an historic carousel. Maplewood Park was designed by Frederic Law Olmsted and has a rose garden with more than 3,000 rose bushes. Also designed by Olmsted, Genesee Valley Park is located along the eastern bank of the Genesee River and features golf courses, baseball 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. A second ice rink is located at the South Avenue Recreation Center. Highland Park is another Olmsted designed park and is the home of the international Lilac Festival, which is held each May and features 500 varieties of this shrub. 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.

The Seneca Park Zoo was also designed by Olmsted and has pathways that overlook the Genesee River gorge.

Professional sports teams in Rochester include the Rochester Red Wings (baseball), Rochester Rhinos (soccer), Rochester Rattlers (lacrosse), and the Rochester Knighthawks (lacrosse).

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

EDUCATION

Rochester City School District educates approximately 32,000 students in 36 traditional elementary schools; 4 kindergarten through grade 8 or kindergarten through grade 12 schools; and 23 secondary schools, primarily grade 7 through grade 12. The district also offers pre-kindergarten programs for 4 year olds; the Native American Resource Center which provides cultural enrichment program for Native American students; and a Montessori School. Secondary schools have specialized focuses in fine arts, business and finance, construction and design, bioscience and health, hospitality and tourism, and college preparatory.

Higher education is available at the University of Rochester, which offers more than 200 academic majors, a school of medicine and dentistry, and a school of nursing. Rochester Institute of Technology focuses on professional and career-oriented 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 3 hospital systems with over 1,800 licensed beds.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	207,294
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,035,566
Per Capita Personal Income, Rochester, NY, MSA	\$39,036