

GENESEE RIVER

CANOE MAP

NORTHERN SECTION

The Genesee River flows north from Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario thanks to a glacial deposit which blocked its once southerly course. From Letchworth Park to Rochester, the northern section gathers volume as it meanders across lower and smoother farmland. Then it plunges 266 ft. over Rochester's three falls, which powered the flour mills responsible for the town's founding, and flows out through a popular and renewing harbor at Charlotte. Adequate water is dependable all year. River miles and GPS co-ordinates are listed for each access point.

City of Rochester - Downtown River miles 6 to 8
WARNING: No river travel within the city center is safe due to dams, high falls, power generation, and cliffs. The Genesee can be viewed from many Rochester parks and bridges.

Rochester-Charlotte River mile 0.75 N43° 15.29' W77° 36.55'
 At N end of Lake Avenue: parking, DEC boat ramp and dock. Free car-top boat launch. Portable toilets. Proposed new dock and facilities at River Street (2005).

Rochester-Turning Point Park River mile 2.5 N43° 13.65' W77° 37.07'
 From Lake Ave, east at Boxart Street to Turning Point Park on the GENESEE RIVERWAY TRAIL. Steep road to river, return car to upper parking lot.

Rochester - Lower Falls, Seth Green Island River mile 6 N43° 11.24' W77° 37.40'
 From W. Ridge Rd (Rt 104), E of the river, turn S onto St Paul Blvd, then W at junction of Norton and Seth Green Dr. Park outside fence. Gate open 6AM - 7PM. Carry down steep asphalt road, west on dirt path.
WARNING - EMERGENCY conditions may require the release of water at the electric power plant. Listen for the warning horn and watch for strobe light.

Rochester-Corn Hill Marina (potential) - West side N43° 08.99' W77° 36.65'
 Last landmark before DAM. Genesee Gateway Park, (potential)-East side, north of Ford Street bridge. South Wedge boat ramp used for boat events.

Bausch and Lomb Park N43° 07.87' W77° 37.92'
 On Wilson Blvd. at University of Rochester campus. Ramp and wooden dock near pedestrian bridge. Free parking on street on weekends.

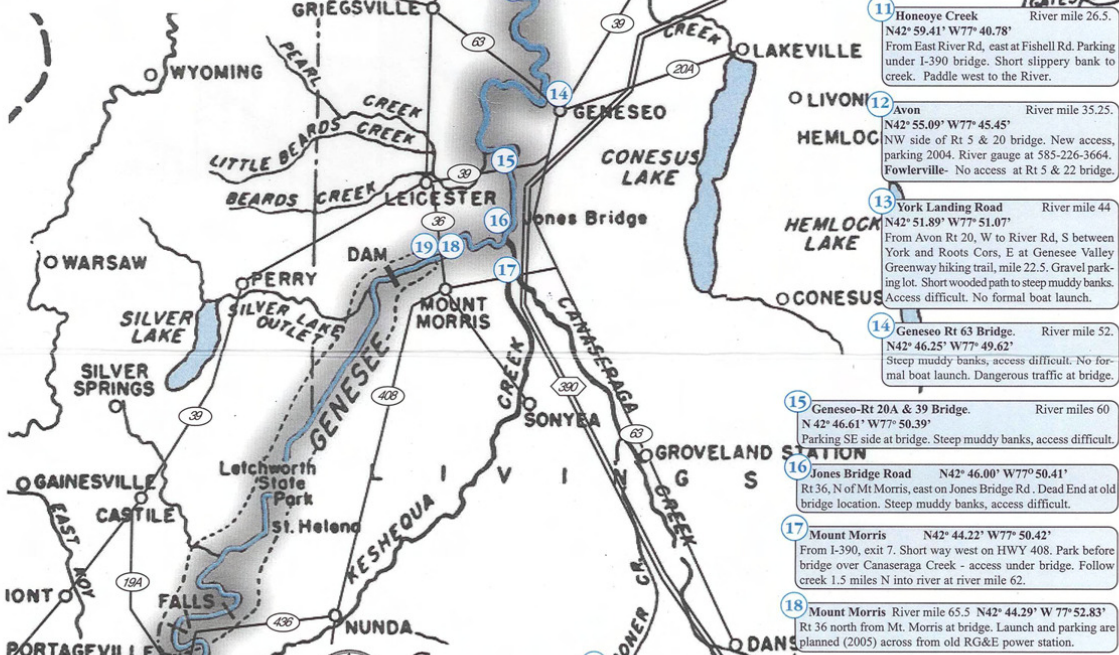
Genesee Valley Park River mile 10.5 N43° 07.39' W77° 38.20'
 On west side of river, across from University of Rochester, travel to 149 Elmwood Ave to Genesee Waterways Center (585-328-3960). Canoes to rent for local use - end of May to October. Handicap accessible. Parking, dock, and ramp. Toilets for renters and members.

Genesee Valley Park N43° 07.11' W77° 38.33'
 Elmwood Ave to Park Road. Drive over I-390, turn west and park. Carry under I-390 bridge. Traverse rocks, launch in Red Creek. Canoe (a) N to Erie Canal, W to Genesee River, or (b) E to Erie Canal, or (c) S into Red Creek.
Red Creek- Elmwood at Strong Hospital to Kendrick Rd. Over the Erie Canal, S to East River Road. Park on W side, at bridge between Bastian and Helen Streets. Launch into Red Creek.

Black Creek- Chilli, River mile 14 N43° 05.68' W77° 41.02'
 From Scottsville Rd, (Rt 383), west onto Ballantyne Road (Rt 252), first right, Black Creek Rd, then back east to DEC boat access. Ramp, parking lot. Portable toilets in summer. Canoe (a) west on Black Creek or (b) east to Genesee River.

Scottsville - Rt 253 River mile 21 N43° 01.81' W77° 43.45'
 From Scottsville Rd (Rt 383), turn east on Rt 253. DEC access NW side of bridge. Timber steps.

Industry - Rt 251 River mile 23.5 N43° 00.27' W77° 43.73'
 Rush-Scottsville Rd (Rt 251) bridge. Parking SE side. Concrete steps.



10 Water Access
 104 Highway

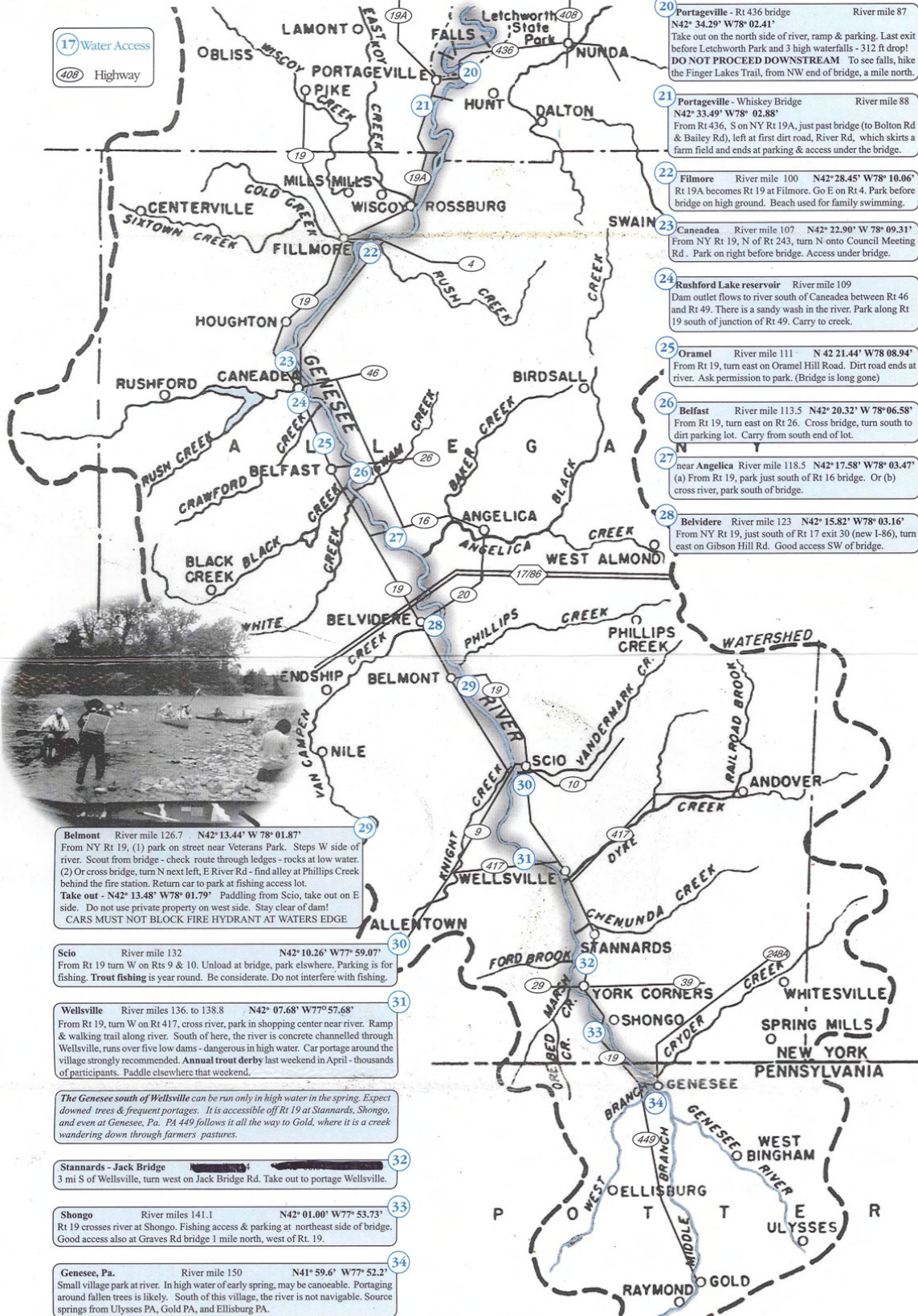
Prepared for the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club with a grant from the Atlantic Chapter, 2004, by Laura & Jon Arney, Don Welch, Bob Pierson.



- 11 Honeoye Creek River mile 26.5. N42° 59.41' W77° 40.78'
 From East River Rd, east at Fishell Rd. Parking under I-390 bridge. Short slippery bank to creek. Paddle west to the River.
- 12 Avon River mile 35.25. N42° 55.09' W77° 45.45'
 NW side of Rt 5 & 20 bridge. New access, parking 2004. River gauge at 585-226-3664. Fowlerville- No access at Rt 5 & 22 bridge.
- 13 York Landing Road River mile 44 N42° 51.89' W77° 51.07'
 From Avon Rt 20, W to River Rd, S between York and Roots Cors. E at Genesee Valley Greenway hiking trail, mile 22.5. Gravel parking lot. Short wooded path to steep muddy banks. Access difficult. No formal boat launch.
- 14 Genesee Rt 63 Bridge. River mile 52. N42° 46.25' W77° 49.62'
 Steep muddy banks, access difficult. No formal boat launch. Dangerous traffic at bridge.
- 15 Genesee-Rt 20A & 39 Bridge. River miles 60 N 42° 46.61' W77° 50.39'
 Parking SE side at bridge. Steep muddy banks, access difficult.
- 16 Jones Bridge Road N42° 46.00' W77° 50.41'
 Rt 36, N of Mt Morris, east on Jones Bridge Rd. Dead End at old bridge location. Steep muddy banks, access difficult.
- 17 Mount Morris N42° 44.22' W77° 50.42'
 From I-390, exit 7. Short way west on HWY 408. Park before bridge over Canaseraga Creek - access under bridge. Follow creek 1.5 miles N into river at river mile 62.
- 18 Mount Morris River mile 65.5 N42° 44.29' W77° 52.83'
 Rt 36 north from Mt. Morris at bridge. Launch and parking are planned (2005) across from old RG&E power station.
- 19 Letchworth State Park River miles 66.5-87 N42° 44.50' W77° 52.98'
 From Rt 36 north of Mt. Morris, turn SW onto Park Rd. Entry fee \$5. (2004). Drive south to Visitors Center 15 miles (2 miles N from south end of park). Must register to paddle in park, wear helmet. River is Class II and III in park, maximum safe water level 14 ft. Paddling allowed from base of Lower Falls north to Mt Morris dam. Toilets at visitors center, dam.
WARNING: No other river access is permitted. Three falls drop 312 feet. River gauge info at 585-468-2303. Adventure Calls Rafting (585-343-4710) runs raft trips through the gorge.

GENESEE RIVER CANOE MAP SOUTHERN SECTION

South of Letchworth, the Genesee is wilder, sweeping great arcs across its valley as it has for thousands of years. Although often banked by farms, there is a surprising amount of wildlife. Broad cobble beaches & bars are great for lunch, followed by stone skipping & fossil hunting. Summer is fine for paddling, but April and May have higher water levels - more important the farther south you start. Watch for downed trees on the bends!



- 17** Water Access
- 40B** Highway
- 20** Portageville - Rt 436 bridge River mile 87
N42° 34.29' W78° 02.41'
Take out on the north side of river, ramp & parking. Last exit before Letchworth Park and 3 high waterfalls - 312 ft drop!
DO NOT PROCEED DOWNSTREAM To see falls, hike the Finger Lakes Trail, from NW end of bridge, a mile north.
- 21** Portageville - Whiskey Bridge River mile 88
N42° 33.49' W78° 02.88'
From Rt 436, S on NY Rt 19A, just past bridge (to Bolton Rd & Bailey Rd), left at first dirt road, River Rd, which skirts a farm field and ends at parking & access under the bridge.
- 22** Fillmore River mile 100 N42° 28.45' W78° 10.06'
Rt 19A becomes Rt 19 at Fillmore. Go E on Rt 4. Park before bridge on high ground. Beach used for family swimming.
- 23** Canadea River mile 107 N42° 22.90' W78° 09.31'
From NY Rt 19, N of Rt 243, turn N onto Council Meeting Rd. Park on right before bridge. Access under bridge.
- 24** Rushford Lake reservoir River mile 109
Dam outlet flows to river south of Canadea between Rt 46 and Rt 49. There is a sandy wash in the river. Park along Rt 19 south of junction of Rt 49. Carry to creek.
- 25** Oramel River mile 111 N 42° 21.44' W78° 08.94'
From Rt 19, turn east on Oramel Hill Road. Dirt road ends at river. Ask permission to park. (Bridge is long gone)
- 26** Belfast River mile 113.5 N42° 20.32' W 78° 06.58'
From Rt 19, turn east on Rt 26. Cross bridge, turn south to dirt parking lot. Carry from south end of lot.
- 27** near Angelica River mile 118.5 N42° 17.58' W78° 03.47'
(a) From Rt 19, park just south of Rt 16 bridge. Or (b) cross river, park south of bridge.
- 28** Belvidere River mile 123 N42° 15.82' W78° 03.16'
From NY Rt 19, just south of Rt 17 exit 30 (new I-86), turn east on Gibson Hill Rd. Good access SW of bridge.
- 29** Belmont River mile 126.7 N42° 13.44' W 78° 01.87'
From NY Rt 19, (1) park on street near Veterans Park. Steps W side of river. Scout from bridge - check route through ledges - rocks at low water. (2) Or cross bridge, turn N next left, E River Rd - find alley at Phillips Creek behind the fire station. Return car to park at fishing access lot.
Take out - N42° 13.48' W78° 01.79' Paddling from Scio, take out on E side. Do not use private property on west side. Stay clear of dam!
CARS MUST NOT BLOCK FIRE HYDRANT AT WATERS EDGE
- 30** Scio River mile 132 N42° 10.26' W77° 59.07'
From Rt 19 turn W on Rts 9 & 10. Unload at bridge, park elsewhere. Parking is for fishing. Trout fishing is year round. Be considerate. Do not interfere with fishing.
- 31** Wellsville River miles 136, to 138.8 N42° 07.68' W77° 57.68'
From Rt 19, turn W on Rt 417, cross river, park in shopping center near river. Ramp & walking trail along river. South of here, the river is concrete channelled through Wellsville, runs over five low dams - dangerous in high water. Car portage around the village strongly recommended. **Annual trout derby** last weekend in April - thousands of participants. Paddle elsewhere that weekend.
- The Genesee south of Wellsville can be run only in high water in the spring. Expect downed trees & frequent portages. It is accessible off Rt 19 at Stannards, Shongo, and even at Genesee, Pa. PA 449 follows it all the way to Gold, where it is a creek wandering down through farmers' pastures.*
- 32** Stannards - Jack Bridge
3 mi S of Wellsville, turn west on Jack Bridge Rd. Take out to portage Wellsville.
- 33** Shongo River miles 141.1 N42° 01.00' W77° 53.73'
Rt 19 crosses river at Shongo. Fishing access & parking at northeast side of bridge. Good access also at Graves Rd bridge 1 mile north, west of Rt. 19.
- 34** Genesee, Pa. River mile 150 N41° 59.6' W77° 52.2'
Small village park at river. In high water of early spring, may be canoeable. Portaging around fallen trees is likely. South of this village, the river is not navigable. Source springs from Ulysses PA, Gold PA, and Ellisburg PA.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: The only runnable whitewater is in Letchworth Park. The southern part occasionally reaches class II, with downed trees the only danger. North of Mt. Morris, the river has hardly a riffle, except in downtown Rochester, which is strictly off limits.
But at high water levels this powerful river is not for beginners!



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CAMPING: There is virtually no public camping along the entire length of the Genesee. Best to take day trips of 10 - 20 miles. Drive to private campgrounds off-river, if necessary.