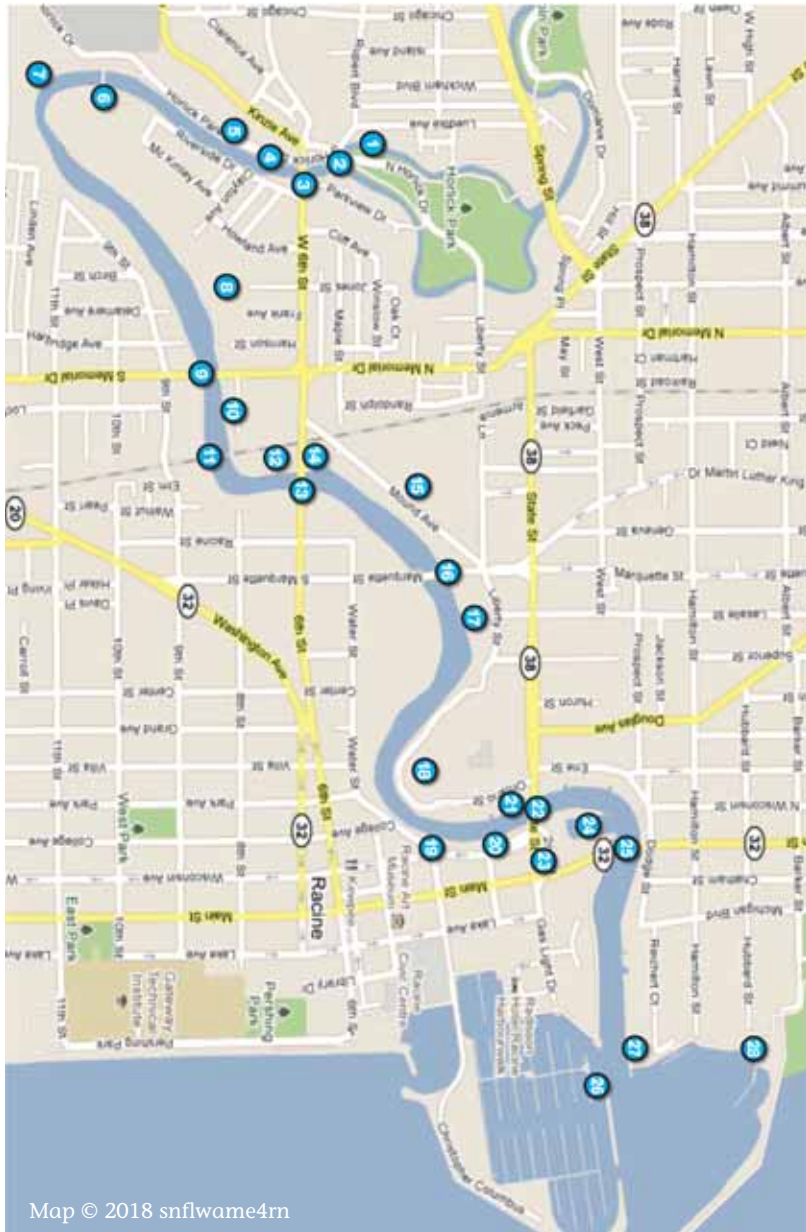


# TOUR THE ROOT

*The Hidden Gem of Racine*



Map © 2018 snflwame4rn



*Prepared by Sally Brown for Root River Council, Root-Pike WIN, University of Wisconsin Parkside and Racine Green Congregations.*

*Photo and map credits???*

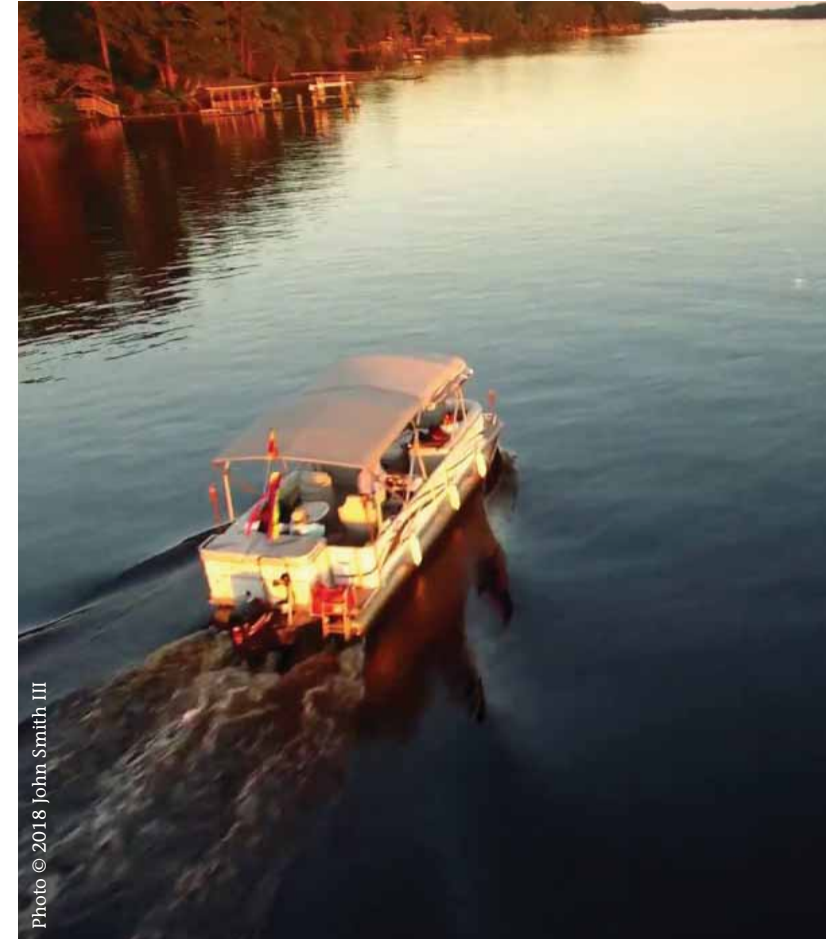


Photo © 2018 John Smith III

Take a slow ride up the Root River and back from Reef Point at the harbor on a pontoon boat with a tour guide to explain the history of the river, its environmental challenges, and development along the river. This 1 to 1.5 hour excursion will enable you to experience the natural beauty of the river and see the city from a fresh perspective.

**For more information, email [Marvin Letven](mailto:Marvin.Letven@yahoo.com) [mletven@yahoo.com](mailto:mletven@yahoo.com) or call 262-620-9489**

# TOUR THE ROOT

## The Hidden Gem of Racine

As you travel downriver, find these sights along the way.

**0 Numbers refer to the map.**

**L) left R) right A) above**

- 1** **Island Park** canoe launch (2010). Proposed by Root River Council (RRC) and funded by The City of Racine and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. Naturalistic landscaping at Island Park was done by Jens Jensen. Tanneries had been located here, away from the city because of the smell.
- 2** A) **Horlick Drive**; a concrete arch bridge.
- 3** A) **West Sixth Street**; a single open arch with terra cotta panels in the Art Deco /Moderne style. It was designed by Charles S. Whitney and built in 1928. Note gargoyles that allow for stormwater runoff. (Jeffrey A. Hess, WI DOT Historic Bridge Project).
- 4** R) **Riverside Park**. Peter B. Nelson, Mayor of Racine in 1903 remembers: "On the hill, facing the east, the earliest spring flowers bloomed." Riverside and Island (originally Horlick Park and Lewis field) were the first Racine parks, established by 1905, so "people had somewhere to walk on a Sunday besides Mound Cemetery."
- 5** R) Riverbank restoration and invasive removal by Weed Out! Racine and Kenosha/Racine Land Trust; invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn on hillside removed by the Mayor's Renew Racine Project 2009 - 2010.
- 6** A) **Washington Park footbridge** is part of the Root River Pathway, built in 2001-2004 by City of Racine Department of Public Works.

- 7** R) Large stormwater outfall. This is one of the assessment sites for water samples taken regularly by the City of Racine Department of Health. 2007 baseline assessment funding provided by Root-Pike WIN.
- 8** L) **Cedar Bend Park** (acquired 1912) and **Clayton Park** (acquired 1913). Clayton Park also has a canoe launch.
- 9** A) **South Memorial Drive**; a concrete arch bridge.
- 10** L) **Barbee Park**, acquired 2002, and named for longtime Racine Alderman Thomas Barbee. Funded by RP WIN, the prairie was planted in 2003 by RESCYU and Boy Scout Troop and Pack 181, Waymen AME Church. River Buffer maintenance by Weed Out! Racine and E3 summer stimulus program 2009.
- 11** A) **C&NW Railroad**. It's a double-intersection Warren deck truss swing span built 1908 by American Bridge Co., and probably not operated since the Teddy Roosevelt presidency. (bridgehunter.com)
- 12** L) **The Root River Environmental Education Community Center** (REC) is a partnership between the UW-Parkside and City of Racine. You can rent a canoe, kayak or bicycle, and participate in a variety of environmental programs. Hillside restoration, rain gardens, and informational signage funded by RP WIN. Canoe launch site.
- 13** A) Sixth Street again
- 14** L) (*Look up*) **Dawning**, a sculpture depicting a rising phoenix, was a collaboration among the REC, RRC, Racine County Workforce Development Center, and Gateway Technical College. It is situated on the Rotary Outlook along the Root River Pathway. Dedicated Earth Day, 2010.
- 15** L&R) The former **Western Publishing** buildings.
- 16** A) Marquette Street.

- 17** L) Fifth Street Yacht Club.
- 18** L) **CNH (J.I. Case)** buildings.
- 19** R) Azarian Marina.
- 20** R) **D. P. Wigley Building** built 1849 as Racine Feed Mill.
- 21** L) **Harbor Lite Yacht Club**.
- 22** A) **The State Street bridge** - a single span bascule bridge built in 1988. In boating season, opens on request. As Highway 38, it is largely maintained by the State of Wisconsin.
- 23** R) **Shoop Building** (Romanesque style) built in 1899.
- 24** R) **Belle Harbor Marina** (Racine County) used for winter boat storage, leased by Racine Harbor Marina.
- 25** A) The new **Main Street Bridge**, a double-leaf bascule design, was opened November 1996. In boating season, opens on a twenty-minute schedule as needed. As Highway 32, largely maintained by State of Wisconsin.
- 26** R) **Reef Point Marina** (1987), operated by Racine Harbor Marina, and Racine Harbor, owned and maintained by Racine County, with County funds and grants, including Wisconsin Waterways Commission.
- 27** L) **Coast Guard Station**: East building original lighthouse built 1866; West building built 1904. Vacated by Coast Guard 1972. Owned by the W.H. Pugh Coal Company.
- 27** **James F. Rooney public access boat launch/take-out**. Named for a former State Representative and long-time employee at City of Racine's, Department of Public Works.