

Blackstone Canal and Whitinsville Mills Tour

Saturday, April 20

10 am – 4 pm

Explore a short section of the former Blackstone Canal and one of its locks with a guide from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor who will explain the importance of the canal in America's industrial age. Then caravan to nearby Whitinsville to learn about the Whitin family and development of the town and its mills. Led by a member of the Northbridge Historical Society, the tour will take you to an 18th century forge, mill houses and restored factory buildings now used by Open Sky Community Services and busy with art and theater activities.

Schedule: 10:00 am meet at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA. Free parking available. [Link to Google Maps.](#)

11:00 am (approx.) caravan about 5 minutes to Whitinsville. Parking lot marked as "Whitin Mill Parking" across the street from Open Sky Community Services, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. [Link to Google Maps.](#)

4:00 pm (approx.) tour ends.

Clothing: Comfortable shoes for outdoor walking and weather-appropriate outerwear.

Lunch: No formally scheduled lunch period, but a 20-minute break will be fit in around mid-day. Please bring lunch, snacks and drinks. After the tour, visit one of several [restaurants in town.](#)

Reading: Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park website
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/blackstone-river-and-canal-heritage-state-park>

Blackstone Heritage Corridor website
<https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org>

Blackstone Canal Wikipedia page
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackstone_Canal

Whitin Machine Works and Whitinsville Wikipedia page
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitin_Machine_Works

National Park Service Whitinsville Tour page
<https://www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/whitinsville-self-guided-tour.htm>

Register: Advance registration for planning is requested but not required. Please email tour organizer Rick Ashton (ashtons4@yahoo.com) by April 15 if you're planning to attend.

*Whitin Machine Works
Whitinsville, Mass.
1939*

