



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Genesee
Riverway
Trail**
New York



Genesee Riverway Trail

New York

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By the early 1800s, Rochester had earned the nickname of Flour City because of its numerous mills that allowed the young town to rapidly become the largest flour producer in the United States. The flour mills were located along the Genesee River, whose waterfalls provided power to keep them running. Now, the Genesee Riverway Trail closely follows the river on its north-south course through Rochester, providing stunning vistas of the falls on the way.

About the Route

While the waterfalls near the midpoint of the trail are a main attraction, there's plenty more to see along the well-used trail. Leaving from the trail's northern endpoint at Orchard Beach Park, where the trail juts out into Lake

Ontario along a pier offering panoramic views. Back on land, the trail passes the park's historical—and still operating—carousel from 1905. Follow signs to continue through the often-crowded park and parking lots to meet the Genesee River for the first time.

Soon, the trail arrives in Turning Point Park, where a long and winding boardwalk transports trail users across the marshy Genesee River Turning Basin, which once served as a turnaround point for boats before they reached the river's waterfalls, as well as a loading dock for ferries transporting rail cars full of coal. Back on land, the trail continues south as a rail-trail on the former line, eventually curving to meet Lake Avenue, where the trail then parallels the roadway. (Cyclists will need to pay attention, as the pathway eventually becomes unidirectional on both sides of the road, requiring a crossing for those traveling southbound).

After transitioning briefly to sidewalks and bike lanes, the multiuse trail continues, unsigned, at Maplewood Drive. Signs resume where a turn to the left will take trail users across a trail bridge; take the turn for river views or direct access to the Seneca Park Zoo, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Back on the main route, the trail narrows as it passes under the granite-arched Veterans Memorial Bridge before emerging into a wooded corridor that displays spectacular colors in the fall months. The river is once again visible, while the trail moves alongside boats docked in the river, and the water now courses at a significant distance below. The trailside Maplewood Park along this stretch provides an excellent stopping point, with a rose garden (and restrooms) likely to beckon.

Immediately after crossing Driving Park Avenue, the trail reaches its first waterfall. Lower Falls Park delivers spectacular views of the eponymous waterfall and the attractive Driving Park Bridge, as well as interpretive signage. Just to the south, the Middle Falls lack views but provide an excellent reminder of the importance of the falls to



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States: New York

Counties: Monroe

Length: 22.7miles

Trail end points: Ontario Beach Park, 50 Beach Ave. (Rochester) to Genesee Valley Greenway (Rochester)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Genesee Riverway Trail runs between the Ontario Beach Park, 50 Beach Ave. (Rochester), and the Genesee Valley Greenway (Rochester).

Parking is available at:

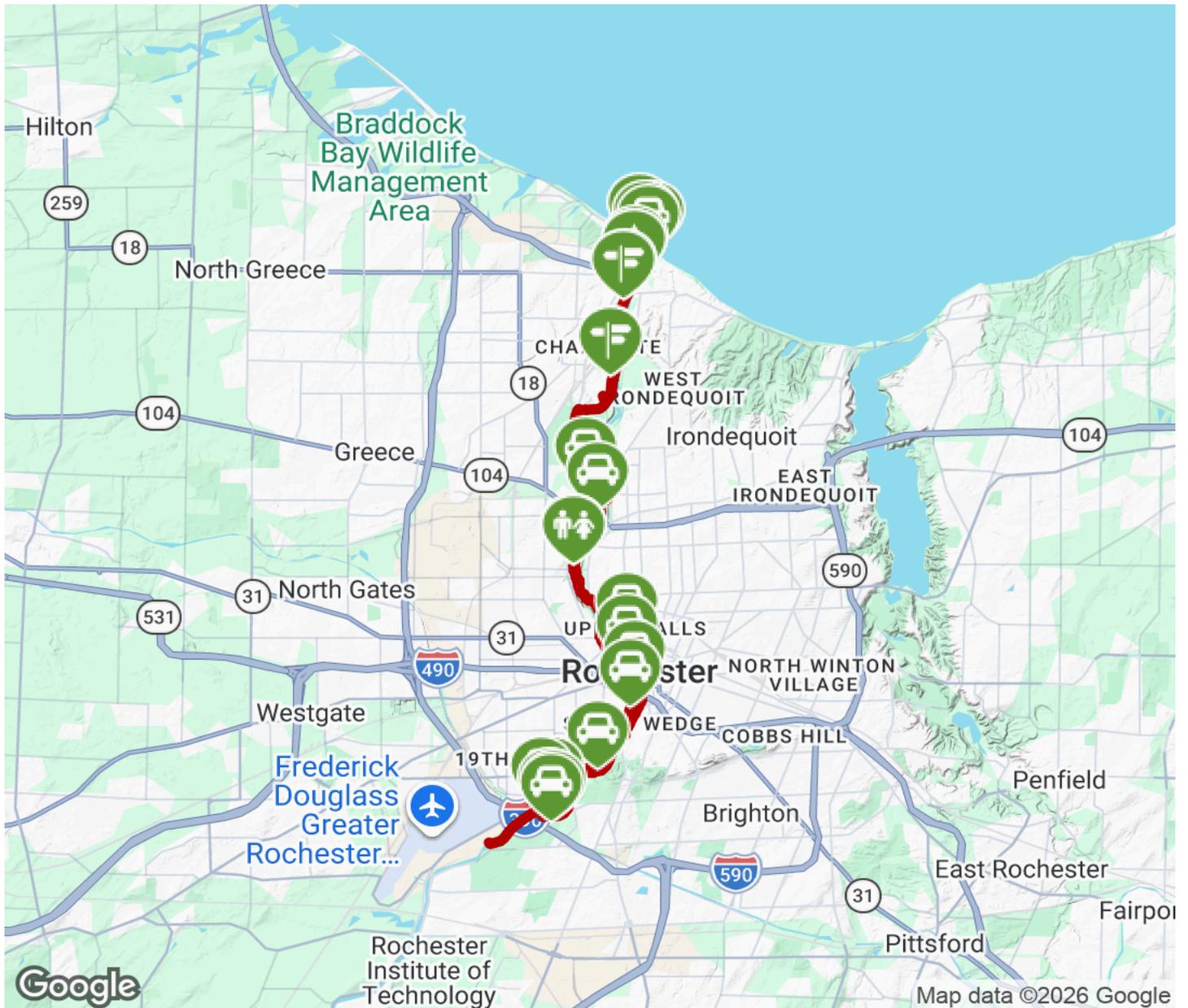
- 89 Maplewood Dr. (Rochester)
- Genesee Valley Sports Complex, 131 Elmwood Ave. (Genesee)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
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