



Bondsville Mill

Historic Park & Nature Trails

- North Loop (White) - 0.50 Miles
- Water Tower (Yellow) - 0.25 Miles
- Mill Trail - 0.25 Miles
- South Loop (Blue) - 1.10 Miles



The Evolution of Power Supply

Bondsville Mill is a great example of the evolution of manufacturing in Chester County. Originally the mill was powered by water driving a wheel in the mill Building C. In about 1850, the water from the mill race was used to produce steam in Buildings D and E. In about 1900 the factory converted to electricity and the large concrete pad housed many spinning and weaving machines running on electricity.



Dams & Mill Races

The now dry mill race north of Buildings A, B, and C brought water from the mill pond located west of the park (on private property) to provide a constant supply of water to power the water wheel. Historically, this race also extended past the mill. This was later filled in to use as a cartway behind the mill to supply coal for the steam boilers. The extension of this race to power other mills further downstream can be seen alongside the blue trail which follows its path. The remains of two dams can be seen from the blue trail. The first was a holding dam to store water overnight and the second would have been used to power the mill in Fisherville.



World War II Memorial

This war memorial was established in 1946 by the then owners of the mill and is dedicated to the mill workers who served during WWII and the two infantry men and two sailors who gave their lives during the war.



Worker's Housing & General Store

The photograph to left, taken in about 1880, shows workers at the mill and was taken in what is today the park's parking lot. While the two structures on the right have been lost, the worker's homes shown on the left and general store (only the roof and chimney are visible to the left of the worker's housing) remain on private property across Bondsville Road. This small village once housed its own post office, both it and the general store were under one roof. The general store sold dry goods, groceries, provisions, boots, shoes, and general merchandise.





The History of Bondsville Mill

There have been grist mills on the site of what is now Bondsville Mill Park since the 1700s, but the woolen mill we see the remains of today was established sometime around 1841, when Abraham Bond opened Bond Woolen Factory producing Kentucky Jeans and established the factory village of Bondsville.

The Mill was originally water powered using a water wheel which was driven by water fed from Beaver Creek through a mill race that ran behind the buildings. As new technologies were developed the Mill was powered by steam and finally electricity. You can see this evolution in the buildings that are still standing. The large concrete pad once contained factory buildings that housed, in part, 64 looms used to manufacture textile materials.

During the Civil war the Mill produced uniforms for the Union soldiers. The Mill was owned and operated by the Collins & Aikman Corporation between 1927 and 1954, producing materials for the WWII war effort such as fabric for Air Force jacket lining. Other materials manufactured during this period included men's and women's wear fabrics, as well as "Cavel" velvets (known as "plush") and their "Candalon" brand of woven nylon, which were used in automobile upholstery (Fisher Body Works was a customer). After 1954, the Mill was used for storage and, in time, fell into disrepair.

East Brandywine Township acquired the site in 2005, and the park opened to the public in the Fall of 2014. Volunteers are still working to develop the 47 acre park into a space for passive recreation, preserving nature, and a historic site.

How You Can Help

All of the work on the buildings, trails, and gardens has been done by volunteers. There is still much to be done to realize the full potential of the park. We are looking for volunteers to help in any area you may be interested in. There are teams focused on fundraising, construction, trail maintenance and gardening and all could use your help.

No expertise is necessary, just an interest in the project and a lot of enthusiasm! Additionally, your financial support in the form of a tax-deductible donation to the East Brandywine Township Foundation is urgently needed. To volunteer or make a donation, please contact the Bondsville Mill Committee at: bondsvillemill@ebrandywine.org, or call Luke Reven at (610) 269-8230 x205. We need you and would appreciate any support!



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The work at Bondsville Mill is still in progress—get updates and view pictures of the improvements as they happen by following us on Facebook at:

[facebook.com/bondsvillemillpark](https://www.facebook.com/bondsvillemillpark)

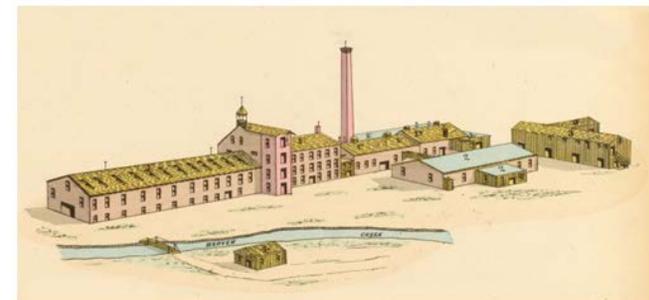


EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP
Chester County, Pennsylvania



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