



Doors Open Lowell - May 16, 2009 - Park Programs



Celebrating Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage in Lowell

Join the Park and the City of Lowell in celebrating Doors Open Lowell 2009 with a series of Park programs and experiences integrated with the whole array of sites with Doors Open and Xtras on Saturday, May 16. For a complete listing of the Doors Open Lowell itinerary, please visit www.doorsopenlowell.org, get a copy of the Doors Open insert in Wednesday's Lowell Sun newspaper, or pick one up at the Park Visitor Center.

Trolley Gathering

Mack Plaza

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Explore four trolleys as a new Doors Open Lowell experience. Three trolley cars will be lined up along Mack Plaza Trolley Stop at Dutton Street. The fourth will offer rides across downtown from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Hear from the trolley specialists and operators, ride the rails, discover an intriguing and colorful perspective of the City via the trolley system in Lowell. Three historic replica trolleys: 4131, 1601, and 1602 are operated

daily by Lowell National Historical Park from March to November as part of the visitor experience. Trolley 966, owned by the Seashore Trolley Museum of Kennebunkport, Maine, is operated locally by the staff of the National Streetcar Museum at Lowell in conjunction with the Park.

Locomotive 410 and Combine Car

Mack Plaza

11:00 m – 2:00 pm

Learn the history of the B & M Railroad, successor of the Boston and Lowell, New England's first steam railroad. Featuring B & M steam locomotive #410 and a B & M combine car. Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society members will be doing

ongoing preservation work on the combine car. Stop in to see the work that is being done and learn about their past, present and future preservation efforts.

National Streetcar Museum of Lowell

25 Shattuck Street

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

From the late 19th century to today, transportation has shaped the physical development and social characteristics of America's urban environments. Focusing on the history of public transportation, this exhibit shows how private interests, public policy, and issues of personal freedom and mobility have affected and continued to affect national, regional, and local land use patterns and community development. The National Streetcar Museum at Lowell, a satellite exhibit of the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine, presents this special

exhibit to explore the history of urban rail transportation and how its rebirth is helping to revitalize American cities. This exhibit, contributed in a large part by the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., presents the history of public transit in Lowell within the context of the broader story of American transit history.

Museum will be fee-free for Saturday, May 16 with informal museum talks.

**DOORS
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L O W E L L
MAY 14-17 2009
National Preservation Month

Merrimack Canal Gates Project Swamp Locks at the Merrimack Canal 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	View an in-progress canal preservation project at Swamp Locks where the Merrimack Canal control gates are being repaired. Controlling water power was a key to Lowell’s success as a textile manufacturing city. Lowell’s canal system provided power harnessed from the drop along the Merrimack River. Today the intact canal system, recognized as a National	Historic Landmark, continues to produce power in the form of hydroelectricity and periodic maintenance projects keep the system running smoothly.
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“Underground Lowell” Boott Mills Museum Event Center, 115 John Street, 2nd floor. 11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Experience a visual slide show tour of Lowell's historic canal system and underground water power generation facilities. See the penstocks, turbines and raceways which powered the textile mills in the 19th and early 20th century including some of which continue to be used today generating hydroelectricity. This program looks at these amazing historic	resources and traces the contributions of Lowell's 19th century water power engineers who designed and built them. The research and practical experience at Lowell would prove to become the engineering foundation for much larger projects at Niagara Falls and the Hoover Dam.
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“Lowell Then & Now” Boott Cotton Mills Courtyard, 115 John St 1:00 – 2:30 pm	Join this walking tour through the historic district with Park Architect Chuck Parrott and discover efforts to preserve historic buildings in Lowell capturing the before & after of preservation accomplishments
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“Views of Lowell” Mack Plaza 2:30 – 4:00	After exploring the trolleys while they are lined up at Mack Plaza, join a Park Ranger on a walking tour to discover the early roots of Lowell’s trolley routes and the commercial and residential districts that emerged along them. Meet at the Mack Plaza.
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Visitor Center 246 Market Street 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Begin your visit at Market Mills, the former Lowell Manufacturing Company mill complex, one of the city’s original textile mills. Market Mills houses the National Park Visitor Center, where you can make reservations for tours, explore exhibits, visit the Children’s Corner, and view the award-winning multi-image video program, “Lowell: The Industrial Revelation” every half hour 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
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Boott Cotton Mills Museum 115 John Street 9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Don’t miss the roar of a 1920s weave room with operating power looms! The Boott Cotton Mills Museum includes the weave room plus interactive exhibits and video programs about the Industrial Revolution, labor, and the rise, fall, and rebirth of Lowell. The Museum fee is waived for Saturday, May 16.
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Ride the TROLLEYS 9:30 am– 4:30 pm	Hop on board the trolley from Mack Plaza throughout the day and enjoy a ride across town as part of the regularly scheduled route. See the kiosk at the platform for arrivals and departures on the special schedule for Doors Open Lowell.
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Sunday, May 17 “Views of Lowell” 2:30 – 4:00 pm	In addition to the full agenda on Saturday, the spirit of Doors Open Lowell continues on Sunday. Join a Park Ranger for this walking tour to explore Lowell’s historic Acre neighborhood, journey along the recently opened section of the Western Canalway, and conclude at the American Textile History Museum, which is hosting a “soft” reopening of their newly renovated Museum.
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