

**A** new urban park program is under way in Massachusetts—the **HERITAGE STATE PARKS**.

The first of their kind in the country, these new State Parks are a major part of the renaissance of our state's historic cities.

Currently under construction by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, the eight Heritage State Parks are unique in several ways:

- A concerted state effort is being made to bring new and improved parks to older downtown areas.
- The parks are all designed to enhance and highlight these nationally-recognized urban centers.
- Exciting interpretive exhibits, films and tours bringing to life the history of the cities' inhabitants will be included in each park.
- Every park is planned as a stimulus for greater private investment in the rebirth of the cities.
- The planning, design, construction and operation of the parks is a cooperative venture between the Commonwealth and the cities.

The Department is immensely enthusiastic about this program.

I look forward to that day in the near future when each Heritage State Park will be known—to local residents and tourists alike—not only as a welcoming place but also as the center of a reborn and thriving city.



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William F. M. Hicks  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Management

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# Massachusetts Cities are Making History





North Adams

**"The Western Gateway"**

- Restored historic railyard with six landmark buildings around a cobbled courtyard
- Specialized shops and eating places occupying four old wooden buildings
- Detailed historic exhibits on the construction of the Hoosac Railroad Tunnel through the Berkshires to North Adams—the longest tunnel in the world in 1873



**"Chair City of the World"**

- Natural park and picnic facilities at the city's beautiful Dunn's Pond
- Historical urban plazas in the center of the downtown area
- Interpretive displays in a restored firehouse on the growth of Gardner into the world's greatest maker of wooden and wicker chairs



**"The Power of Water"**

- 5.6 miles of canals and associated linear parks in the nation's oldest planned industrial city
- 2 miles of riverfront park on the north bank of the Merrimack, with a bathhouse, boathouse and outdoor performance pavilion
- Two floors of exhibits in a restored 19th century building on how water-power shaped Lowell's past and present



**"The City of Workers"**

- Restoration of the historic Campagnone Common in downtown Lawrence
- Canal and riverside esplanades
- Participatory exhibits bringing alive the experience of working people throughout Lawrence's history, located in a restored workers' boarding house

**Heritage State Parks are now under construction across the Commonwealth.**



**"The City of Shoes"**

- 5 acres of new waterfront park on Lynn Harbor with views of the Boston skyline
- Exhibits in a restored factory building on the development of Lynn into the premier shoe manufacturing city in the country



**"Planned City on the Connecticut River"**

- New canal park occupying a full city block in the center of Holyoke
- Visitors Center on the park site in a new solar-heated and solar-cooled building
- Participatory exhibits about the history of Holyoke—the canals, the industries and the people



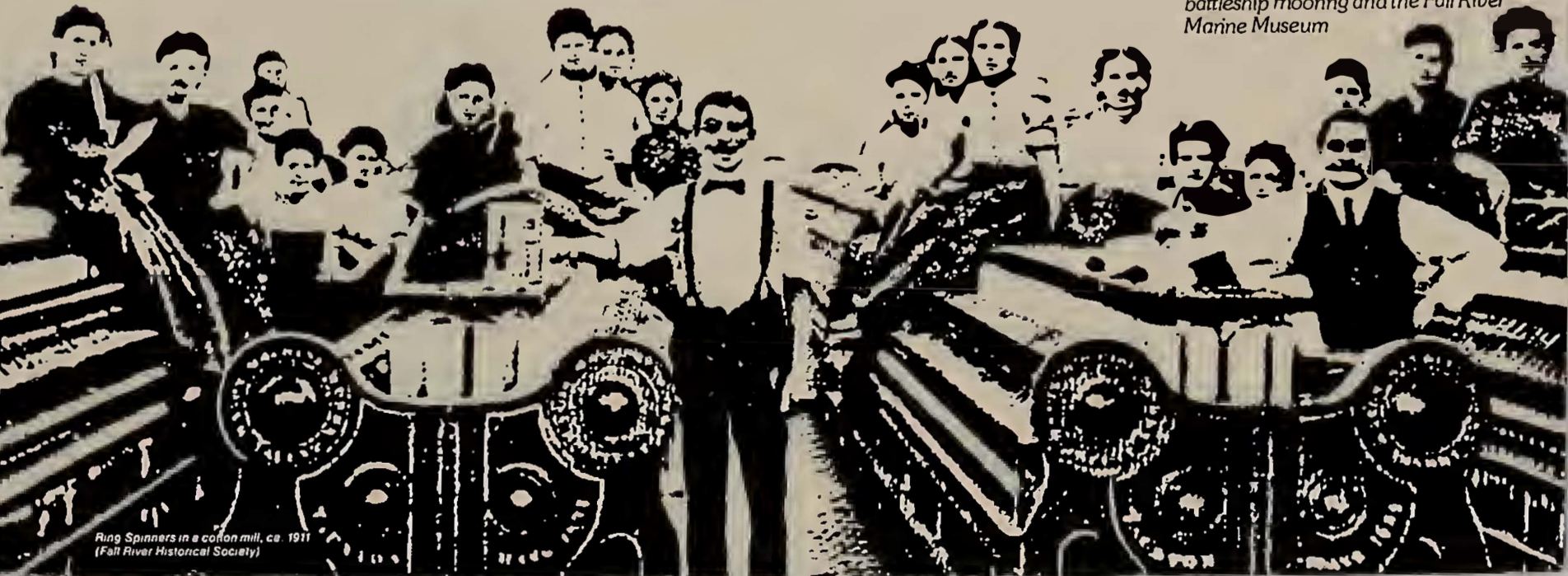
**"Center of Western Massachusetts"**

- Restoration and expansion of historic Court Square across from City Hall in the heart of downtown Springfield
- Historic exhibits describing the city's contributions as the regional center of the western part of Massachusetts
- Outdoor performance pavilion located in an expanded Riverfront Park



**"The Heritage of Textiles"**

- Seven acres of beautiful park and esplanade along the mouth of the Taunton River
- A new Visitors Center in the park housing a multi-screen slide and sound entertainment about the growth of Fall River into the greatest textile producer in the country—and the people who made it happen
- Adjacent to the U.S.S. Massachusetts battleship mooring and the Fall River Marine Museum



Ring Spinners in a cotton mill, ca. 1911 (Fall River Historical Society)



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# Heritage State Parks Development Timetable

The first Heritage State Park, in Lowell, was authorized by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1976 and roughly 50% of its components are now open.

The remainder of the system was established by state bond funding mandated in 1978 and 1979.

The parks in Lynn, Lawrence, Gardner, North Adams, Holyoke, Springfield and Fall River are all slated for construction to start during the fall and winter, 1981-1982. The full system of eight Heritage State Parks—including landscaped areas, visitors centers and exhibits—is scheduled to be open and in full operation by 1983.

**Edward J. King**  
*Governor*

**John A. Bewick**  
*Secretary*  
*Executive Office of*  
*Environmental Affairs*

**William F. M. Hicks**  
*Commissioner*  
*Department of*  
*Environmental Management*

# Lowell Heritage State Park is open now

*Three of the elements of the park in Lowell are now open:*

## Vandenberg Esplanade

(Phase I)—along Pawtucket Boulevard (Rte 113) on the north bank of the beautiful Merrimack River—a landscaped linear park with paths for cycling, walking and jogging—the site of the annual Lowell Regatta Festival each spring

## Francis Gate Park

—off Pawtucket Street where water from the river is diverted into the canal system—a peaceful, shaded park along the Pawtucket Canal—site of the soon-to-be restored, historic Francis lock and flood protection gate

## Visitors Center

—in the “Mack Building” at 25 Shattuck Street—visitors conveniences, park information and soon-to-open exhibition on the wonders of water power in Lowell—the starting point for guided tours of the canals and the city begun in the summer of 1980

Lowell Visitor Information —  
call (617) 453-1950

