



Welcome to Saxonville,
a traditional mill village within the town of Framingham, with a wide variety of historic, cultural, and recreational attractions.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, native Americans of the Nipmuc tribe lived in a village in Saxonville centered around the waterfall on the Sudbury River, which surrounds the area on three sides. Framingham's first settler, John Stone, built his home here in 1647, and for the next two hundred years the area was known as Stone's Neck. With the industrial revolution of the mid-nineteenth century, the force of the waterfall, previously used to run a grist mill, was harnessed to power a large textile mill. One of the early companies was named the Saxon Factory Company, and the village was renamed Saxonville.

Today's Saxonville is a thriving residential, commercial, and artistic community. On the National Historic Register, with many surviving examples of nineteenth century architectural styles, this unique corner of Framingham combines our historic past with modern-day amenities.

Architecture & History

Most of Saxonville's Second Empire and Victorian period architecture is within a short distance of McGrath Square, at the intersection of Concord and Central Streets. This makes it an ideal area for a walking tour.

Arts & Culture

Saxonville is home to an active community of visual artists, and several public galleries and performance spaces.

Recreation

With its location on the Sudbury River, a nationally-recognized wild and scenic river, nearby Lake Cochituate, and walking trails through its woodlands, Saxonville offers outdoor enthusiasts four seasons of beauty and tranquility.

SAXONVILLE

A Traditional New England Mill Village

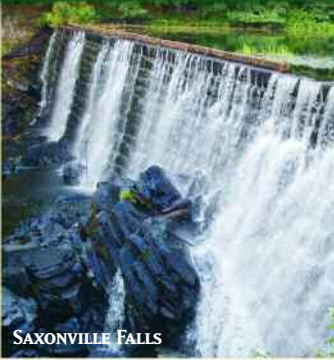


This brochure was produced by the Friends of Saxonville, Inc., by means of a Tourism Grant from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. The Friends of Saxonville is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate the public about the special identity of Saxonville, a historic neighborhood of Framingham, Massachusetts, and to preserve, enhance, and protect its cultural, environmental, and historical qualities. Learn more about Saxonville and our organization by visiting our web site at www.saxonville.org.

SAXONVILLE — A Traditional New England Mill Village

Saxonville Falls

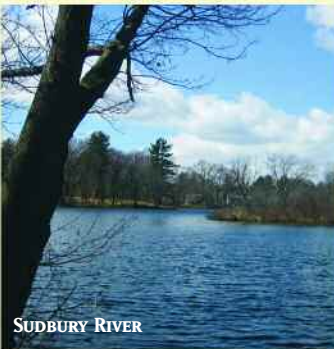
Originally a native American fishing spot, this natural waterfall on the Sudbury River was dammed and used to power colonial grist mills, and then power the mill turbines during the nineteenth century. Located on Central Street at the intersection of Water Street, across from the mill complex.



SAXONVILLE FALLS

Sudbury River

Part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Sudbury River in Saxonville is a popular destination for canoers and kayakers. From the bridge at Wickford Street you can head up river towards Framingham Center, or down river to the mill pond at the waterfall. There is also a launching area at the end of Little Farms Road, off Elm Street, where the Carol J. Getchell Nature Trail ends. This is an ideal starting point for paddling up river into the village area, or down river into Wayland and Sudbury.



SUDBURY RIVER

Saxonville Mills

The sprawling mill complex was once the principal employer within Saxonville, and manufactured blankets, carpets, and other textile products. Today home to numerous small businesses, it runs along Concord Street and turns left onto Central Street by the Saxonville Dam on the Sudbury River. Most of the current buildings date to 1884, when the mill complex was rebuilt following the great fire of 1883. A talented group of local visual artists works from studios within the historic mill complex, at 1602-B Concord Street. Saxonville Studios hosts an annual open studios event in the spring, and at other select times during the year. Individual artists may be available by appointment. Learn more at www.saxonvillestudios.com.



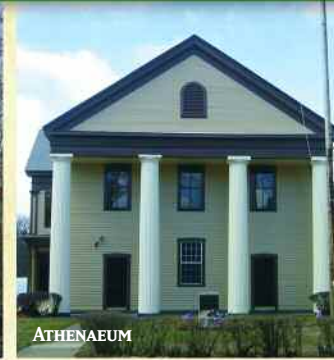
SAXONVILLE MILLS



SAXONVILLE FIRE STATION



CAROL J. GETCHELL TRAIL



ATHENAEUM

Athenaeum

Located just before the mill complex on Concord Street at Watson Place. Built in 1847, Athenaeum Hall was once Saxonville's town hall. The building has also served as a school, a jail, a hospital, a polling place, a Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and a newspaper pressroom.



OLD DANFORTH STREET BRIDGE

Cochituate Rail Trail

A work in progress, this multi-use trail uses the four-mile long rail bed of the former Saxonville Branch railroad and will eventually run from School Street in Saxonville to Natick Center. Check trail signage or www.crtrail.org to determine what sections are open for public use at the time of your visit.



COCHITUATE RAIL TRAIL

Saxonville Beach

An oak tree-shaded beach on the upper end of Lake Cochituate, a former reservoir for the city of Boston. On Lake Road, off Old Connecticut Path. Staffed with lifeguards from mid-June until late August. Canoes and kayaks can be rented seasonally at Charles River Canoe and Kayak, at the middle part of the lake at Cochituate State Park on Route 30.



SAXONVILLE BEACH

Saxonville Fire Station

Located on Watson Place off Concord Street, next to the Athenaeum Hall. The fire station was built in 1902 and is the oldest active fire station in Framingham. The distinctive Victorian tower that crowns the station was originally used for drying canvas hoses after a fire.

Old Danforth Street Bridge

A unique iron Pony Truss style bridge, constructed around 1890 to span the Sudbury River. The bridge was refurbished and reopened as a pedestrian bridge for the twenty-first century. Located on Danforth Street off Concord Street.

Carol J. Getchell Trail

A one-mile walking trail that follows the gentle contours of the Sudbury River, at times using boardwalks and footbridges, through serene soft and hardwood forest and marshland. It begins at the intersection of Sudbury Landing and Danforth Street, off Concord Street, and ends at Little Farms Road, off Elm Street. Named for the late principal of Saxonville's Stapleton School, and one of the founders of the Friends of Saxonville.