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Blackstone River Greenway Massachusetts, Rhode Island



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Throughout history, the Blackstone River has been an important waterway, from its use by American Indians who fished its once-abundant salmon to its role as a major artery for the transportation of raw materials and manufactured goods along its canal and riverways. Its widespread use during the Industrial Revolution earned it a reputation as "the hardest-working river" in America, though that legacy came at a cost, as the river would later be regarded as one of the most polluted in the country. The cleanup of the river is ongoing—and communities along its banks are embracing tourism and recreation as new industries, with the Blackstone River Greenway (also known as the Blackstone River Bikeway) as a major draw. The greenway is envisioned as a 50-mile network of trails and pathways along the riverbanks from Worcester, Massachusetts, to Providence, Rhode Island.

In Massachusetts completed off-road sections include a 3.5mile segment that begins in South Worcester and ends in Millbury; a tranquil 3.6-mile canalway in Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park; and another 3.5 miles of trail from Uxbridge to the MA state line that crosses the Blackstone River several times. Currently, the longest off-road segment connects Woonsocket and Pawtucket in Rhode Island.

Just north of the Massachusetts–Rhode Island state line, the trail will one day connect to the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT). On the southern end of the trail, trail users can continue on bike lanes and shared roadways into Providence, where trail users can connect to the <u>East Bay Bike</u> <u>Path</u> in India Point Park.

About the Route

South Worcester to Millbury (Massachusetts)

This 3.5-mile section begins at the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center, where McKeon Road crosses the Middle River.

The paved pathway heads south into Millbury, passing a railroad and winding under busy highways as it offers serene river views under a pleasant tree-lined canopy. A parking lot at Millbury Street has maps and information placards, a bike repair station, and bike racks. Continuing south, there are several forks that connect to nearby roadways—stay to the right to continue along the main trail.

The most picturesque portion is the trail's last 2 miles on its south end. Here, a small bridge carries the trail to the other side of the Blackstone River. Shortly after, the railroad makes an appearance again as the trail crosses an intersecting branch of the river, revealing an interesting side-by-side view of a rail-with-trail. The trail continues to follow the railroad as you move toward the center of Millbury. One last underpass and a bend in the trail put you along Main Street and back



### TrailLink.com



#### **Blackstone River Greenway**

Massachusetts, Rhode Island

States: Massachusetts, Rhode Island Counties: Providence, Worcester Length: 31.6miles Trail end points: McKeon Rd. (South Worcester, MA) to Tockwotton Park (Providence, RI) Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Boardwalk, Crushed Stone, Dirt Trail category: Rail-Trail Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

### **Parking & Trail Access**

The Blackstone River Greenway runs between McKeon Rd. (South Worcester, MA) and Tockwotton Park (Providence, RI), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- 121 John St. (Lincoln, RI)
- 195 Davison Ave. (Woonsocket)
- 1-99 Adams St. (Uxbridge)

Please see <u>TrailLink Map</u> for all parking options and detailed directions.



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