

SNEC Spring Tour
Sawmill River Industrial Corridor Heritage Park in Leverett, MA

Date: April 18, 2026 (rain date April 25)

Time: 9:00 a.m. welcome and refreshments; 10:00-12:30 tour, 12:30-2:00 lunch

Max. number of participants: 15

Join the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill and the Leverett Historical Commission for a discovery tour of the Sawmill River Industrial Corridor Heritage Park, which is currently under development. The park stretches from the site of the nineteenth-century Graves Ironworks, which mass-produced scythe snathes (that is, handle connectors for scythes) during the height of its operations, to the more than 250-year-old North Leverett or Slarrow Sawmill, situated on the Sawmill River, once lined with more than thirteen different small-scale businesses. The park's stone features, remnants of structures, and sculpted landscape encompass and showcase the development of waterpower technology in rural New England over time. Since the site is still being studied, we solicit input and welcome participation in documenting and analyzing the material evidence contained at the site.

The guided walking tour involves a ¼ mile walk, from the 1774 Slarrow Sawmill to the Graves Ironworks, over uneven terrain. It includes a visit to the sawmill, which is being preserved by the Friends group and last operated in the 1990s with a still-existing turbine. The Graves Ironworks site is archeological. The program will include a simple continental breakfast at North Leverett Baptist Church and lunch at a 19th century barn-workshop, once a blacksmith and cooperage, near Leverett Village center, now rehabilitated to retain the elements of its earlier uses.

The sawmill/entrance to the Park is across the street from the North Leverett Baptist Church, where ample parking is available.

Meet: North Leverett Baptist Church, 70 N. Leverett Road, Leverett, MA 01054

9:00 Coffee and donut/bagel spread available for socializing at North Leverett Baptist Church

10:00 Heritage Park Tour (across from the church)

11:15 Sawmill Tour

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Depart

Registration is open to members of the Southern New England Chapter; Northern New England Chapter members are welcome if there are vacancies (sign up to be waitlisted).

Please note that the length of the walk (1/2 mile round trip) and that the terrain is uneven; only sign up if you are able to do this.

Please notify us of any food allergies/sensitivities when you register.

While the Friends and LHC are kindly providing refreshments and lunch without charge, donations will be welcome.

To register, please email or call: Betsey Dyer bdyer@wheatonma.edu 508 668-9619 (home phone)