
Massachusetts Bay Colony (1646-1670), the Iron Works now offers a truly compelling historical interpretation complete with wheelchair access to exhibits, a comprehensive restoration of the riverfront and Turning Basin, and a fully rehabilitated Blast Furnace.

The grand opening celebration is sponsored by Saugusbank and made possible through the generous donations of numerous area businesses. The events for the two-day celebration were planned by National Park Service staff, Essex National Heritage Area, Saugus River Watershed Council, Saugus ADA coordinators, Saugusbank, Hammersmith Studios and North of Boston Convention and Visitor Bureau. Essex Heritage, in partnership with the National Park Service, directs projects and programs that preserve and enhance the historic, natural and cultural resources of Essex County, a region designated as a National Heritage Area in 1996. The Saugus River Watershed Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 to protect and restore the natural resources of the Saugus River watershed. Trap Graphics generously donated the design of the beautiful new Saugus Iron Works site map.

Grand Reopening festivities will include: (See attached schedule)

- Open house at Visitor Center, Museum & Iron Works House
- Ranger stationed tours of the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
- Performances by the Salem Scottish Dancers (Friday), Saugus High School Chorus (Friday), Kevin McDermott (Saturday) and Paul Erickson (Saturday)
- Colonial Lawn Games coordinated by Essex Heritage
- Designing molds for iron pour casting and live iron pour demonstration by The Iron Guild
- Historic interpretation of waterwheels running at the Forge, Furnace, & Slitting Mill
- Historic interpretation of waterfront & Blacksmith Shop demonstrations
- Environmental presentation on the revitalization of the Saugus River Turning Basin.
- Overview of new site design with improved physical access strategies and creative interpretive approaches to provide greater access to park resources for people with disabilities
- Continuous audio/visual presentations showing park improvements, photos and virtual reality tours

When the Saugus Iron Works officially reopens its gates to the public on May 16, it will give open access to what was once America's earliest large-scale iron making plant. The two-day celebration will encompass both a fundamental re-telling of the events that took place here, and a joyous celebration of the rebirth of the Saugus River. "New Pathways to History" will commemorate the English ironworkers and Scottish prisoners of war who forged a path here from the British Isles in 1646, laying the foundation for America's iron and steel industry. More importantly, it summons us all down this new path of American history, to watch it "come alive." Please Join Us!

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 95: (Northbound or Southbound) Take the Walnut Street exit, #43. Drive east towards Lynn and follow the brown National Park Service signs for 3.5 miles to the Iron Works site.

From Route 1: (Northbound) Take Main Street, Saugus exit and follow the National Park Service signs east through Saugus Center to the Iron Works site.

From Route 1: (Southbound) Take the Walnut Street exit (East) and follow the National Park Service signs 1.5 miles to the Iron Works site.



About Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

Designated a National Historic Landmark on October 15, 1966 and a National Park Service unit on April 5, 1968, the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site preserves the first sustained integrated iron works in the Thirteen Colonies. The park is a southern gateway to Essex National Heritage Area, which links thousands of historic places in Essex County, related to three primary historical themes: colonial settlement, maritime trade, and leather and textile industries. For location, directions, hours and more information, visit: www.nps.gov/sair



About the Essex National Heritage Commission

Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) is the non-profit supervisory authority for the Essex National Heritage Area. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, Essex Heritage promotes public/private partnerships and implements programs to enhance, preserve and promote the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the Essex Heritage web-site at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.

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**SAUGUS IRON WORKS NHS GRAND REOPENING EVENT
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008**

- 4:30pm** **Special Thank You Reception** for the individuals, organizations, and agencies that were involved in the advocacy, planning, compliance, design, support or implementation of the park's recent projects.
- 5:00pm** **Gates Open to the Public**
Entertainment: Saugus High School Chorus
Activity: Designing molds for iron pour casting demonstration
Open House at the Visitor Center
- 5:30pm** **Speeches and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** (Dignitary list at press time)
Honor Guard: VFW Post 210 Honor Guard
Saugus High School Chorus sings the National Anthem
Introductions: NPS Superintendent Patricia S. Trap
 NPS Deputy Regional Director Mike Reynolds
 Town Manager, Andrew Bisignani
 Essex National Heritage Area Director, Annie Harris
 Congressman, John F. Tierney
- Ribbon Cutting: Congressman John F. Tierney
 Saugus River Watershed Council Director, Joan LeBlanc
 NPS Natural Resource Manager, Marc Albert
 NPS Gardner Dave Fernald
 Saugus ADA Coordinator, Kathy Forbes
 NPS Ranger Curtis White
- Entertainment: Salem Scottish Dancers
- 6:15pm** **Ceremonial Cake is served**
Activities: The Iron Guild molten iron demonstration, Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Stationed Interpretation at Visitor Center, Iron Works House, Museum, Blast Furnace, The Forge, The Rolling and Slitting Mill
- 7:00pm** **Park Closes**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

9:00am **Park Gates Open**

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

10:00am **Traditional Music from Kevin McDermott**

12:30pm

Kevin McDermott specializes in domestic, social, and pastime music of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. He will bring a variety of instruments known to have been used in Essex County during the later 17th Century. Come and find out what kinds of music "just folks" made and enjoyed, right here, 350 years ago.

11:00am

2:00pm

Family Fun with Paul Erickson's Into the Wild Blue

With songs, magic, prizes, and a live mystery animal, Paul will celebrate the Saugus River and its vital connection to the sea. Come sing and dance to the rhythms by the river.

11:00am

1:00pm

Waterfront, Wetlands, & Wildlife

Park Natural Resource Manager Marc Albert will present a history of the ongoing "Turning Basin Restoration" Project that is transforming the historic landscape, waterfront structures, and riverfront wetlands. The walking tour will begin at the Visitor Center and include a short walk to the dock area and the bridge overlooking the Saugus River.

2:00pm

Ceremonial Cake

CONTINUOUS EVENTS:

10:00am –

3:00pm

Iron Casting Demonstrations by the Iron Guild

The guild members pour molten iron into designs created by visitors in prepared sand molds

Canoe Rides

Volunteers from the Saugus River Watershed Council and Boy Scout Troup 61 will lead canoe rides to explore the Saugus River as it winds through the park, beginning at the restored historic waterfront at the Turning Basin.

River Critters Program

Volunteers from the Saugus River Watershed Council will help visitors discover life along the Saugus River. This hands-on program will engage children of all ages. An aquarium display will feature fish, eels, and other river residents.

Antique Model Engine Displays

The New England Model Engineering Society will exhibit and demonstrate their precise scale model engines.

Blacksmithing Demonstrations

Blacksmith Carl Close of Hammersmith Studio and NPS Volunteers will show how to shape iron into nails, hooks or other objects.

Colonial Games

Volunteers from the Essex National Heritage Area will engage children with an assortment of colonial games on the front lawn of the Iron Works House

Saugus River Water Quality Monitoring

Real-time data for the Saugus River will be displayed at the Visitor Center, including flow rate and salt loads - see how the river changes with storms and from winter road salt applications!

Ranger Stationed tours of the following park resources:

- The Visitor Center
- The Iron Works House
- The Museum
- The Blast Furnace
- The Forge
- The Rolling and Slitting Mill

5:00pm

Gates Close

Note: For the event handicapped parking is available along the entire front row of the parking lot. While access is available to the exhibit areas, a personal care attendant is recommended for people using wheelchairs.