

Welcome Home



7 S. Monroe St.
Rockford, MI 49341
616-866-1537
www.rockford.mi.us

City Hall Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00pm

Welcome Home

Greetings Neighbor:

Welcome to the City of Rockford! We are so happy you chose our community for your home. We know moving to a new area can be both exciting and challenging all at the same time. We've created this welcome packet to help make your transition as smooth as possible and to help you discover some of what makes Rockford a unique and special place to live. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to call us at 616-866-1537 or email us at info@rockford.mi.us

Sincerely,

Thad Beard
Rockford City Manager

Follow us on social media:



City of Rockford - City Hall



[cityofrockfordmi](https://www.instagram.com/cityofrockfordmi)





City of Rockford Organization:

The City of Rockford is governed under a council–manager form of government.

Under the council–manager form of government, the Rockford City Council is responsible for the legislative function of the municipality such as establishing policy, passing local ordinances, voting appropriations, and developing an overall vision. The legislative body, which is voted into office by public elections, appoints a professional manager to oversee the administrative operations, implement its policies, and advise it.

The position of “mayor” is selected by the council from among its members.

The city manager position is similar to that of corporate CEO, providing professional management to the City Council. The City Council makes major decisions, and exercises representative power on behalf of the citizens. The city manager is, in turn, responsible for hiring a city staff to carry out implementation of city ordinances.

City Council meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm at City Hall and is open to the public.

Elected officials are:

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem.

City Council Member

City Council Member

City Council Member

Ed Ross

Tammy Bergstrom

Cheryl Scales

Terry Konkle

Dale Dalman

City Employees:

City Manager

City Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Finance Director/Treasurer

Deputy Treasurer

Assessor

Assessor

Utility Billing Clerk

Police Chief

Public Services Director/Fire Chief

Thad Beard

Chris Bedford

Kris Murphy

Linda Lehman

Deb Brunett

Lisa Verburg

Debbie Rashid

Erika Ward

Dave Robinson

Jamie Davies



A dynamic splash of water with many bubbles, set against a light blue background. The splash is positioned at the top of the page, with the water surface curving across the width of the document.

Water Utility Billing:

Water and sewer bills go out every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December) and are due on the last business day of the month.

Payments can be made at City Hall, either in person during business hours or use our drop box outside anytime. You also have the option to pay online at www.rockford.mi.us, online payments do have a small service fee. You can also sign up for auto payments. With auto payments, you will still get a bill in the mail and funds will be withdrawn on the bill due date.

If you ever have any questions about your water bill, please contact City Hall at 616-866-1537.

If you believe you have a water or sewer problem, do not hesitate to call the City offices. One of our staff will forward your information and concerns to our Public Services Department, who will arrive to assess the problem immediately. If the problem arises outside normal business hours, call the Rockford Public Safety Department at 616-866-9557.





Residential Refuse Services

Residents can use any refuse service they would like. However, the City of Rockford has a non-exclusive Residential Refuse Agreement with Arrow Waste and have a locked in rate for residents through 2023.

Trash Service: \$13.00 per month for a 96 gallon container
\$10.50 per month for a 64 gallon container

Recycle Service: \$3.12 per month for a 96 gallon container

For residents who have small amounts of refuse, a bag service is available for \$1.50 per bag, and are sold in packs of 10 bags for \$15.00 at City Hall.

For more information about using Arrow Waste for refuse services call 616-748-1955.





VOTE

Voter Registration

Registering to Vote

Residents can stop by City Hall or any Michigan Secretary of State's Office to register as a new voter in the City of Rockford. You must be a US Citizen at least 18 years of age by the date of the election to register to vote

Absentee Voting

All registered voters are now eligible to vote absentee if you have met the photo ID rule when you registered to vote. If you registered to vote in person at City Hall or Secretary of State office or have been voting at the polls since you registered to vote you have met the photo ID rule.

The absentee voting process can take place in person, by mail, or by using the drop box just outside the front door of City Hall.

If you would like to vote absentee in future elections, we can add you to a Permanent Voter List. For every election, we will then mail you a Michigan Absent Voter Ballot Application (required) for you to complete and return to us prior to each election. Requesting to vote by absentee for future elections doesn't prohibit you from voting in person the day of the election. If you choose to vote in person for a particular election, then you won't complete the Absentee Voter Ballot Application when it arrives in the mail.

In order to be placed on the Absentee Voter list, you may do one of the following:

- Email a request to kmurphy@rockford.mi.us (include your name, address and year of birth)
- Drop us a note through regular mail at City of Rockford, 7 S Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341
- Call City Hall at 616-866-1537 and request to be added to the Absentee Voter List

Voting in Person on Election Day

The City of Rockford has two voting precincts. Precinct 1's polling location is at the Fire Station. Precinct 1 is any house east of the Rogue River. Precinct 2's polling location is at City Hall. Precinct 2 is any house west of the Rogue River. Both of these polling locations are at 7 S. Monroe St.

For any questions about voting, please call 616-866-1537.

Yard Waste:

The City of Rockford provides a curbside yard waste collection program for our residents who live inside the city limits.

The program is conducted by the Department of Public Services (DPS) and runs throughout the “growing season”; or from roughly early April to early December.

The Yard Waste Collection Program is intended to provide taxpayers a means to dispose of normal yard waste.

Normal yard waste includes your grass clippings, leaves, weeds and brush trimmed from trees and shrubs from your yard.

Yard waste shall be placed in bio-degradable paper yard waste bags only.

Land clearing, large tree removal, or work done by a contractor does not qualify for the City’s yard waste collection program.

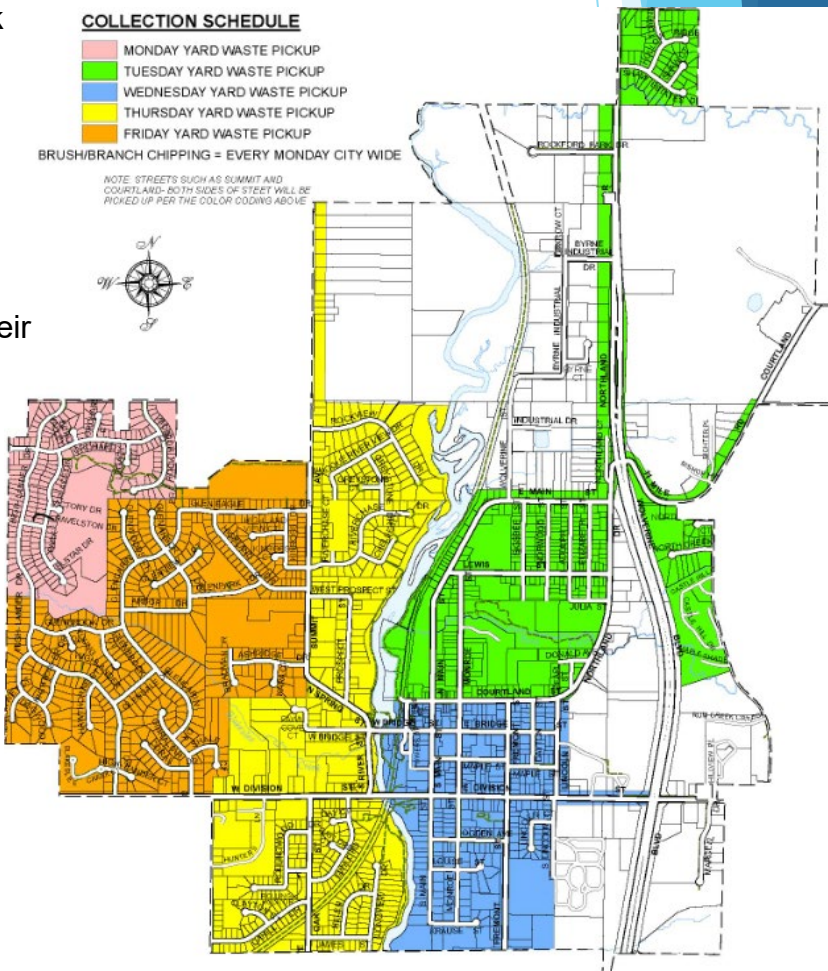
In the fall, typically mid-October, DPS crews will start the leaf vacuum. During this time taxpayers are allowed to rake their leaves curbside.

This is the only time of the season that leaves do not need to be bagged.



DPS crews do branch chipping every Monday and follow a route starting on the northeast side of the city (Shaw Estates), and systematically move throughout the city finishing on the northwest side of the city (Heritage Park).

Brush must be placed curbside by 7am Monday to be picked up.



Important Local Ordinances:



Lawn Maintenance

Residents are required to maintain their lawn. Grass and/or weeds must be less than 12 inches tall. Do not leave any trash, litter, junk, rags, garbage, rubbish or anything of like nature and in or around your yard which flies, insects, rodents or vermin may exist, breed or multiply.

Fireworks

Consumer fireworks are only allowed to be ignited on the following days and times:

- New Years: December 31 after 11am until 1am on January 1.
- Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday and Sunday only (11am-11:45pm each day).
- Independence Day: June 29 to July 4 only (11am-11:45pm each day).
If July 5 is on a Friday or Saturday it is permitted (11am-11:45pm).
- Labor Day Weekend: Saturday and Sunday only (11am-11:45pm each day).

Burning Ordinance

The City of Rockford does not allow the burning of brush or rubbish. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible matter. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. And must be in a portable firepit. Permanent firepits are not allowed inside the city limits.

Pets/Animals

We love pets and consider ourselves a dog friendly city. Please keep your pet on a leash when not in your yard and clean up after them. The keeping of household pets, including dogs, cats, fish, birds, hamsters and other animals generally regarded as household pets is permitted as an accessory use in any Residential District. However, no more than three (3) dogs or cats, six (6) months of age or older, in any combination thereof, shall be kept or housed in or at one (1) dwelling unit.

The keeping of animals not normally considered household pets, including, but not limited to, horses, pigs, sheep, and cattle is prohibited in all zoning districts.

Any area where such permitted animals are kept shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition



Important Local Ordinances:



Noise

Please be mindful of your neighbors and observe the quiet hours of 11pm-7am. If you have pets, you are responsible for making sure they aren't making excessive noise at any time. And please be thoughtful of your neighbors when listening to music or gathering with friends outside.

Recreational Equipment Storage

Recreation equipment (Campers, RV's, boats, etc...) can only be parked or stored in back of your house. They are only allowed to be parked in the front of your house for a maximum of 48 hours in a week for loading, unloading and cleaning purposes and cannot be parked in the street. Recreation equipment cannot be used for living or housekeeping purposes.

Snow Removal

Residents are required to have snow removed from city sidewalks within 24 hours from when the snow stops falling. In addition, snow removed from private property is not to be placed in the public way – streets, alleys, parking lots, driveways, or any other public areas. It is also forbidden to place snow or ice onto the property of another person without prior approval. City crews clear the public streets after each snowfall. Heavily traveled roads are first priority.

Seasonal Parking Ban

From November 15th until April 1st of each year there is a seasonal parking ban on all public streets from 2 am until 6 am. This restriction is in place to accommodate snow removal during the early hours of the morning. Please note, that the ban is in force for the months indicated above and is not lifted due to a lack of snowfall.

For more information about the ordinances listed here or to see all of the city ordinances, please visit our website at www.rockford.mi.us



Rockford's Gift to You, Our Beautiful Parks...

More than 30 acres of prime land and waterfront property for public enjoyment and recreation.

Rockford Dam Overlook

The Rockford Dam Overlook is one of the highlights of Rockford and provides a spectacular view of the Rogue River. Ideal for picnicking and watching the fishermen, this park is a gem of downtown Rockford. There is direct access to the river. The Rockford Dam Overlook is located on Bridge Street downtown.



Peppler Park

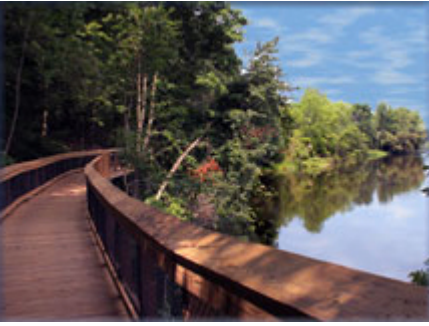
Peppler Memorial Park is on the Rogue River west of the Rockford Dam. It has a fishing platform, picnicking, and provides for a walk across the dam. Peppler Park has a new overlook, railings, access ramp, landscaping, flowers, stairs to Bridge Street, and hosts the Rockford Area Community Endowment "Recognition Plaza".

Garden Club Park

Come relax in downtown Rockford. On the banks of the Rogue River, the White Pine Trail State Park winds through for bicycling and walking. Just northeast of the dam, Garden Club Park includes new leveling, picnic tables, lighting, and a concert deck. This is the scene for the popular summer music series, the "Rogue River Blues".



Rockford's Gift to You, Our Beautiful Parks...

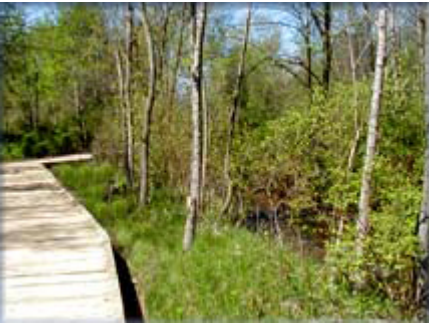


Rogue River Nature Trail

The Rogue River Nature Trail is a boardwalk along the Rogue River. It begins in Peppler Park, west of the Rockford Dam. The trail encompasses 4.5 acres, and the boardwalk winds a quarter mile north along the river bank, offering scenic views of wooded areas, the Rogue River, and downtown Rockford.

White Pine Trail State Park

A turn-of-the-century railroad line is now a linear Park, and an area favorite. The trail provides a direct paved link from Grand Rapids, with access to Fifth Third Park and the West River area. It runs through Rockford along the scenic Rogue River and provides wonderful opportunities for walking, bicycling and rollerblading.



Memorial Park

Featuring the Rum Creek Nature and Fitness Trail. Rum Creek is a pristine, cold water trout stream. View incredible wetlands and a beautiful creek. Memorial Park is home to the popular Community Cabin and one of the finest wooden playground structures in the area, Pachyderm Park, at 220 N. Monroe.

Glen Park

Glen Park is Rockford's newest park. A boardwalk, playground and nature trail make this a great place to relax with family and friends. An array of playground equipment, picnic tables and benches in a shady wooded setting provide plenty of room and enjoyment. Glen Park is on Glen Park Drive, just west of Highland Drive.



Rockford's Gift to You, Our Beautiful Parks...

Richardson-Sowerby Park and Dog Park

This is one of Rockford's great finds! On both the east and west banks of the Rogue River. The east bank has a covered pavilion for picnicking, BBQ grills, a playground, fishing opportunities and restrooms. Across the pedestrian bridge, on the west bank, there is a fitness course and softball field and our dog park. Easily accessible from the White Pine State Trail or off Main St. behind the Rogue Valley Towers.



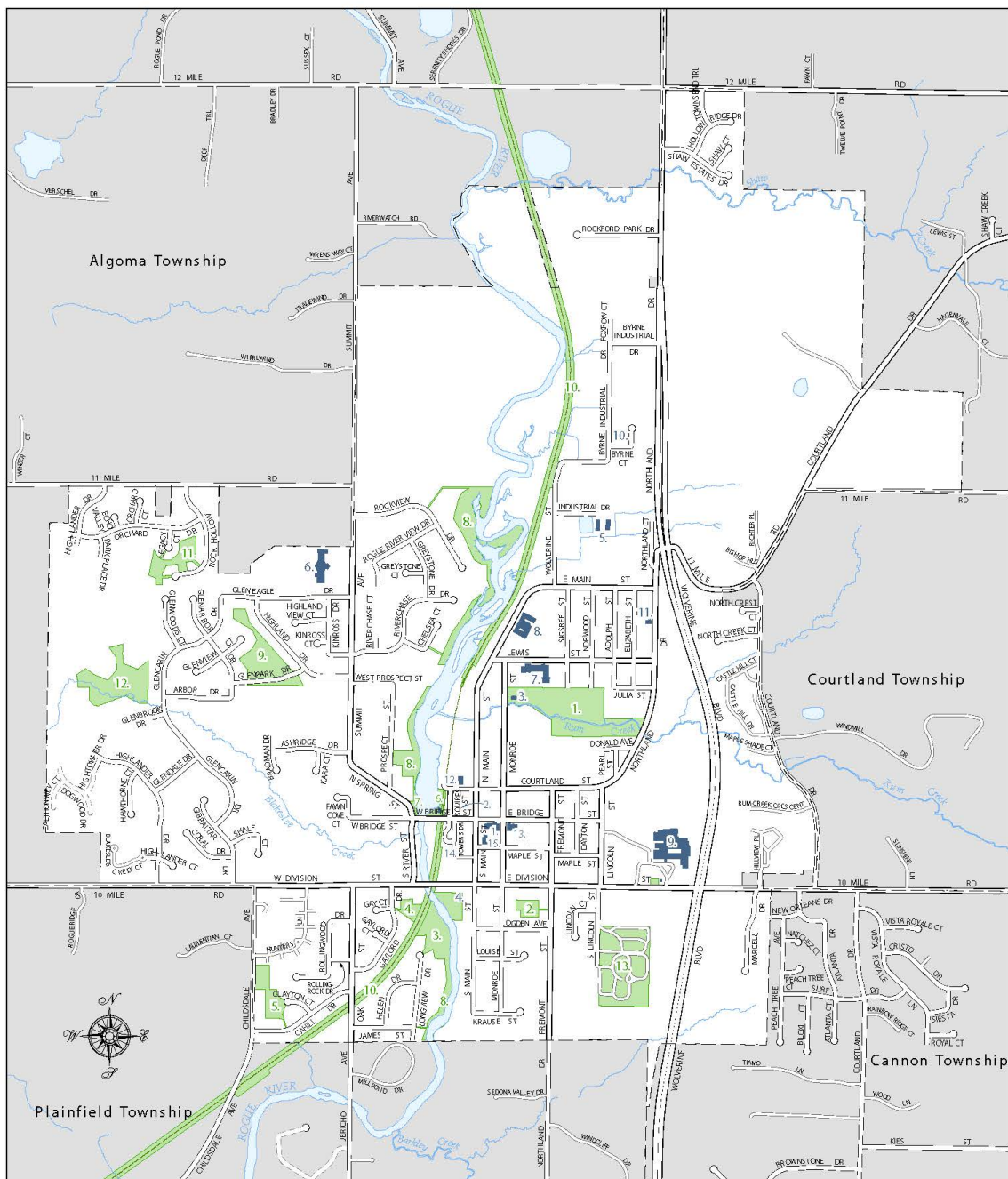
Pickett Park

Pickett Park at 120 Gaylord has a fitness challenge climbing structure, swings, jeep riding toys, and the WUM climber! Plus picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountain, and direct access to the White Pine Trail State Park. Take the pedestrian bridge spanning the Rogue River to Richardson Sowerby Park.

Rotary Jaycee Park

Rotary Jaycee park is a quaint neighborhood park. It has a fun play structure with climbing dinosaurs and swings. This park also includes a full basketball court, open field for play, paved parking lot and picnic tables with a drinking fountain. Rotary Jaycee Park is located at 127 S. Fremont Street.





ROCKFORD
Good for strolling. Great for shopping.

Map Legend

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Roads & Streets | Trails & Bikeways |
| Highway | Major Buildings |
| Primary | Lakes & Ponds |
| Secondary | Rivers & Streams |
| Proposed U.C. | Parks, Cemeteries, Etc. |
| Alley | Government Units |
| Private | |

0 550 1,100 2,200 3,300 4,400 Feet

Parks & Trailways

1. Memorial Park
2. Rotary Park
3. Richardson-Sowerby Park
4. Pickett Park
5. Cahill Park
6. Garden Club Park
7. Peppler Park
8. Rogue River Nature Trail
9. Glen Park
10. Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park
11. Heritage Parkland and Nature Trail
12. Heritage Parkland
13. Rockford Cemetery



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Public Facilities

1. Rockford City Hall
2. City of Rockford Pavilion
3. Community Cabin
4. Richardson-Sowerby Park Pavilion
5. Department of Public Service
6. Valley View Elementary
7. Parkside Elementary
8. RPS Administration Building
9. North Rockford Middle School
10. Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce
11. Michigan State Police Post 61
12. U.S. Post Office
13. Kraus e Memorial Library
14. Rockford Farm Market
15. 63rd District Court

Krause Memorial Library

Library Hours:

In-branch hours

Monday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Curbside service hours

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday: Noon – 8 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

**Kent
District
Library**



Library Amenities:

- Wireless internet
- Public computers with internet, word processing, and other software
- Color copier
- Fax kiosk
- KDLville early literacy play space
- Teen area
- Study room
- Community meeting room

140 E. Bridge St., Rockford, MI 49341

(616) 784-2007

<https://www.kdl.org/locations/krause>





Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

The mission of the Rockford Public Schools is to provide a safe teaching and learning environment which will ensure, with the support of the students, parents and community, that all students, upon graduation, will have the academic and social skills to be successful, lifelong learners in a global society.

Top Reasons to Choose RPS

- All schools are Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools and are fully accredited through AdvancED
- The district strategic planning process, which has been in place since 1989, gathers input from community, staff and students, to define the direction and priorities of our schools
- High school students graduate with a guaranteed diploma and a National Career Readiness Certificate
- Students can earn college credit at Rockford High School through the district's concurrent enrollment partnership with Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University
- 98% graduation rate, with students earning a total of \$750,000 to \$1 million on average annually in college scholarships
- Rigorous and relevant curriculum with added support provided through our special services and gifted and talented program
- Recognized as an Advanced Placement Achievement District by The College Board
- Outstanding world language opportunities, including Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, French, German and Spanish at the high school level and Spanish Immersion starting at the kindergarten level
- State, nationally and world recognized fine arts, Odyssey of the Mind and telecommunications programs
- Highly successful co-curricular and athletic programs, with 34 varsity teams earning over 55 state athletic championships and a wide variety of club offerings
- Outstanding parent support and community involvement

Rockford Public Schools
350 N. Main Street
Rockford, MI 49341
Main Office: 616.863.6320
District Information: info@rockfordschools.org
Website: www.rockfordschools.org

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce (RCC) works hard at "Building a Stronger Community. Together. We say "together" because we work with a large variety of businesses and organizations to bring many different programs to Rockford businesses and the community.

We fill many roles as we do our work: information center, business spokesperson, economic advisor, professional developer, government relations partner, economic developer and planner, event organizer, and public relations specialist.

The RCC joins forces with the City of Rockford and the Rockford School Systems to further the Quality of Life in Rockford. We believe in the 3-legged stool philosophy that says that there has to be equal support from all three areas to have a sturdy foundation and a stable community. All three are proud of the relationship that has been forged for the good of Rockford. It is the Rockford way.

The Chamber features many programs and events that follow the vision of our mission statement. Among our programs, The RCC Scholarship and Chamber University help us to further the education of our community members. The Chamber Network Circle was formed to aid networking for our membership by fostering better relationships among our members. The many festivals and events the Chamber sponsors are a boon to both the community and the economy. To help its membership thrive in the business world, the Chamber offers Bi-Monthly Luncheons and After Hours events and SCORE Counseling.

Even through a sometimes struggling Michigan economy, Rockford has stayed the course and has worked hard to ride out the waves, and has been successful in utilizing its partnerships for the good of the whole. We feel strongly that there is strength in numbers – especially at the local level. It is always easier to join resources and work together. We are here because the membership believes that, the City of Rockford believes that and the Rockford School Systems believes that. And that is our goal and our role to work at "Building a Stronger Community. Together."

Contact the Rockford Chamber of Commerce by calling 616-866-2000 or visiting their website at: rockfordmichamber.com

Follow us on social media:



Rockford Michigan Chamber of Commerce



[rockfordmichamber](https://www.instagram.com/rockfordmichamber)

Downtown Shopping & Dining

Rockford has everything to make your day complete. Whether you are looking for unique shops, dining opportunities or outdoor adventure – Rockford has the answer.



Shopping – The downtown shopping district will be sure to delight you with its unique shops and boutiques. There are plenty of shops with exceptional offerings that range from boutiques and candy stores, to home furnishings and fishing tackle and even a toy store! The store owners are friendly, the atmosphere is relaxed and the variety is endless.

Dining – The downtown district boasts many restaurants that offer a wide variety of dining fare and atmospheres – you can find one to suit your style and mood for each visit. Each restaurant has its own specialty and its own unique menu. You can find anything from custard in a cup along the trail, challenging yourself to get on the Hot Dog Wall of Fame, or enjoy a dining experience while relaxing by the banks of the Rogue.



Festivals – Rockford is well-known for its festivals and events. From the fireworks and carnival rides at the Start of Summer Celebration to the beautiful fall days of Harvest Fest, Rockford is always highlighting fun for families. Rockford features the Rogue River Blues Series and Praise in the Park, which are FREE outdoor concert series during the summer. There is also the Rockford Farm Market every year from May through October. Art in the Park, a local artist event, features the talent of the area every year. There is always something fun happening in Rockford!



HEARTofRockford



heartofrockford

Downtown Parking Map

