



## **Facts on Rochester, NY**

They Said It: The Classic Guide for Finding Your Best Places to Live in America (2007 edition), also known as Places Rated Almanac—rated Rochester the 6th best place to live in America. Expansion Management magazine (July 2007) ranked Rochester as having the best "Quality of Life" in the nation. Of the 362 metropolitan areas evaluated, the top 20% earned the designation "Five-Star Quality of Life Metro." Rochester was judged to be the best Five-Star Quality of Life Metro among cities with populations of more than one million.

And More! Child Magazine has also listed Rochester one of "America's 10 Best Cities for Families;" Essence magazine ranked it among the "Top 10 Cities for Black Families," noting its strong African-American heritage. Rochester was twice named one of America's Friendliest Cities by American Demographics magazine, based on residents' helpfulness to strangers. It has been named an All-America City, and Men's Health magazine cited Rochester as one of the "Healthiest Cities for Men," because of its air quality, short commutes and abundant leisure time activities. Rochester's eclectic House of Guitars was listed Number Two on Esquire magazine's July 2003 "Road Map to Musical America."

Interesting Stats: The 79th largest city in the United States, and the third largest city in New York State, the greater Rochester region is inhabited by a little more than one million people. Rochester is in Monroe County, but five additional counties are included in the Greater Rochester Region: Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans and Wayne.

Food For Thought: Rochester's own Wegmans Food Markets recently won top honors at the Food Network's first-ever awards ceremony in the Super Markets category--#1 "Grocery Chain that Changed the Way We Shop!" Wegmans was also named the #3 Best Company to Work for by Fortune magazine in 2007— Wegmans had ranked # 1 & #2 respectively in 2005 & 2006 and named Number One Family Friendly Supermarket in the United States by Child magazine.

Bloomin' Facts: In 1789 Ebenezer "Indian" Allen built the area's first gristmill and the "Flour City" was born. With the advent of the Erie Canal to transport milled grain and lumber, Rochester became America's first "Boom Town." Rochester's moniker changed to the "Flower

City” when horticulturists George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry gained international attention for their nursery business. Their legacy can be seen each May when over 500 varieties of lilacs bloom in Highland Park.

Early Innovators: From bloomers to the fountain pen and the very first gold tooth, Rochester has had its share of firsts. Marshmallows were first commercially produced in Rochester, and it was here in 1904 that the first prepared mustard was manufactured by the R.T. French Company. The city inspired a young George Eastman to invent the flexible-film camera, making photography available to the masses.

Business Connections: When John Jacob Bausch and Henry Lomb opened a small optical shop in Rochester in 1853, it was the start of the optical and health care company known as Bausch & Lomb. George Eastman’s efforts to make photography portable in 1888, became the business we know today as the Eastman Kodak Company. A small business that took up residence in a loft above a Rochester shoe factory in 1906, evolved into what today is known as The Xerox Corporation. This legacy of small business success continues with Tom Golisano’s prospering Paychex, Inc., payroll processing company, and a number of biotech, optics and imaging businesses.

Women’s’ Rights: If it were not for one of Rochester’s best-remembered citizens, women would not have the freedoms taken for granted today. Susan B. Anthony was arrested in 1872 for voting in a presidential election. She spent the rest of her life fighting for the basic rights of women to vote, own property, obtain advanced education and be paid an equal wage. Visitors still tour her Madison Street home, and often travel to nearby Seneca Falls to visit the National Women’s Hall of Fame and Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

Civil Rights: Abolitionist Frederick Douglass spent 25 of his most productive years in Rochester. Douglass, an escaped slave, published the abolitionist newspaper The North Star and assisted Harriet Tubman in the dangerous work of helping slaves escape via the Underground Railroad. Douglass was involved at one of the most crucial points of the flight, assisting with escape by boat along the Genesee River to Lake Ontario and Canada. His burial site is located in Rochester's Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Cultural Riches: Rochester is made culturally rich by the renowned George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Eastman School of Music, Strong National Museum of Play (and home to the National Toy Hall of Fame), the Rochester Museum & Science Center, Genesee Country Village & Museum, and The Memorial Art Gallery. Its beautiful and varied architecture includes the Art Deco splendor

of the "Wing of Progress" atop the Times Square Building, a multitude of interesting architecturally impressive buildings, and the spectacular mansions of East Avenue.

**Music Central:** With the internationally recognized Eastman School of Music and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, it's no wonder Rochester has ties to Grammy Award-winning musicians like Chuck Mangione, Renee Fleming, Jeff Tyzik and Mitch Miller. Late musical greats include William Warfield best known for his rendition of "Old Man River" in the musical *Porgy & Bess*, and Cab Calloway of "Minnie the Moocher" fame.

**Dramatic Happenings:** Rochester's Geva Theatre Center features live performances of classic plays and debuts of original works, year-round. The Downstairs Cabaret offers a slate of rotating performances. And a host of regional theater companies offer much variety to Rochester's very active theater scene.

**Artist's Way:** Nationally recognized American artists Wendell Castle and Albert Paley live and work in Rochester. Castle's carved wooden sculpture, including a grandfather clock from his popular clock series, may be seen at the Memorial Art Gallery. Paley's metal sculptures grace the entrance to Bausch & Lomb World Headquarters, the railing of the Main Street Bridge, as well as the Memorial Art Gallery's collection. The late painter Ramon Santiago, left a legacy to Rochester in his images, which can be seen in quantity at Charlie's Frog Pond.

**Dancing Divinely:** Rochester is home to Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagan and the internationally lauded Garth Fagan Dance. Rochester City Ballet's young dancers have gone on to perform with large dance companies nationally and internationally.

**Friendly Competition:** When it comes to sports, count Rochester in! Amerk's Hockey, and Rochester Knighthawks Lacrosse are played at Blue Cross Arena; Rochester Red Wings Baseball at Frontier Field and Rochester Raging Rhinos Soccer and Rochester Rattlers Lacrosse play at PAETEC Park. The NFL Buffalo Bills hold summer camp each year at nearby St. John Fisher College.

**More Food for Thought:** Transplanted Rochestarians travel thousands of miles for a spoonful of Abbott's Custard, a local frozen treat available at Ontario Beach Park and other Abbott's locations throughout the Rochester region. White hots, a local tradition invented more than 100 years ago in Rochester, are now shipped nationwide for those who can't bear to have a barbecue without them. And if someone offers you a "Garbage Plate" while you are in Rochester, don't turn them down. It's a tasty combination of deep fried hotdogs, hamburgers, potatoes and macaroni salad spiked with hot sauce, made popular by the Rochester restaurant

Nick Tahou's. To wash all of these good things down, the Rochester region supplies super-caffeinated Jolt Cola; Genny Beer, now made by High Falls Brewing Company; and a host of wines from the Finger Lakes wine trails.

#### SOME FAST FACTS!

Seabreeze Amusement Park is the 4th oldest operating amusement park in the country. The park's newest roller coaster, "The Whirlwind" is one of only 3 of this type of spinning coaster in the U.S. The park's wooden roller coaster, "The Jack Rabbit," is the 3rd oldest operating wooden coaster in the U.S.

Seneca Park Zoo is home to the only African elephants and Bornean orangutans in New York State.

Strong National Museum of Play has the most comprehensive collection of dolls, toys and play-related objects in the world.

Genesee Country Village & Museum is the largest living history museum in New York State and the 3rd largest living history museum in the country--it also has more outhouses than any other living history museum

George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film is the world's oldest photography museum--it has more than 400,000 photographs from 14,000 photographers dating from the beginning of the medium; 16,000 items of camera technology; 26,000 motion picture titles and 3.5 million publicity stills and posters; and one of the world's most comprehensive library of photographic books, manuscripts, and journals.

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