

## Maplewood Rose Garden and The Genesee Riverway Trail, Rochester NY

This cute park is a respite from the busy City buzzing along just steps away. , has hundreds of different varieties of roses. Located in the northwest quadrant of the city of Rochester, Maplewood Park was laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted to highlight the Genesee River. The hundreds of different varieties of roses and breathtaking scenic views make this park a must-see spot in Rochester. The diverse park stretches alongside two miles of Lake Avenue.

**Some history:** On June 15, 1958 the Stecher Memorial Fountain honoring the late Frank A. Stecher was dedicated in Maplewood Park. The fountain, made of Etowah pink Georgia marble, was presented to the city by Mrs. George C. Schlegel, daughter of Mr. Stecher, founder of the Stecher Lithograph Company. Mayor Peter Barry accepted the \$2,000 structure on behalf of the city. The marble used in the fountain came from one of the first marble quarries of North Georgia. Etowah is a Cherokee Indian word meaning "red sunset". The choice of marble was thus quite appropriate, relating both the theme of roses and the fact that the Maplewood Park area was an important site for indigenous people.

Mr. Stecher, a native of Germany, came to Rochester in 1870, and was the first American to organize a lithograph company in Japan. He was the first lithographer to use a two-color offset press. Stecher was thus an early pioneer of imaging technology, a Rochester tradition. Mr. Stecher was a director of several banks and a director of the Rochester Dental Dispensary. In 1906 he organized the National Association of Employing Lithographers, and was its president for three terms. He died in 1916.

**The Rose Garden** showcases a large collection of the most disease resistant and cold hardy roses available today. There are over 250 different cultivars on display, featuring everything from *Abraham Darby* to *Zepherine Drouhin*. The roses infuse an acre of land with their fragrant scent and bold colors from early June until nearly Thanksgiving. Outside the rose season, the garden grows bulbs, annuals, perennials, and evergreens.

**The Genesee Riverway Trail** (GRT), a National Recreation Trail, winds through the Maplewood Park. GRT is marked with a system of wayfinding and interpretive signs to encourage and guide public use. Most of the trail is paved and easily accessible. Steep, rough, or narrow sections of the trail are clearly marked. GRT is a designated National Recreation Trail. Beyond the city, it links to the statewide Erie Canal Heritage Trail, and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail (south to Pennsylvania).

GRT links nine historic districts and individual landmarks including the 1842 Erie Canal Aqueduct and the 1822 Lake Ontario Lighthouse. The trail runs on both sides of the river from the south city line to Court St downtown, a total of 9 miles. North of downtown, the trail is continuous from Middle Falls (Brewer St or Driving Park Ave) to Lake Ontario, a total of 7 miles.