



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

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## **DCR Celebrates Lawrence Heritage State Park's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

LAWRENCE – December 5, 2011 – On Saturday, December 3, 2011, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Edward Lambert, local officials and the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park celebrated on Saturday the park's 25th Anniversary with the showing of a short film featuring famed labor artist Ralph Fasnella, cake and a presentation on the park's history.

"DCR's mission to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources includes the preservation and interpretation of the rich history that define our Massachusetts communities," said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, who, with municipal officials, spoke about the heritage of the park, which tells the story of the mill workers during the Industrial Revolution and the Bread and Roses Strike. "Lawrence Heritage State Park interprets that rich history of the mills and people of Lawrence during the era of the Industrial Revolution for visitors to enjoy."

The Massachusetts Heritage State Park System, which became a national model of urban design, historic preservation and economic revitalization, was conceived by former Governor Michael S. Dukakis. In 1979, the Massachusetts Legislature authorized \$35 million to develop the Massachusetts Heritage State Park System. The heritage parks were developed in nine economically challenged cities to celebrate a heritage of community, encourage private development, revitalize downtowns and create a vibrant urban landscape for all to enjoy.

Lawrence Heritage State Park offers a variety of green space within the downtown area of Lawrence. Visitors can walk along the esplanade of a 19th century canal and through a park created within the walls of an industrial-era building. It is an integral part of the Lawrence community, providing programming and recreational opportunities as well as historical exhibits and visitor information.

The park's **Visitors Center** is located in a restored 1840s boarding house that features original beams and brickwork. Visitors will find a turn-of-the-century kitchen, complete with antique stove and sink similar to that of the mill workers. There are models of the mills and boarding houses to help visitors imagine how the community looked and functioned, and visitors can trace the routes of more than 30 immigrant populations who settled in Lawrence and can test their skills at planning their own industrial city. In addition, a video presentation of the Great Strike of 1912 tells the powerful story of nearly 30,000 workers and the nation's labor struggles, and a painting by renowned labor artist, Ralph Fasanella, titled "Lawrence 1912: The Bread and Roses Strike," hangs as a permanent piece of the exhibit.

Events offered at the park include the annual Bread and Roses Festival on Labor Day, as well as free concerts, lectures, dramatic performances, children's events, games, special events and guided tours. DCR also manages the nearby Riverside Park and Pemberton Park on the Merrimack River, and the Bashara Boathouse where community sailing lessons are offered.

For more on Lawrence Heritage State Park please visit DCR's website: [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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