

Conservation Portrait: Balfour Company, Attleboro

The front of the former 175,000 square foot Balfour Company ran along County Street in Attleboro. The vacant factory building along with parking lots occupied nearly the entire 3.1-acre site and it completely hid the Ten Mile River from view. The site was acquired and developed with funds from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Urban Self Help program (now known as the PARC Grants).

Today residents enjoy The Balfour Riverwalk, a completely ADA compliant recreational facility, with a variety of amenities that serves children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens alike - from a quarter-mile circuitous walking path, three access points, a dedicated 4,000 square foot surface for skateboarding complete with obstacles, a 15,000 square foot kidney-shaped open-air ice skating rink, an open-air amphitheater, two separate playground facilities, a sand volleyball court, bocce ball area, benches, trash receptacles, water bubblers, fencing and gates, picnic tables, trees, shrubs, lawn areas, lighting, an irrigation system, community gathering area accented with flagpoles and a dedication monument seen in the foreground above, a reading area (as the recreational facility is adjacent to the Attleboro Public Library), a pedestrian footbridge that spans the Ten Mile River and connects Riverbank Road to the Riverwalk, to the 700 foot long riverwalk along the Ten Mile River that is located just in front of the pitched roof building, as seen above.

