



This walking route was created to encourage walking and exploring in Rochester, MN. A group of community partners assembled it as part of a series in hopes that each walker may discover more about our city. Enjoy!



Route 4 of 5 • 2.38 miles
Eastside Neighborhood Walk

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Eastside Neighborhood Walk

All routes begin and end at the Peace Plaza.

1 Chateau Dodge Theatre (Now Barnes & Noble)

This is one of many theaters designed by Ellerbe Architects. Opened in 1928 as a Vaudeville theater, the Chateau has a long history of concert and stage productions, where performers such as Tallulah Bankhead and cowboy Tom Mix appeared. In the late 1980's it was renovated by Barnes & Noble into a beautiful one-of-a-kind bookstore and is now listed on the National Historic Registry.

2 Mayo Field

Current home of the Rochester Honkers baseball team (Northwoods League Champions in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2006), this land was a gift to the city in 1905 from the Mayo family. Mayo Field has also served as host to several other notable local teams, including the North Stars (1890's) and the McQuillan Aces (1920's). The 2,200 seat grandstand was constructed in 1951 and now welcomes nearly 50,000 fans each year. Honkers games are played from May through August.

3 Oakwood Cemetery

Currently at 53 acres, Oakwood Cemetery was established in 1862 and is the largest and oldest of Rochester's three cemeteries. It is the final resting place of many of Rochester's leading citizens including Dr. W. W. Mayo, Dr. Christopher Graham, Dr. Henry Plummer, John H. Kahler, Amelia Hatfield Witherstine, and George Head. The Woodward Memorial Gateway at the entrance was designed by the Ellerbe Architecture firm and constructed in 1928.

4 511 East Center Street (Neighborhood Home)

This Eastside home was built in 1898 and owned by Anna and Al Reiter (and at times his brother). The Reiter family owned the first "grocery store" in Rochester which was located on Broadway. This residence has served as a boarding house and a realty office. It has been lovingly restored by the current residents, containing all original woodwork, plaster walls, two stairways, maids room, etc.

5 Mayo Civic Center Complex

The Mayo Civic Center began existence as the Mayo Civic Auditorium, dedicated in 1938 and a gift to the city from the Mayo Brothers. A statue of the brothers stands at the drive-in entry. An 11-acre park behind the center formerly contained a small zoo with bears, monkeys and other animals. The Center Complex is part of the Avenue of the Arts, which includes the Rochester Art Center (the modern structure to the south) and Rochester Civic Theatre (to the north). To the east, along the bike path, is a plaque memorializing the 1861 founding of the Minnesota Education Association.

6 Olmsted Bank (Now Goonie's Comedy Club)

The Olmsted County Bank and Trust Building was built in 1918. In 1965, the bank moved and the building currently houses McGoon's Taxi Co. Pub and Goonie's Comedy Club, both of which are named after Howard A. McGoon who operated a taxi and sightseeing service in Rochester for a number of years.



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