

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

Friends of the Chicago River

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1. River City condominiums

Head south of the Loop to check out the “Jetson-esque” River City condominium, designed by Bertrand Goldberg. Walk towards the river between River City and the vacant lot just north of it (obeying all “No Trespassing” signs). When you get near the river you will see two diamond-shaped signs. Count the number of dots on each sign. Now count through the alphabet to find the letter that corresponds to that number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.).



2. Roosevelt Avenue bridge

Go to the north side of the Roosevelt Road bridge walkway. Stand on the lookout and gaze northward. You’ll see a building with two smokestacks. Locate the address written along the top of the building. Take the first number and add the second number then subtract the third number. Once you have the answer, count through the alphabet to find the letter that corresponds to that number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.).



3. Ping Tom Park

Head even further south to visit Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown. This beautiful little park is a hidden gem in the community. Walk towards the river to the pagoda-style pavilion. How many benches are on the east side of the pagoda (east is facing back toward the railroad tracks)? Count through the alphabet to find the letter that corresponds to your number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.).



4. Amtrak Vertical Lift Bridge

Continue on the path leading to the southern section of the park. You will see one of the last remaining vertical lift bridges in the City of Chicago. If you stay here long enough you might catch a train come across the bridge. Half-way along the center span (which rises vertically to allow boats through), you’ll see the bridge-tender’s house. Today the bridge is operated remotely. Look for the HVAC system to the left of the bridge-tender’s house. What is the 1st letter in the name of the color of the HVAC box?



5. Canal Origins Park

Visit this touch of nature on South Ashland Avenue (there is parking along the east side of Ashland at roughly 3800 south, just south of the river and across the street from the Sun-Times plant). Stand at the entrance gap in the wall and look at the mosaic tiles created by community groups in the city. What is the 4th letter in the name of the river animal depicted on the last tile to the right of the entrance gate?



6. Canalport Riverwalk

Use the light to cross South Ashland Avenue to visit the Canalport Riverwalk which is found next to the river on the west side of Ashland Avenue. Walk along the river until you get to some benches. What is the 3rd letter in the name of the shape (square, circle, triangle, etc.) of the landing where the benches are set?

How to Play

Unscramble the six letters from your scavenger hunt to spell a river-related word. To submit your entry, please email your six-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.