



United States Department of the Interior

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NORTHEAST REGION
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Announcement

National Park Service Releases Blackstone River Valley Study, Schedules Public Meeting

The National Park Service has released a special resource study that was undertaken to determine whether the sites and associated landscape features within the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor that contribute to the understanding of the Corridor as the birthplace of the industrial revolution in the United States would be eligible for potential inclusion as a unit of the National Park System. The Corridor encompasses all or part of 24 communities from Worcester, MA to Providence, RI. A copy of the Blackstone River Valley Special Resource Study is enclosed.

A digital version of the special resource study is available on the project website www.nps.gov/blac/parkmgmt/special-resource-study.htm. The public comment period will be open until August 26, 2011. Comments may be submitted on-line by following the links on the project website or via electronic mail or by U.S. Mail by sending them to Ellen Carlson, Project Manager, National Park Service, Northeast Region – Boston Office, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109; Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov.

Two public meeting will be held to discuss the study.

Wednesday, August 10, 3PM
Blackstone Valley Visitor Center
175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI

Tuesday, August 16, 7 PM
Northbridge Town Hall
7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA

The meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on the study's findings and proposed management options.

In addition to the Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark District, 6 core resources within the Blackstone Valley were found to be *nationally significant*. They include historic districts in Slatersville and Ashton in RI and Whitinsville and Hopedale in MA, the Blackstone River and its tributaries, and the Blackstone Canal. The resources evaluated also appear to meet the NPS criteria for *suitability, feasibility, and the need for National Park Service (NPS) management*. The study identifies 3 management options including the status quo.
