

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Laurel Park Sesquicentennial October 2022

- WHEREAS,** 150 years ago, in 1871, the Springfield District Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Church purchased 74 wooded acres for the purpose of holding camp meetings; and
- WHEREAS,** from 1887 to 1933, Chautauqua Assemblies were held during the month of July as part of the well-known national Chautauqua movement founded in western New York state, which combined religious with cultural and educational events; and
- WHEREAS,** the Laurel Park Chautauqua continued for 40 years thereafter to attract thousands of inhabitants of the area to a program of recreation, high culture, stirring rhetoric, and useful instruction in many arts; and
- WHEREAS,** Laurel Park later became a year-round secular community with ongoing multi-faith and cultural activities including community meetings, potluck suppers, musical and theatrical performances, crafts fairs, and other activities, informally continuing the Chautauqua traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** the present community at Laurel Park continues to be dedicated to honoring a sense of community and is a special place for the benefit of all people in Northampton and the Connecticut Valley; and so
- NOW,
THEREFORE, I,** Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of the City of Northampton, hereby proclaim October 2022 to be Laurel Park Sesquicentennial (or 150th Anniversary) in Northampton celebrating the culture, history, beauty, and charm that Laurel Park embodies.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the Seal of the City of Northampton on this 22nd day of October 2022.


Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra