



Photo credit: Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. - D. Cerrati

YOU'RE INVITED!

The National Park Service is beginning a comprehensive planning effort for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. The result will be a general management plan that will guide park management for the next 20 years and beyond. The general management plan will include management zones with desired conditions. Desired conditions are statements of aspiration that describe resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services that the park strives to achieve and maintain in an area. Additionally, the general management plan may include guidance for natural and cultural resource protection, facility development, visitor use, and other management needs. The National Park Service will work with its partners, stakeholders, and the public in the development of the plan and in compliance with legal and policy requirements.

All national parks are required to have an approved general management plan. During the development of this plan, park staff along with neighbors and visitors will have the opportunity to step back, examine long-range goals and management issues, and chart a course for the future.

The management plan developed through this upcoming process will provide a broad conceptual framework to guide decisions for long-range park management. The management plan will define the resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time based on the park's purpose and significance as described in the park's authorizing legislation and recently completed foundation document. This plan will also set the direction for subsequent planning efforts.

During this effort, there will be a number of opportunities for you to contribute your ideas and concerns about the park and help shape its future, including public meetings at key stages. When the draft general management plan is produced, you will be invited to review it and provide comments. Thank you for being involved in this process!

Planning for the Future

When thinking about the future of this park, the National Park Service would like your feedback on the following questions:

1. What experiences in Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park are most important to you? What kind of experiences would you like to see in the future?
2. What barriers get in the way of enjoying or visiting Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park?
3. What strategies do you recommend the planning team consider related to visitor access, use, and experience within the park boundary?
4. What activities, facilities, and services would make you feel more welcome, safe, or satisfied with your experience in the park?
5. Other thoughts you'd like to share with the project team?



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The Path Forward

The public comment period represents an opportunity for the public to be involved in the planning process for the new park. Once the National Park Service has gathered input from this initial public comment period on desired park experiences, the agency will develop a draft plan to share with the public for additional feedback during a second public comment period, likely by fall 2022. This period will also include consultation with interested stakeholders and other agencies.

Important steps in the planning process are outlined below, along with anticipated timelines for completion.

**WE ARE
HERE!**

Plan Kickoff: Winter 2021–Spring 2022

- Identify planning issues and opportunities.
- Begin civic engagement to inform plan development.

Management Zones and Desired Conditions: Spring 2022–Fall 2022

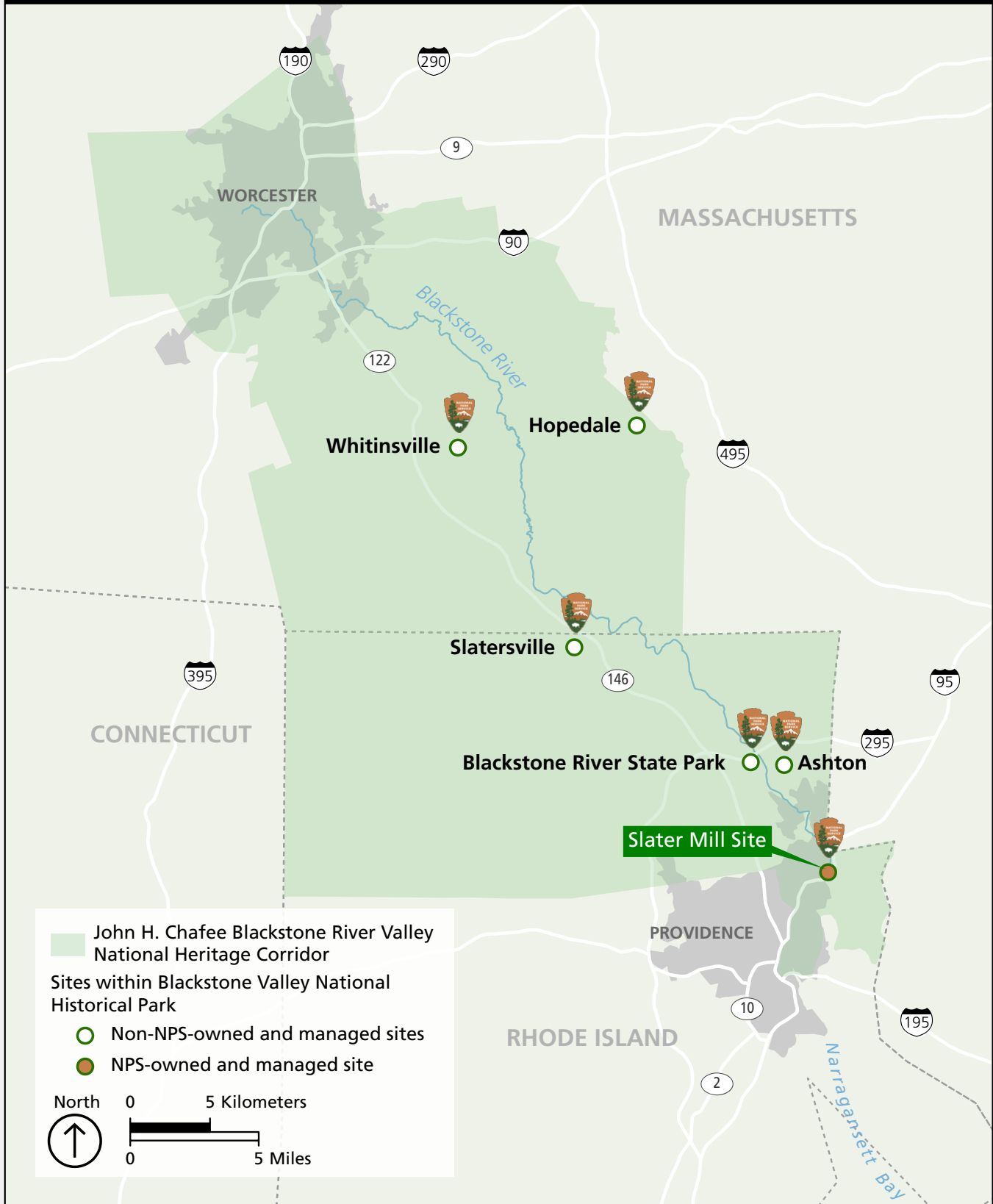
- Identify desired conditions.
- Explore potential strategies.
- Continue civic engagement to inform strategies development.

Refine Strategies and Draft Plan: Winter 2022–Summer 2023

- Refine the strategies.
- Draft plan and associated compliance.
- Request public and stakeholder input on draft plan.
- Finalize plan.

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



How to Comment

ON THE WEB (preferred method) at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/blackstonegmp>

BY EMAIL: blrv_info@nps.gov

BY MAIL: Blackstone River Valley National
Historical Park
General Management Plan
ATTN: Superintendent
67 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860

BY PHONE: 401-725-8638



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The public comment period starts on **January 3, 2022**, and ends on **February 15, 2022**.

- You are also invited to attend one of two virtual public meetings that will be held at **11:00 a.m. EST on January 6th** and **8:00 p.m. EST on January 20th**. Meeting information will be posted on January 3rd at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/blackstonegmp>
- The National Park Service is especially interested to hear your suggestions about the park's management zones and associated desired conditions and visitor capacity, as these are the focus of this initial stage for general management planning for the park. Please be as specific as possible in your suggestions and share questions you have about the overall process as well.
- Include any questions you have about the process that aren't answered here.

NOTE: Comments will not be accepted by fax or any other method than those specified above. Please also note that your entire comment – including personal identifying information such as your address, phone number, and e-mail address – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.



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