

Fitchburg's Gateway Park

A vision realized...

It began about 10 years ago, with a *Vision* shared by **North County Land Trust** and other members of the **Fitchburg Greenway Committee**, who saw in a burned and abandoned mill site on the Nashua River a new riverfront park.

From North Nashua River Master Plan 2004

“Sketch of potential mixed-use mill redevelopment at Sheldon Street with paths along both sides of the river. The vacant Sheldon Street parcel is shown as a park, with the stream (currently in a culvert) opened up to daylight. Handsome mills along the river would make excellent housing or office space, while also providing an opportunity for river edge open space and a natural vegetated buffer along the river. A walkway easement behind the Premier Box Co. building is (part of the City’s redevelopment permit)... “This site is a natural conduit to the Crocker Conservation Area only a half mile to the north.”



Gateway Park walkways link to a riverfront

Mass. Gateway Cities Parks Program funded land acquisition and construction of Gateway Park.

Gateway Park Knoll, a 7-acres parcel on West Street, was given to the City of Fitchburg in 2011 as an addition to Gateway Park. NCLT was awarded a state grant to purchase this land from **Fidelity Bank**, which generously agreed to sell it for half its value.

WDC Construction, Inc., sellers of the Gateway Park site, worked with NCLT and the Fitchburg Greenway Committee to enable the City to purchase the land.



Gateway Park includes a natural amphitheater.

Gateway Park opened in 2011, with the **knoll** having already been added to the park.