

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Blackstone River Visioning Project

Fisherville Design Charrette: Grafton, Massachusetts

Existing Conditions

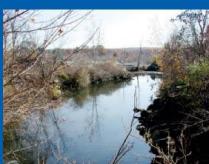
A project developed and funded by a partnership of groups led by the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

www.massaudubon.org www.nps.gov/blac/home.htm

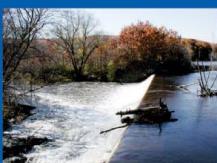
Issues



The **Fisherville streetscape** along Main Street to Farnumsville has lost its visual character and pedestrian feeling.



Fisherville Mill site and adjacent canal are contaminated and will require significant clean up.



The **Fisherville dam** requires reconstruction and stabilization. The Army Corps of Engineers is currently undertaking a Feasibility Study for the dam.



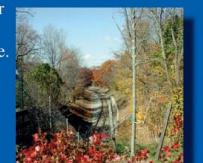
Opportunities



Redevelopment of Fisherville Mill site for mixed uses such as housing, retail and offices.



Fisherville **mill village** provides an example of historic mill housing and mill community character.



Potential **Blackstone Bikeway** access at Main Street provides a link to the former mill site and Farnumsville.



Fisherville Pond is a significant habitat for wildlife and waterfowl.



Blackstone River Visioning Project

Fisherville Design Charrette: Grafton, Massachusetts

Conceptual Design Recommendations

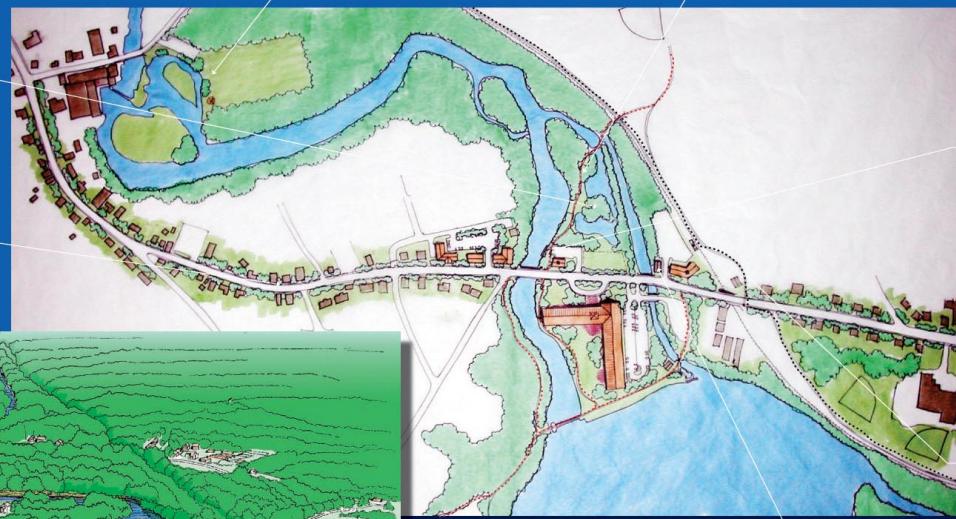
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Streetscape Improvements

Revitalize the streetscape from Fisherville to Farnumsville along Main Street. This would include street tree plantings, continuous sidewalks and a bikeway spur from the Blackstone Bikeway.

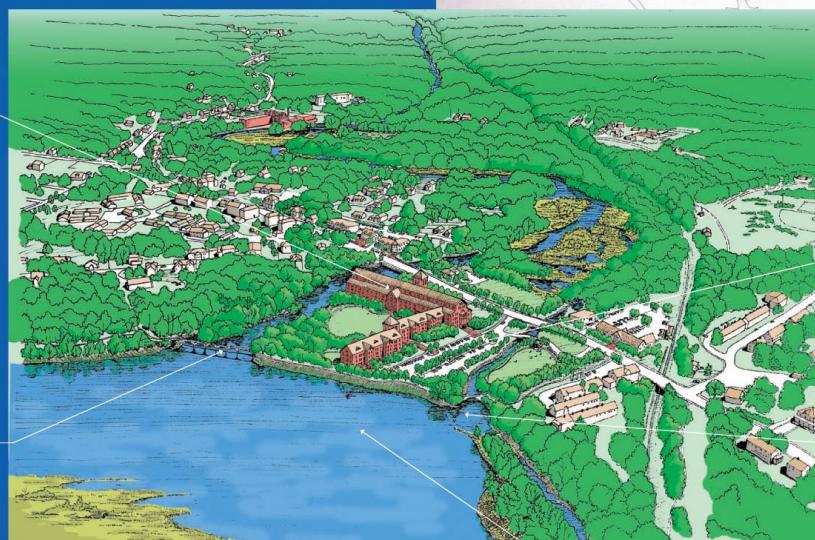
Constructed Wetlands

Create wetlands to provide a natural system for improved water quality and environmental restoration.



Fisherville Mill Site

Rebuild on approximately 2/3 of previous mill footprint with mixed-use building. Use architecture that provides a significant presence onto Main Street and include public access through the complex to the River and Pond.



Dam Revitalization

Clear vegetation to stabilize dam and allow visual access to the river and Fisherville Pond. Provide a trail for canoe portage and other recreational uses.

Fisherville Pond

Restore the Pond to open water to provide a significant natural resource for wildlife and waterfowl.

Farnumsville Mill Area

Re-establish a continuous greenway system along the river. Restore the former football fields in the Farnumsville Mill upland for recreational fields and a small, informal parking area.

Multi-Use Trail System

Create a trail system that runs north-south through the site. The trail could run along the former mill site and across the earthen dam to the eastern side of the River. The trail would also continue through the southern portion of the site and connect to Fisher Park.

River Access

Provide access to the river for non-motorized boats and other recreational activities. Construct a small building that would provide boat rentals. A grassy area to the west would provide overflow parking for events.

Blackstone Bikeway

The bikeway is proposed along the P&W Railroad corridor but will have access onto Main Street at the library building.

Visitor Kiosk

Rehabilitate the former Agway building to provide a visitor service kiosk and information booth.

Canoe Launch/Takeout

Provide recreational access for non-motorized boats to Fisherville Pond and the former mill race.

Blackstone River Visioning Project

Route 16 Corridor Design Charrette: Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Existing Conditions

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Issues

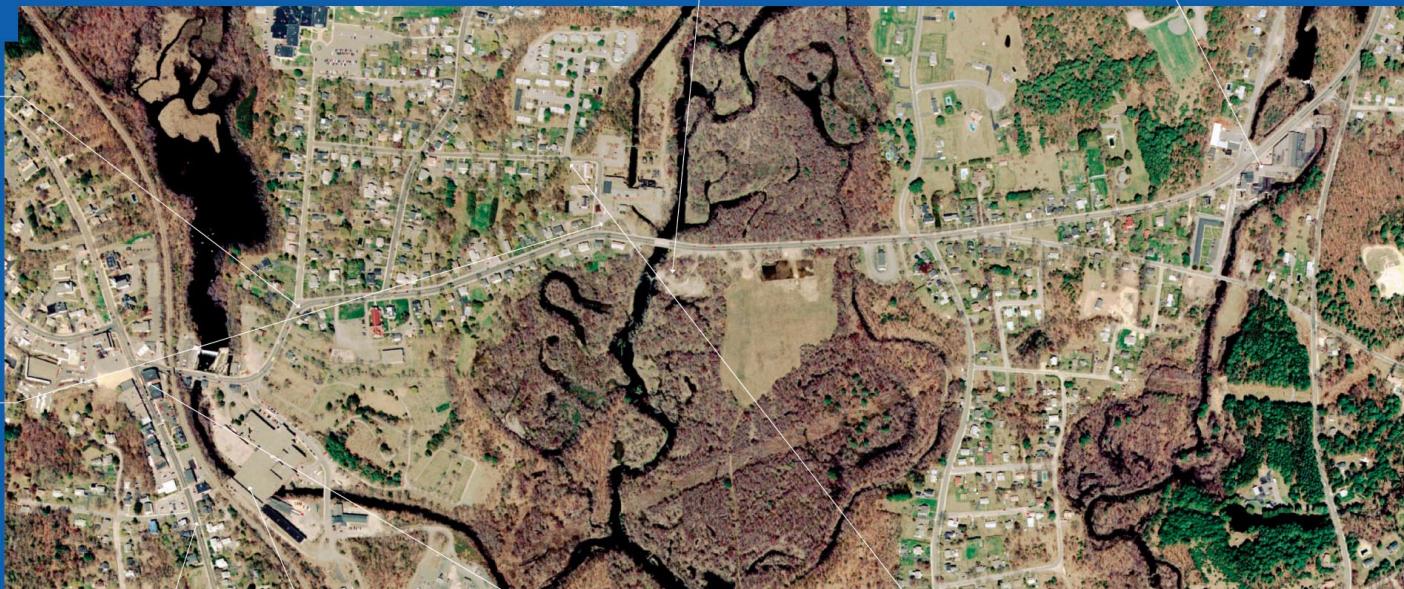
A high volume of traffic along the Route 16 corridor limits access between downtown and the Blackstone River.



The **Stanley Woolen Mill complex** is in poor condition but is historically significant as one of the last remaining wooden mill buildings in the Blackstone River Valley.



Downtown Uxbridge needs additional parking, enhanced visitor amenities and public restrooms for continued revitalization.



Orthophoto from MassGIS, April 2001

The **Bernat Mill** provides a successful model for revitalization of former mill structures.



Opportunities

Improved **access to the Blackstone River** at Route 16 including parking and visitor amenities.



The Stanley and Waukentuck Mills have great **economic development potential**. They are both historically significant to the Town and region.



The Town of Uxbridge is considering a **realignment of Route 16** behind the Uxbridge Inn that would improve traffic flow through downtown.



The **Blackstone Bikeway** is currently designed to run through Uxbridge to the east of the Mumford River and up to River Bend Farm. The route could be realigned to run along Cross Street and through the Stanley Mill site and DEM land.



Blackstone River Visioning Project

Route 16 Corridor Design Charrette: Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Master Plan Recommendations

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Infill development

Development should be compatible with surrounding uses. Evaluate possibility for continuing commercial uses in this area.

Downtown Revitalization

Develop downtown Uxbridge as a regional destination and crossroads for East-West and North-South travel through the Blackstone Valley. Increase visitor parking and amenities to encourage day trips and resident activities.

Vehicular Connections

Routes 16 and 122 provide regional connections for visitors throughout the valley.

Blackstone Bikeway

The Blackstone Bikeway route through Uxbridge should be designed to run along Cross Street to connect the resources at the Stanley Mill site and DEM land and provide a link along the river to River Bend Farm.

Recreational Access

Provide improved recreational access to the river for non-motorized boating, fishing and other activities. Include adequate parking and facilities for users.

Historic Wheelockville

This historic neighborhood along Route 16 provides a cultural link between the historic mills and the three rivers.

Stanley Mill Revitalization

The historic Stanley Mill complex is a nationally significant resource and its location and importance within the Blackstone River Valley make it a critical component for economic development and historic preservation in the Valley

Waukentuck Mill Revitalization

The mill buildings and associated landscape of the Waukentuck Mill provide excellent potential for economic development and historic preservation.



Blackstone River Visioning Project

Route 16 Corridor Design Charrette: Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Conceptual Design Recommendations

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Route 16 Re-alignment

Re-align Route 16 for improved traffic flow and an enhanced common area.

Downtown Infill Development

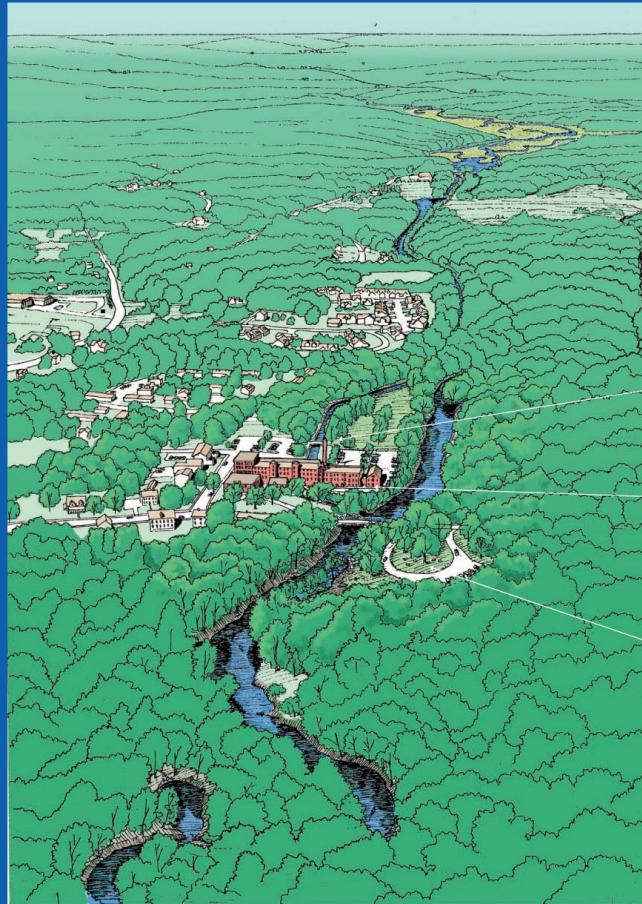
Enact guidelines that make a continuous street wall through downtown with parking in the rear away from pedestrian areas.

Route 16 Infill Development

Development in vacant lots along Route 16 should be compatible with surrounding uses.

Historic Train Depot

Turn the former train depot into a visitor center with public rest rooms and other amenities. Provide pedestrian access across the Mumford River to the cultural and recreational resources along Route 16.

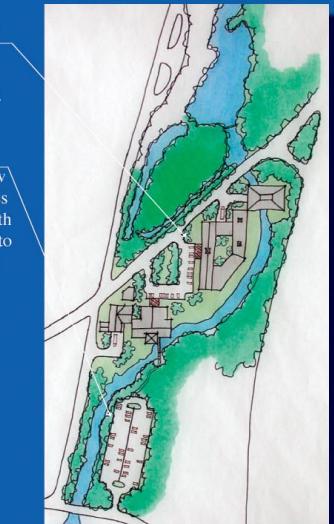


Waukentuck Mill Redevelopment

Rehabilitate the mill complex for mixed uses such as housing/office/retail. Create cohesive architecture and landscaped areas.

Parking

Create an overflow parking area across the West River with pedestrian access to the mill buildings.



Blackstone Bikeway

Work with MassHighway to realign the Bikeway along Cross Street to the Stanley Mill complex.

Stanley Mill Redevelopment

The Town should consider forgiving back taxes or offering Tax Increment Financing to potential developers. At a minimum, the mill complex should be stabilized and moth balled until development is more feasible.

Recreational Access

Access to the Blackstone River from Route 16 should be developed into a non-motorized boat launch with picnic facilities and adequate parking. The Town should work with the neighboring property owner to create a seasonal recreational rental facility and visitor amenity area.