



HOLYOKE

Incorporated: 1850

Hampden County

The City of Holyoke is located by the Connecticut River where the first of several dams were constructed in 1848 to take advantage of a 57-foot drop in the river level. The water power created by the dam was transferred to new industrial sites along 7.5 miles of hand dug canals. At one point, more than 25 paper mills were in operation in Holyoke, annually producing the greatest tonnage of paper of any city in the world. Although only one company continues to manufacture paper, the dam, canals and much of the industrial and commercial architecture remain intact. Owing to the city's excellent location at the junction of Routes I-90 and I-91, the reuse of many buildings has proved to be economically feasible. The game of volleyball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan at the Holyoke YMCA and the city is rightly claimed to be the "Birthplace of Volleyball". Attractions include the Volleyball Hall of Fame, the Wistariahurst Museum, the Children's Museum and Holyoke Heritage State Park where the former Mt. Park Merry-Go-Round is permanently housed. The State Park also hosts "Celebrate Holyoke", an annual three-day event which brings visitors from around the region to enjoy nationally known performers. Residents feel Holyoke is rightfully described as "The Best City by a Dam Site."

(narrative supplied by community)

Population: 40,000 approximate
Government: Mayor & City Council

Total Area: 22.82 square miles +/-
Tax Rate: \$14.98 (2010)

School Superintendent: 534-2005
Public Schools: 8 Elementary Schools, 2 Middle Schools, Holyoke High & Dean Technical School

Colleges: Holyoke Community College
Private Schools: Holyoke Catholic High School, Blessed Sacrament, First Lutheran, Mater Dolorosa, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Shopping: malls, downtown shops, restaurants,

Libraries: Holyoke Public Library 534-2211

Recreational Facilities: Volleyball Hall of Fame, Canal Gallery, Heritage State Park, Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke Children's Museum, Mt. Tom State Reservation, Barrett Fishway

Utilities:
Gas: Holyoke Gas & Electric 536-9300
Cable: AT&T Broadband 1-888-633-4266
Electric: Holyoke Gas & Electric 536-9300
Telephone: Verizon 800-870-9999

Child Care Providers: Brighter Beginning 532-4280, 533-7041; Children's House 533-8755; Head Start 536-0363, Holyoke Day Nursery 538-8419; Kids Place Inc. 538-7742; Mont Marie Child Care Center 536-29064

For More Information:
Town hall: 322-5520
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