

Chicago River Day 20/20 Scavenger Hunt Site Cluster: North Branch

Friends of the Chicago River

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1. Portage Park

Visit this park on the northwest side of Chicago. It was named for Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette, two French explorers who visited the area in 1673. During their travels (by canoe) they occasionally had to go overland from river to river to get from the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes. This is known as “portaging” - hence the park’s name. Locate the natural area along the south edge of the park. Bring some nuts for the very friendly squirrels. Walk the path through the garden. What is the 2nd letter in the name of the rock used in the garden’s landscaping?



2. West Berteau Avenue

Locate the intersection of West Berteau Avenue and North Rockwell Street. Just west on Berteau the road dead-ends above the river. This site has been restored by a group of riverbank neighbors. Enjoy the view, the native plants, and the ducks. This is a great place to view wildlife. Locate the sign entitled “Riverbank Neighbors” with a quote on it. What is the 1st letter in the person’s first name who is quoted?



3. Lawrence Avenue pumping station

Just north of West Lawrence Avenue on the west side of the river is Ronan Park. Just a few hundred feet from the southern end of the park you will see a large round grating on the left side of the path. This is an exhaust vent for the Deep Tunnel system. You can see the pumping station across the river from where you are. Locate the LEV-L-LOKs in the circular vent. What is the last letter in the full name of the state where they were made?



4. West River Park confluence

Visit West River Park near the intersection of West Argyle Street and North Albany Avenue. Walk the path to the northeast part of the park overlooking the confluence of the North Branch of the Chicago River and the North Shore Channel. Find the waterfall. Count the number of fishing rod holders at that spot. Count through the alphabet to find the letter that corresponds to your number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.).



5. Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center (VRC)

Visit the VRC at 6100 North Central Avenue. This building is the former clubhouse for the Edgebrook Golf Course. Park and enjoy a walk (or even a round of golf if it’s warm enough). Locate the flagpole on the island just in front of the main building. What is the 5th letter on the POW-MIA sign next to the flagpole?



6. Dammrich Rowing Center

Visit the Dammrich Rowing Center located just east of the North Shore Channel and north of Oakton Street in Skokie. You can bring your dog to the dog park located behind the center. Walk around until you find the ComEd box surrounded by three granite boulders. Locate the white label with green lettering on it near the base of the box. What is the 3rd letter of the artist’s last name who recorded a cover version of the song with this title in 1990?



7. Ladd Arboretum

Visit the Evanston Ecology Center at McCormick Blvd. and Bridge Street in Evanston. Feel free to go in the center if they are open. Walk in the opposite direction toward the Rotary Friendship Garden within the Ladd Arboretum. Locate the globe sculpture between two long rows of trees. What is the 16th letter on the sign by the globe?



8. Baha'i Temple/Gillson Park

North of the Baha'i Temple on Sheridan Road in Wilmette is Gillson Park. Pull into the park drive just north of the North Shore Channel. Locate the bike path coming up the hill from underneath the bridge. What letter does the shape of the path make as seen from a bird’s-eye view?

How to Play

Unscramble the eight letters from your scavenger hunt to spell a river-related word. To submit your entry, please email your eight-letter unscrambled word to scavengerhunt@chicagoriver.org. Please include the site cluster name in the subject line of your message. Include your full name, address and phone number. All entries must be received by 5:00 pm on May 11, 2012. Winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries. Prizes – First prize: (1) Two spots on one of Friends’ guided canoe trips in the 2012 season (Children over 5 are welcome if accompanied by an adult). Second prize: (10) Chicago River Day 20/20 T-shirts. Third prize: (20) The Chicago River from Your Window Guides. In addition, the first 500 entries receive one free admission to the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Be an adventurer! The more sites you visit, the better your chances to win!

To learn more about Chicago River Day 20/20: See What You Can Do, please visit www.chicagoriverday20-20.org.