



# Haverhill

Office of the Mayor, Room 100  
Phone: 978-374-2300 Fax: 978-373-7544  
Mayor@cityofhaverhill.com

***For Immediate Release:***

October 2, 2014

PRESS RELEASE:

## G.A.R. PARK RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

HAVERHILL- Mayor James J. Fiorentini and State Representative Brian S. Dempsey [D-Haverhill] today formally kicked off construction activities to update and renovate Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Park.

The southern side of the park is receiving a \$250,000 facelift, including re-grading, a new playground, irrigation, replacement benches, five new shade trees, two new flower beds, improved and redesigned concrete pathways and curb cuts, electrical upgrades and improved lighting. An old fountain will also be fixed. The design of the re-graded area by the existing bandstand will allow for the city's installation of temporary outdoor public skating facilities in the winter.

This project is funded by a \$200,000 State grant from the 'Our Common Backyards' program from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services. The City is contributing \$50,000 in matching funds from its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

At the groundbreaking ceremony today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini stated:

"G.A.R. Park is getting a long overdue facelift, and this project will beautify this highly-visible area and also make the park easier to maintain. G.A.R. Park will not only be a home to impressive memorials, but also a destination for kids and families to play in the summer and skate in the winter."

"This project compliments the work we have done in renovating the adjacent Citizens Center and adds another piece to the Downtown Renaissance," the Mayor noted.

Representative Brian Dempsey added:

"These improvements to GAR Park will enhance the quality of life for the residents of Haverhill and will prove to have a positive impact on the ongoing development of downtown," said Representative Dempsey. "I am pleased with the continued support that Governor Patrick has provided to the City of Haverhill."

O'Brien Homes, Inc. of Andover is the low-bid qualified general contract for the project. The City received technical design and planning assistance on this project from Groundwork Lawrence. The project is expected to be completed before the end of December, 2014.



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(L-R) Kevin O'Brien, Sr., Kevin O'Brien Jr., Mayor James Fiorentini and Representative Brian Dempsey