

Rochester Museum & Science Center • January 2017

2017 RMSC Projects

Keeping Water out of Storm Drains

Phase 3 of the Regional Green Infrastructure Showcase project is funded through a grant received from New York State by the city of Rochester and will update the south parking lot and the new Gateway Building plazas. The east side of the campus will be retrofitted with practices that reduce stormwater runoff and protect local water resources. The project will enhance the pedestrian experience and neighborhood, as well as provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about cutting-edge technologies.

We're excited to share the teachings of the RMSC Green Infrastructure Project with the community. Phase 1 and 2 created a porous pavement parking lot and sidewalks, educational pavilion and rain garden. Let us know if you would like a tour.

Contact the RMSC
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Elements of the Extreme Exhibition

Our featured new exhibition, created by the RMSC team and volunteers, uses collections items and fabulous experiences to highlight some of the most powerful forces on the planet. Visitors discover how incredible adaptations to the unique properties of earth, water, air and fire enable life on our planet to survive and flourish. *Elements of the Extreme* is open through April 23.

Highlighted in the air section of the exhibition is a Blue-throated Starfrontlet Hummingbird (*Coeligena helianthea*) from our ornithology collection. While some birds rely on the movements of air for lift, hummingbirds have unique flight patterns that allow them to hover. In flight, the hummingbird's wings are constantly extended and its stroke forms a figure eight pattern. This enables the hummingbird to hover with great maneuverability. Generating lift through flapping alone requires a lot of energy. Some species of hummingbirds beat their wings more than 50 times per second.

The unusual properties of water in its three states (ice, water, and vapor) make it a necessary resource to sustain and support life on this planet. Indigenous Alaskans made parkas to protect against cold, icy conditions. Emma Porter fashioned the exhibition's parka out of wolverine, wolf and muskrat fur to keep warm in Noatak. An Alaskan Native reportedly made the exhibition's caribou hide boots for Dorin Browne, a member of the first Alaskan survey team.



Augmented reality
sandbox

In the augmented reality sandbox, visitors sculpt the landscape, then virtually make it rain to observe water flow over the terrain. Erosion caused by moving water continually reshapes the land around us.

Objects featured in the fire section illustrate a selection of firefighting technology used in Rochester. The Kodak pumper truck's small size made it possible to navigate through the halls and narrow doorways of the Eastman Kodak plant in Rochester. During its years of service, the pumper kept at least two large fires under control until the fire department arrived.



Kodak fire pump

Rochester in 1838 Diorama

The RMSC is undertaking a project to stabilize and restore its long-admired "Rochester in 1838" diorama. With the help of grant funding from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the RMSC will renovate the enclosure and create new interpretive features. The work of restoration artists will be on view to the public in a fishbowl-style "living exhibit" display surrounding the diorama.



This project commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal groundbreaking. Specialists in the conservation and restoration of historical dioramas will refresh the diorama's look, restore its functionality and ensure that the diorama will be available for the enjoyment of future generations.