

Blackstone Valley DeTours



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

New England's Historic National Park Area



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE RI-1



Tour 12

Optional Stops:

- 1 Central Falls Landing
- 2 Blackstone River Bikeway
- 3 Pulaski Wildlife Marsh

Black Hut Management Area



White-tailed Deer



Great Horned Owl

George Washington Management Area



Pintail Duck

Fort Nature Refuge



Gadwall

Durfee Hill Management Area



Breeding Habitat

From Broad Meadow Brook Farm and River Bend Farm in Massachusetts access Rte.146 South. Follow into Rhode Island to join the circle tour.

Powder Mill Ledges



Red-tail Hawk

Lonsdale Marsh



Green-backed Heron

Exploring the vast natural treasures of the Blackstone River Valley is a snap with our colorful Watchable Wildlife DeTours. Experience winter's crystalline blues, summer's vibrant greens or autumn's rich burgundies. The sweep of the river and its wetlands offer scenic views and an abundance of wildlife. Whether touring by land or sea, the rewards are plenty. The Audubon's **Fort Nature Refuge** offers nature walks and the guided evening "Owl Prowl" for the adventurous. **Powder Mill Ledges** offers educational workshops or family fun favorites like the Butterfly Count. Explore the trails, ponds and marsh habitats of the management areas and you're likely to find coyotes or cottontails among the avian life. The **Lonsdale Marshes** are populated by a variety of birds in all of seasons, hooded Mergansers, Teal, Heron and mixed duck breeds. Summer avian life includes wading birds, songbirds, and woodpeckers. Launch your vessel from the **Central Falls Landing** on Madeira Avenue or walk/bike along the **Blackstone River Bikeway** (www.blackstoneriverbikeway.com). Dawn to dusk, it's FREE, and remember to bring your binoculars and please respect feeding habitats.

FORT NATURE REFUGE, a 235-acre mixed woodland with ponds and dams proves that Audubon is not just for the birds. Different seasons can yield sightings of birds, beavers, deer, fox, rabbits and other wildlife, as well as frogs and salamanders in the vernal pool. Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Turkey, and a wide distribution of songbirds intrigue visitors with calls.

DURFEE HILL comprises acres of mixed forest and wetlands. The Burlingame Reservoir here has habitat for snowshoe hares, wood ducks, mixed game and woodcock.

POWDER MILL LEDGES/AUDUBON HEADQUARTERS AND REFUGE is a 120 acre refuge with fine stands of pines, a pond and a brook where Golden and Ruby crowned Kinglets, White and Red breasted Nuthatches and woodpeckers are active in winter. In spring, eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows nest in boxes and abundant songbirds raise young in the habitats of the refuge. Library and office hours M-F, 9-5; Sat 12-4. Refuge open dawn to dusk daily. There is a fee for certain programs.

For detailed information, call the Audubon Society Of Rhode Island located at Powder Mill Ledges, 12 Sanderson Rd., Smithfield, RI 02917, 401-949-5454 or visit www.asri.org.

CIRCLE TOUR DIRECTIONS

From **Blackstone Valley Visitor Center** to **Central Falls Landing** and **Lonsdale Marshes**: Turn left onto Roosevelt Ave., continue to Exchange St., turn left and follow to Broad St. (Rte.114) where you will turn right. Before the Broad St. Bridge in Central Falls, turn left onto Madeira Ave. The Central Falls Landing will be on your right. From Central Falls Landing to Lonsdale Marsh, turn left on Madeira Ave. and then left on Broad St. Head north on Broad St. At Rte. 123 West (Chambers St.) turn left. Turn right at the Blackstone River Bikeway parking lot.

From **Lonsdale Marshes** to **Fort Nature Refuge**: Take a right out of the Blackstone River Bikeway parking area onto Rte.123 west to Rte.146. Take 146 North to Rte. 116 (George Washington Hwy.) Exit onto Rte. 116 South and follow to Rte. 7 (Douglas Pike) where you will turn right. Continue north to Rte. 5 (Providence Pike) and bear right. Cross the intersection of Rtes. 5 and 104. Refuge is 1/2 mile on the left, the first left after the Primrose Fire Station. Follow dirt road 200 feet to parking area.

From **Fort Nature Refuge** to **Black Hut Management Area**: Exit right out of dirt road from Fort Refuge. At the intersection of Rtes. 5 and 104, turn right onto Rte. 104 and continue to Rte. 7 and turn right. Follow Rte. 7 north to West Ironstone Road and turn left. Continue to Spring Lake Rd. and turn left.

From **Black Hut Management Area** to **Durfee Hill** and **George Washington Management Areas**: Take right onto Rte. 7 south to intersection at Rte. 102. Turn right onto Rte. 102 South. Continue to Rte. 44 (Putnam Pike) in Chepachet. Go right on Rte. 44 and head west for 5 1/2 miles. Both areas are situated almost across the road from each other in Gloucester, RI. George Washington is located on the north side of Rte. 44 and Durfee Hill is accessed from Rte. 94 (Reynolds Road) on the south side of Rte. 44.

From **Durfee Hill** or **George Washington Management Areas** to **Powder Mill Ledges**: Turn right onto Rte. 44 East (Putnam Pike). Continue for 13 1/2 miles to Rte. 5 (Sanderson Rd) and turn right. Audubon Refuge is located on the left.

From **Powder Mill Ledges** to **Blackstone Valley Visitor Center**: Depart Sanderson Rd. north. Turn right onto Rte. 44 East. Take Rte 44 to Rte. 15 (Mineral Spring Ave.). Follow east to Pawtucket. (Mineral Spring Ave. changes to Church St.) Turn left on Park Place and right onto Main St. Continue on Main St. to Roosevelt Ave. and turn left. The Visitor Center parking lot is the first set of driveways on your left.

For Visitor Information call 800-454-2882 or visit www.blackstonevalley.org

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Produced by the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission

Green-backed Heron, Breeding Habitats and White-tailed Deer photos by David Brunetti. Butterflies, Great Horned Owl, Pintail Duck, Gadwall and Red-tail Hawk photos by Donna Burgess. Tour compiled by Donna Burgess. Map by Neville Lassotovich