On this 1.3 mile walk, you'll visit some of the sites of Rochester's historic industrial development and enjoy spectacular views of Rochester’s High Falls Gorge from two different bridges spanning the Genesee River.

Healthy precautions:
- Stay home if you’re not feeling well
- Stay at least six feet away from others during your walk
- Don’t touch, sit on, or lean against, benches, fences, and other objects during your walk
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds when returning home
EcoLoop Walking Tour Sites

#1 FlourGarden - In 1817, Matthew and Francis Brown built a hydropower raceway at this site. It diverted water from the Genesee River to power dozens of mills. Today, the raceway has become the FlourGarden, a 300-foot-long sustainable garden.

#2 Barton Edge Tool Company - This building, at 250 Mill Street, was built in 1865 for the Barton Edge Tool company, which made tools such as carpenter’s planes and chisels. It’s now the Metro Business Center, home to a variety of small businesses.

#3 Rochester Marshmallow Works - This building, at 281 Mill Street, was once home to the first company in America to make and distribute marshmallows, starting in 1891. It later housed the Rochester Plumbing Supply and was recently converted into apartments.

#4 Genesee Riverway Trail – “Ecoloop” mural marks the south entrance to a new portion of the Genesee Riverway Trail, an off-road trail for walking, running and bicycling along the Genesee River.

#5 Coal chute - This metal structure was part of a facility which unloaded coal from railroad cars. At the bottom of the chute, conveyors moved the coal to a manufactured gas plant and to Beebe Station, a coal-fired power generating facility.

#6 Pollinator pathway - Dead trees were replaced with flowering trees and butterfly bushes along this pathway, and the area was seeded with a customized pollinator seed mix.

#7 Gorge overlook - This overlook provides a view of the Genesee River gorge. Centuries ago, the gorge was the border between the lands of the Five Nations of the Iroquois to the east and the tribes of the Erie people to the west.

#8 View of Kodak Tower - Kodak Tower was completed in 1914 and was the tallest building in Rochester for the next 50 years. Starting in the 1990s, 43 Peregrine falcons, an endangered species, were hatched in a nesting box near the top of the tower.

#9 Rochester Garbage Disposal - Below the bridge, on the west side of the gorge, is an abandoned garbage incinerator with a tall smokestack. This area of the Genesee River gorge was used to sort, recycle, and burn Rochester’s trash, beginning in 1910. The steam produced by the boiler was supplied to nearby buildings and factories.

#10 Bausch Memorial Bridge - On New Year’s Day in 1931, the city of Rochester dedicated this bridge in honor of John Jacob Bausch, the founder of Bausch & Lomb. Born in Germany in 1830, Bausch was a pioneer manufacturer and industrial leader, who helped Rochester become the world leader in optics.

#11 Halfway Done - If you started at the FlourGarden, you’ve now walked halfway around the EcoLoop! Walking is one of the simplest ways to get active and stay active. With each step you take, you travel further down the path to a healthier lifestyle.

#12 Site of Bausch & Lomb factories - In 1853, J.J. Bausch and Henry Lomb established an optical shop on Rochester’s Main Street. In 1874, their growing company moved here to St. Paul Street, where they remained for the next hundred years.

#13 Labor Lyceum building - The church on the east side at 580 St. Paul street was built in 1912 for the Progressive Working People’s Lyceum, which presented speakers, papers and debates on a range of topics including trade unions and child labor.

#14 Genesee Brewery – This brewery is one of the largest and oldest continually operating breweries in the U.S. The Aqueduct Spring Brewery, Rochester’s first brewery, opened in 1819. By the end of the century there were 50 breweries in Rochester, reflecting the city’s vibrant German heritage.

#15 Germanow – Simon Corp - The building on the east side of the street is Germanow-Simon Corporation, which was founded in 1916 as a small machine shop and grew to become a major supplier of thermometers and plastic molded optics.

#16 Brew House - Once a century-old packaging center, the Genesee Brew House has been transformed into a beer destination, featuring interactive exhibits and multimedia content, with a gift shop, pilot brewery and pub-style restaurant.

#17 High Falls viewing - Looking out over the gorge, you can see rock formations of shale, limestone, and sandstone, with bands of iron ore. The red “Medina sandstone” is often found on Rochester sidewalks, curbs, and older buildings.

#18 Pont De Rennes Bridge - This bridge, built in 1891, is 850 feet long and was originally meant for carriages. It is named in honor of Rochester’s Sister City, Rennes, France.

You can also use an iPhone to take a guided tour of the Lower Falls

1. Download “Tour Blend” from the App Store
2. Activate the EcoLoop Walking Tour
3. Listen to the audio narration as you enjoy your walk

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