**WORCESTER HERITAGE PARK**

**Time Line**

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| **YEAR** | **EVENT** |
| 1994 |  An arson fire destroyed three businesses and damaged the Historical Society rooms and museum on the south side of the business section in the Worcester Historic District.  |
| 1994 | Efforts began to attract businesses to the fire-blighted area, but despite years of activity, none were successful.  |
| 1997 | The rebuilt Worcester Historical Society building reopened. |
| 2001 | The Historical Society proposed to build a “vest-pocket” community park on the remaining empty site. It appointed a committee to attempt to acquire the land and to seek a design.  |
| 2004 | The Gerald and Audrey Wheeler family made the Society a gift of the former Wheeler Department Store site.  |
| 2004 | Edward McCabe and the McCabe family made a $25,000 donation to undertake planning for the new park. |
| 2004 | The Society commissioned the Walker Planning & Design firm of Cooperstown to develop a proposal for the park and decided that the theme would be the community's cultural and historical heritage.  |
| 2004 | The Society posted its [www.worcesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.worcesterhistoricalsociety.org/) website, including a sketch of the park proposal.  |
| 2005 | The State turned down a $165,650 Parks and Development grant application. |
| 2005 | The Society purchased the fomer site of the Haggerty Drug Store/Village Inn. The Victory Store site was unavailable at mutually agreeable terms. |
| 2005 | Trustees voted to approve final park plans with 68-foot frontage and about 4,000 square feet, and to proceed with construction with a total initial budget of $441,000. |
| 2006 | Public solicitation of funds began to support the project, including the sale of inscribed brick pavers. Eventual proceeds approached $50,000. |
| 2006 | A bequest of $86,743 from the Andrew E. Skinner estate was placed in reserve to cover contingent costs. |
| 2007 | The Society received the first of two major Robinson and Broadhurst Foundation grants, together totalling over $200,000.  |
| 2008 | State Senator James L. Seward sponsored a $25,000 legislative initiative which was later used to fund the park's central feature, a gazebo and bandstand. |
| 2009 | Construction Phase I was completed, including fill, levelling, retaining walls, fencing, lighting, security, and the gazebo foundation, at a cost of $274,000. |
| 2009 | The Iroquois Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated a 40-foot flagpole, flag and spotlight.  |
| 2010 | Phase II ended, including landscaping, the walkway, benches, and the $20,129 gazebo. Donor plaques, historical and cultural signs and perhaps an honor roll remain to be added. |
| 2010 | Richard and Betsy Weidman donated a bugle as a weather vane, evocative of Seth Flint's Civil War service. The bugle is being prepared for installation. |