

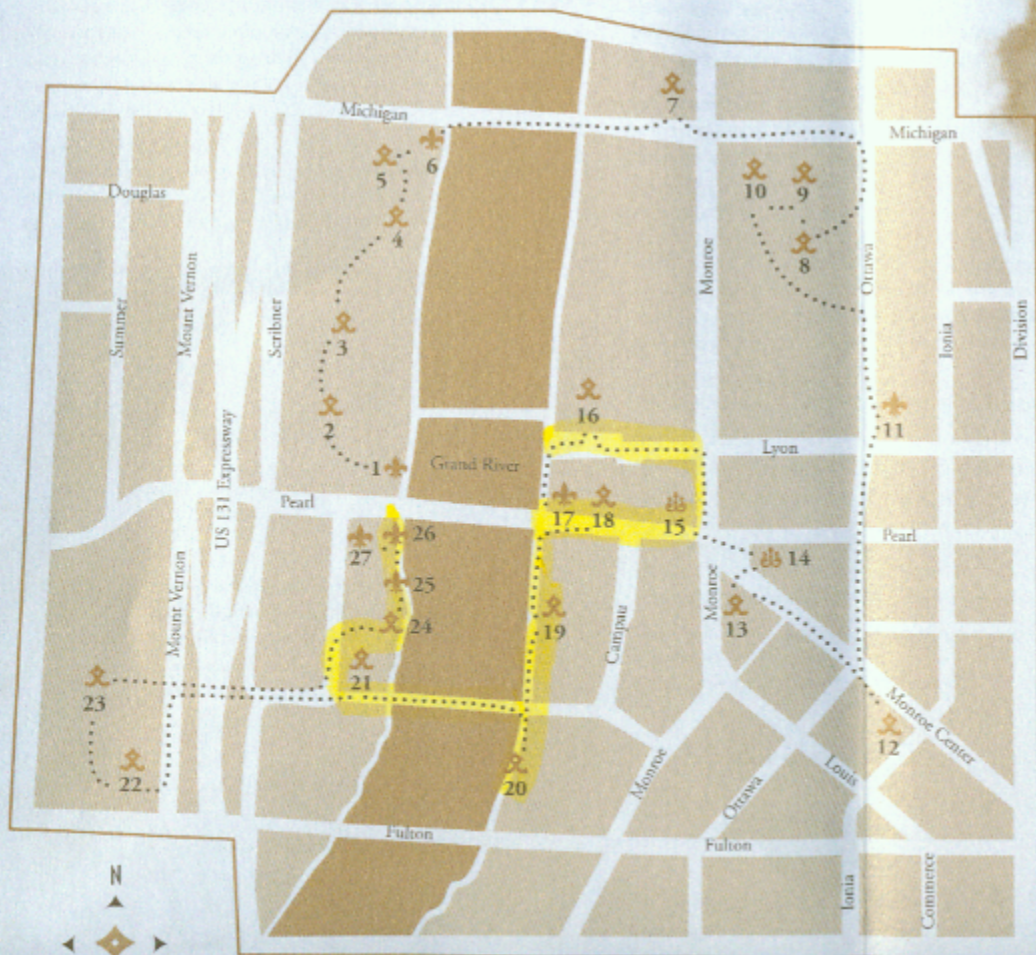
Tour 1

Take a walk
ON THE WILD SIDE.

THE CLOCK TOWER - 11

Hit the trail starting at the south end of Ab-Nab-Awen Park (off Pearl Street) near the Gerald R. Ford Museum. Explore the "nature" side of the city as you walk through parks and along the Grand River in search of landmarks and sculpture. Enjoy the scenery!

Sculpture
 Building
 Point of Interest
 Tour 1



1 - INDIAN BURIAL MOUNDS ✦

Sasaki Associates, Inc., landscape architects, 1976, earth
Look for three large grass hills at the south end of Ab-Nab-Awen Park, (off Pearl Street) near the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

Three distinct mounds symbolize those built nearly 2,000 years ago by native tribes, often called the Hopewell. The three mounds represent three tribes: Odawa (Ottawa); Ojibwa (Chippewa); and Potawatomi. (Also see Indian Burial Mounds, under "A Short Drive Away" on the inside panel.)

2 - MAN IN SPACE &

Judd Nelson, sculptor, 1984, bronze
On the Gerald R. Ford Museum Plaza, 303 Pearl Street NW.

"Creating the first heroic image of a man in the state of non-gravity," was the artist's intent in replicating a virtually weightless astronaut. Even though the sculpture looks light and as if the astronaut were floating, the actual weight of the piece is over 600 pounds! Nelson used texture and color to make the all metal sculpture look like rough cloth, glass, leather, and plastic.

3 - AMERICAN EAGLE &

Marshall Fredericks, sculptor, 1972, bronze
Walk past the Gerald R. Ford Museum, into the Betty Ford Garden.

A noble eagle prepares to take flight off of its pedestal. Constructed with angular shapes, the eagle is very geometric. This symbol of our country appears to be soaring, with the hard lines and sharp edges representing speed. Look further northwest for the gold and black fence past the Museum. The cement vault inside the fence will be the final resting place for Grand Rapids native and former President Gerald R. Ford.

4 - NISHNABE GEMAW &

Tom Hillis, sculptor, 1992, bronze
Walk northwest to a large plaque with information about Native Americans, with the sculpture around the corner.

Commissioned by the Indian Sculpture Advisory Committee of elders from the Odawa, Ojibwa and Potawatomi tribes, this sculpture represents the native people of this land.

5 - LORRIE'S BUTTON &

Hy Zerkowitz, sculptor, 1976, fiberglass and urethane foam
Walk to the north section of Ab-Nab-Awen Park near Bridge Street NW.

This giant "Pop Art"-style button won the Playground Sculpture Competition of Festival in 1976. With the rugged activity of a playtoy producing wear and tear on the sculpture, Lorrie's Button is one of the City's most expensive sculptures to maintain.

6 - THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1904 ✦

Plaque on a boulder just before the bridge sidewalk.
Read about the Great Flood of 1904 where the mighty Grand River rose 20.4 feet and the aftermath of this disaster.

7 - "OLD MAN WINTER" FACES &

Artist Unknown
Look closely at the front facade of Old's Manor (201 Michigan Street NW). From the south side of Michigan Avenue, the wonderful ornamental faces decorating the side of the building can be seen.

The "Old Man Winter" faces are relief sculptures (which project figures or forms from a flat background), protruding from the building as if he were blowing a cold north wind. Or perhaps they are a representation of Father Time blowing away the years?

8 - LA GRANDE VITESSE &

Alexander Calder, sculptor, 1969, steel, painted red
On Calder Plaza on Ottawa Avenue.

World famous sculptor and influential artist, Alexander Calder created La Grande Vitesse (which means "the great swiftness" or "the grand rapids") for this specific site. While initially controversial, it's now a source of local pride, standing 43' high x 54' long x 30' wide in Calder Plaza. The vibrant color and swift, smooth curves create a dynamic and exciting piece. It was the first sculpture partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts through the "Works of Art in Public Places" Program. A scale model of La Grande Vitesse by Hetzer Hartscock is near the southeast corner of the plaza.

Artist Joseph Kinnebrew incorporated "the Calder" into the City's official logo. The world's largest Calder painting covers the 127-foot-square rooftop of the County Building and can be enjoyed from the 9th floor of City Hall.

9 - DISSECTED PYRAMID &

Joseph Kinnebrew IV, sculptor, 1977, steel
On the north side of Calder Plaza, to the right of La Grande Vitesse.

Commissioned in memory of a prominent attorney, the pyramid form is associated with funerary monuments, along with justice and wisdom. The piece conveys the desire for perfection while acknowledging the imperfection and unpredictability of man.

10 - MOTU &

Mark Di Suvero, sculptor, 1977, steel and rubber tire
In the courtyard behind the Federal Building; at the back of the plaza.

Derived from the City of Grand Rapids' motto, "Motu Viget" which means "strength through activity," this sculpture's title means "motion." The artist worked single-handedly with a crane to place the beams on this 33-foot tall sculpture.

11 - THE CLOCK TOWER +

Tower Pinkster Titus, architects, 2002
Look in front of the Kent County Courthouse (180 Ottawa Avenue, NW)

The Clock Tower rests on the former Grand Rapids City Hall site (1888-1969), and contains one of the four faces from the old City Hall clock. Aiming for an "ethereal quality," the architects let the clock face appear to float away from the corner poles, and the cables winding around the poles provide a "temporary" symbolic quality.

12 - MICHIGAN NATIONAL BANK RELIEFS &

Corrado Joseph Parducci, sculptor, 1926, terra cotta
On the Michigan National Bank building (at Monroe and Ionia NW)

A lone Indian watches the city from his lookout post. The building's terra cotta decorations depict the city's early history with other symbols such as animals, tools, and natural objects.

13 - "ECLIPTIC" ON ROSA PARKS CIRCLE &

Maya Lin, architect / sculptor, 2001, concrete
Walk through the center of the Park (at Monroe Avenue and Monroe Center); observe the water fountain, amphitheater, and the steam fountain.

Both a sculpture and a public park, "Ecliptic" on Rosa Parks Circle incorporates three forms of water: liquid, vapor, and solid (in the winter months). The 110 x 80-foot pad of concrete becomes an ice rink; embedded in the concrete are 146 fiber-optic lights which depict the night sky over Grand Rapids on January 1, 2000.

14 - MCKAY TOWER &

At Monroe Center, Monroe Avenue, and Pearl Street.

The McKay Tower stands where the first frame house in the Grand River Valley stood. In 1915 the two-story house was renovated and reopened as National Bank. Between 1926 and 1927, an additional 14 floors were built.

15 - SWEET'S MOTEL / PANTLIND HOTEL / AMWAY GRAND PLAZA &

Warren and Weston, architects (northwest section of the building)
The historic section of the Amway Grand Plaza is on the corner of Monroe Avenue NW and Pearl Street.

Sweet's Motel opened in 1869 and was one of the city's first electrically lit buildings. It was rebuilt and reopened in 1902 as the Pantlind Hotel. Designed with high archways, entrances, and unique ornamental carvings, the hotel is considered "Renaissance Revival" architecture. It was renovated and expanded again in the late 1970s, opening as the Amway Grand Plaza.

16 - CIVIC AUDITORIUM RELIEFS &

Corrado Joseph Parducci, sculptor, 1926, limestone
Walk past the Amway Grand; turn left on the cobblestone road; go toward the river, with the Auditorium on the right (227 Lyon St. NW).

The Civic Auditorium reliefs are beautiful examples of "Art Deco" style, inspired by those of ancient Greece and Rome. Multiple symbols and signs, including the city and state seals, are on the building, with a shell and wave motif at the roofline. Take note of the figurative reliefs at each end, representing music and fine arts.

17 - THE LOG JAM +

Plaque on the Pearl Street Bridge and the Amway Grand Plaza.

One of the most devastating events in Grand Rapids' history was the great log jam of 1883. Although no lives were lost, the estimated losses were \$500,000 (equivalent to over \$9 million in today's dollars), damaging bridges and roads within the city.

18 - UNTITLED &

Don Reitz, sculptor, 1983, clay
Amway Grand Plaza's main entrance walls (187 Monroe Ave. NW).

Festive and colorful, this abstract piece covers both walls of the Amway Grand Plaza's main entrance.

19 - FLUORIDE MEMORIAL &

Stephen Pierpoint, landscape architect, 1995, granite
Along the riverwalk between Pearl and Fulton Streets.

This six-pillar monument commemorates Grand Rapids as the first city in the country which fluoridated its drinking water.

20 - RIVER'S EDGE ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTURE &

Michael Singer, sculptor; Sasaki Assoc. Inc., landscape architects, 1995, granite and stone.

At the end of the riverwalk on the east bank of the Grand River; best viewed from the "Blue Bridge" over the Grand River.

Composed of granite, local riverbed boulders, and indigenous plants, this sculpture transforms as the sun moves over it, with flickering light enhancing the color, and shadow forms moving over the granite blocks. 600 feet long and 200 tons in weight, it was carefully engineered to withstand flooding and blend into the landscape, encompassed in vines and other plantlife.

21 - THE RIVER'S EDGE &

James Clover, sculptor, 1989, steel, painted white
Cross the "Blue Bridge" to the Grand Valley State University Campus.

A mixture of organic subjects and geometric forms, this piece expresses nature and life by the river. View this sculpture from multiple angles; each side showcases the piece differently as the shapes and forms interact with each other.

22 - DAWN'S GATE III &

Russell Thayer, sculptor, 2000, bronze
Walk to the front of Grand Valley State University's campus on Fulton Street to Lubber's Garden; look through the gates.

This sculpture resides in the center of a gated garden. Although the view is somewhat obstructed, the sculpture can still be seen from the sidewalk. By looking through the garden's front gates, another set of "sculptural gates" can be observed.

23 - EMBRACE &

Joseph Kinnebrew IV, sculptor, 2000, bronze
Enter the Grand Valley State University Campus from Fulton Street; go through the courtyard; go out the archway to Mount Vernon Street.

The sculpture is comprised of two organic bronze elements, one surrounding the other. The forms embrace each other and are embraced by the walls of Grand Valley's central courtyard.

24 - FLYING WILD GEESE &

Marshall Fredericks, sculptor, designed in 1955, cast in 1981, installed in 1994, bronze
Behind the Public Museum of Grand Rapids (272 Pearl Street NW).

Two geese about to take flight are captured and nestled among the shrubs and grasses of a natural and peaceful space.

25 - FIRST MILLSTONES +

Along the riverwalk behind the Public Museum of Grand Rapids (272 Pearl Street NW). Walk toward the river; turn left; follow the riverwalk a few feet; look for the stones on the left.

From the first operational grist mill in the city, these stones were reportedly brought here by the federal government for Native American farmers and settlers to grind corn into flour. When the mill was replaced by larger operations, the stones were used by John Ball as a horseblock at his home.

26 - THE MEMORIAL BELL +

McNedy and Co., purchased in 1878, installed in 1888, cast alloy
Walk up the cement steps to the front lawn of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids (272 Pearl Street NW).

After City Hall was demolished in 1969, this bell from the clock tower was purchased by the Grand Rapids Firefighters Union Local 366 (in 1978) and dedicated to all firefighters who died in the line of duty. In 1995, the bell was donated to the Public Museum and moved to this site.

27 - APOLLO SPACE CAPSULE +

On the front lawn of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids (272 Pearl Street NW).

The space capsule was originally used for recovery training during the joint United States-Soviet Union Apollo-Soyuz missions. Donated and sealed in 1976, the space capsule became a time capsule holding items such as newspapers, photos, letters, a pacemaker, skateboard, and Grand Rapids made furniture. It will be opened during America's tricentennial on July 4, 2076.



THE RIVER'S EDGE - 21



MAN IN SPACE - 2



AMERICAN EAGLE - 3