

<1>Founders' Falls

Founders' Falls is one of the more exotic locales in Paragon City. Founders' Falls is renowned for its waterways, piers, and catwalks; though its structure is similar to that of Venice, its spirit is altogether different. The West side is dominated by huge skyscrapers and high rises; the East side is characterized by more genteel apartments and condominiums. Surrounding the central urban area is a stretch of undeveloped land broken into three neighborhoods: Louis Forest, Hutchinson Park, and Blackstone Hills.

<2>History

<3>The Founding of the Falls — Settlement and Rebellion

Founders' Falls has wholeheartedly embraced the ideals of independence and revolutionary spirit from its very first settler: Reverend Rutger Willem, exiled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for 'rebellious acts against rightful authority' in 1632. Beginning as a small village in the strange and inhospitable New England wilderness, Founders' Falls grew into the heart of Paragon City.

The Falls, named after the cascades roaring down from the Blackstone Hills into Paragon Bay, were an early example of America's future — not once, but many times over. In 1772, a group of prominent Paragon City citizens torched the British revenue vessels <i>Gaspee</i> and <i>Liberty</i>. This was a direct message that the colonists would not tolerate the <i>Gaspee</i> captain's brutal methods of extracting the King's taxes. Four years later, Founders' Falls and Rhode Island led the charge into the American Revolution, becoming the first colony to renounce allegiance to King George.

<3>Growing Prosperity — the 19th and 20th century

The Falls continued on its stubborn, independent course – first, when its citizens refused to participate in the War of 1812, and again during the Dorr Rebellion of 1842, when future governor Thomas Dorr led Paragon City and Rhode Island in a movement to extend suffrage to all male citizens of the state. The rebellion itself was a failure, but within a year, the state adopted a new constitution.

Independence suited the Falls; by mid-century, the area had been so often called "the Paragon of America" that, as the various villages grew into a city, that city took the name for its own. By the time of the Civil War, Paragon City had grown from a tiny village into a bustling center of commerce and industry. The wealth of the sea and land poured into Paragon City, and by that wealth, the city thrived.

The Industrial Revolution left its mark on Founders Falls during the late 19th century. For a time, the Falls fell into a state of decay and disrepair as the money formerly flowing through their docks was instead diverted to the tripartite neighborhoods of Venetia, Venice and Verona. The devastation of the Great Fire of 1918 caused an influx of

residents and businesses, bringing prosperity back to the streets and colonial homes of Founders' Falls.

After the First and Second World Wars, Founders' Falls underwent a sea change. During the mid-twentieth century, the Falls were a haven for artists, free thinkers and visionaries, each reshaping the neighborhood in their own way. Eclectic and iconoclastic, Founders Falls became the embodiment of a bright new future. But as with many places in Paragon City, the future would turn out to be a good deal darker than anyone anticipated.

<3>“Never Say Die” — Hope Rises From the Ruins

Along with the rest of Paragon City, Founders' Falls was nearly razed during the Rikti attack on May 23rd, 2002. The beautiful colonial buildings that held the Falls' residents and its history were devastated, shaken to their very foundations. But like the phoenix, the heart of the city would not be so easily silenced — within days of the Rikti's first assault, Founders' Falls became a center for the human resistance against the hellish alien invaders. Several still-intact sections of the zone were converted into command posts and refugee centers. The Vanguard found their genesis in Liberty Town, as did the star-crossed Alpha and Omega Gambit. As always, the Falls remained a sentinel of liberty in mankind's darkest hour.

After the war's end, a concerted effort was made to rebuild Founders' Falls, not as it was, but as it should be. Paragon City commissioned New England sculptor Kyle Armitage to produce a new look for the battered but unbowed Falls, and with the help of several prominent artists and architects, Armitage shared his vision of the world of today and tomorrow with the city — states of saintly angels and majestic lions watched over the good people of the zone, and Armitage's famous Trinity Installation graced the Blackstone Hills. Within scarcely a year, Founders Falls stood proud once again, the beating heart and revolutionary soul of the city restored.

<2>Neighborhoods

<3>Williams Square

Named for Robert Williams, the second governor of Rhode Island following the death of Paragon city's founder Rutger Willem, the Square embodies the spirit of Founders Falls'. The center of Kyle Armitage's rebuilt zone, Williams Square boasts the most impressive Palladian architecture on the Eastern Seaboard. The Freedom Obelisk stands in the midst of a massive ornamental pool and attendant fountains, a memorial to the heroes of the Alpha and Omega Teams. Armitage, when asked about his design for Williams Square, simply stated that he was inspired by the example of the Statesman.

<3>Louis Forest

One of the largest greenswards in Paragon City, Louis Forest has fallen on hard times. Now that the Devouring Earth has returned Woodhaven to a forest primeval, it seems that

the Louis Forest is their next target for ‘purification.’ The Louis Forest takes its name from a series of grisly murders that took place in and around it during the late 19th century. Though never proven guilty, the alleged killer, Louis Wagner, is said to haunt the forest, warning citizens away from the frequent rampages by the Circle of Thorns, Devouring Earth and other villain groups.

<3>Liberty Town

A glorious maze of canals and docks that is the bright twin to Crey’s Folly, Liberty Town was, like the Gaspee, ‘built on the bones of tyranny’ — interred here is the hull of the HMS Liberty, one of the two vessels burned by Paragon City Patriots in the 18th century. The docks here were used as a command center and refugee camp during the Rikti War.

<3>Hutchinson Park

Another of Founders’ Falls’ greenswards, the once majestic Hutchinson Park has been nearly overrun by the monstrous Devouring Earth in the days following the Rikti War. Named for Anne Hutchinson, one of the civil and religious critics that followed Rutger Willem’s example when he was exiled from Massachusetts, the park remains stately, almost primeval in nature. Due to the Devouring Earth’s presence and the proximity of the Eden hazard gate, even villains are reluctant to go where giants tread.

<3>The Red River

Contrary to popular belief, the Red River is not named for blood flowing from British soldiers killed while crossing the river during the American Revolution; rather, it takes its moniker from the color of iron washed out from the Blackstone Hills. Spanned by six majestic pedestrian bridges, the Red River runs through the very heart of Founders’ Falls. Indigo, a superhuman covert operative, can be often be found here, passing the time beneath Kyle Armitage’s famous Trinity Monument.

<3>Blackstone Hills

One of the early sources of Founders’ Falls’ wealth, the Blackstone Hills contain rich deposits of metallic ore, whose oxidization gives the neighborhood its color. The hills are another of the Falls’ greenswards, and attract tourists, hiking enthusiasts and free-climbers nearly the year round. Those visitors should take note, however, that Crey often sends in groups of operatives to train here, or to battle the Devouring Earth.

<3>The Gaspee

The Gaspee neighborhood was built on the wreckage of the <i>HMS Gaspee</i>, burned in 1772 by colonists in defiance of British tax collection. Today, the Gaspee is in somewhat of a state of disrepair — while not as dangerous as Hutchinson Park, several villain groups, including the Circle of Thorns, the Council and the Rikti, operate openly in the area. Ironically, it was on the edge of the Gaspee that Dr. Brian Webb announced

his breakthrough Portal technology in 1988. Dr. Webb said, "My technology has proven that possibility is truly limitless. The future is what we make of it."

<2>Adventure Seeds

<3>Excavation

The Circle of Thorns have kept a low profile in the Falls lately, much to the relief of its residents. But the Thorns are far from idle — somewhere in the Louis Forest, the Thorns have begun excavating an ancient artifact left behind by the Romans who brought Mot to Oranbega. Can the heroes discover the artifact before the Thorns? What does it mean to the mystic villains? And what connection does it have to the series of murders that took place in the forest over a century ago?

<3>Mood Indigo

Indigo has come under the watchful eye of the minions of Arachnos. Will the heroes be able to protect the operative? What secret does she hold that could devastate the ranks of the Council?

<3>The Earth Divides

A new faction of the Devouring Earth appears in the Falls, a group that claims they have abandoned the Hamidon's radical anti-humanism. They offer to protect the Falls and guard against further encroachment of the Devouring Earth. Can these eco-guardians be trusted, or is this simply the attempt to establish a beachhead?

<3>Let's You and Him Fight

The heroes hit a lucky streak while operating in the Falls. One of their contacts has been providing solid leads on several important villain operations, and while the battles against evil have pushed the heroes to the limits of their endurance, they have thus far won the day. But an investigative hero discovers that their trusted contact is, in fact, a Nemesis agent in disguise! Can the heroes rescue their real friend? And what is the Prince of Automatons' ultimate plan for misleading the heroes?