

Berks County Parks & Recreation

PROGRAMS

FALL 2025



SEPTEMBER

Monday September 1 | Ringgold Band

10 am-12 pm @ Heritage Center

Bring your own chairs or blanket and enjoy traditional band music against the backdrop of our covered bridge and the Tulpehocken Creek. FREE | Open to the Public

Saturday September 6 | Wellness Walk

9 am @ Reber's Bridge Road Lot

Join Parks staff as we get out on the Union Canal Trail to enjoy an hour-long brisk walk with likeminded friends. Getting moving this time of the year can be tough, but studies show that outdoor time is just as important in winter as the warmer months of the year. Just a few minutes of walking can greatly improve the state of your mind, create healthy habits, and introduce new connections among others looking to do the same! Wear walking shoes or other appropriate footwear and dress accordingly. FREE | Registration Suggested

Saturday September 6 | Farm Fest & Pop-up Farmer's Market

9 am -2 pm @ Heritage Center

The Berks County Heritage Center and the Berks County Department of Agriculture are pleased to announce the first pop-up market featuring a wide variety of Berks grown produce and products.

From 9 am-2 pm visit farm stands and explore the historic farm that is the Berks County Heritage Center. The Gruber Wagon Works and Hiester Canal Museum will be open for free as well as the outbuildings. Jim Ohlinger, past resident of the Heritage Center, will be offering guided tours around the property at 12 pm and 2 pm. Enjoy music by Danny Spec from 10 am to 2pm. Participate in children's activities throughout the day as well as photo ops with "T-Dog" -a super tall scarecrow- who will also teach circus skills from 11 am to 2pm! FREE | Open to the Public

Sunday September 7 | Bird Watch Bingo

9-10 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

Observe birds at the Angora Fruit Farm during Fall migration and identify their songs! Learn bird facts from Ranger Smith as he takes guests on a walk around the property to complete a few rounds of Bird Bingo. Prepare for all weather and bring binoculars if you have them-a limited amount of pairs are available to borrow. Geared towards families with

children ages 6+. FREE | Registration Required

Sunday September 7 | Full Moon Hike

7:30 pm @ Heritage Center

Walk the trails of the Union Canal Trail on the evening of the Full Moon! Wear sturdy hiking or walking shoes and bring a flashlight. We'll be outside the entire time, so dress appropriately for the weather. FREE | Registration Required

Tuesday September 9 | Trail Tales

10 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

Get wrapped up in a trail tale and discover plants and animal friends in our parks. This toddler-age program focuses on a nature topic each month partnered with a story and a craft. Special guests and visitors may make an appearance to join in on the fun! Geared towards children ages 3-5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Thursday September 11 | Intentional Camera Movement

6 pm @ Gring's Mill

Put what you know about traditional photography aside and discover a different approach to using your camera to create mesmerizing photos! Intentional camera movement techniques are abstract in nature and give a painterly effect to your images. Wear sturdy walking shoes for walking out on the trail. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Thursday, September 11 | Visible Mending Workshop

6-8 pm @ Berks County Heritage Center

Join Parks staff as we learn how to "make do and mend"! Learn basic stitch techniques, patching and pattern transfers. Compare some historical mending practices to modern ones. Learn how to transform what once was a mundane chore into a great way to add personality and expression to your clothing. (Rescheduled from May 24th) \$10/Person | Registration Required

Saturday September 13 | Forest Therapy Walk

9 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

Join certified forest therapy guide Mette Gleason on the trails of Antietam Lake Park for a forest therapy experience and guided meditation. Forest therapy is quickly gaining popularity as a new way to see the 'forest for the trees'. This session does not focus on the distance traveled, but rather a slow-paced experience to allow for time to reflect on all the

senses. There is little talking, though some brief times of discussion will be encouraged. Geared towards adults, please wear comfortable shoes and bring water. \$10 per person | Registration Required

**Sunday September 14 | Heritage Center Adult Field Trip
1-4 pm @ Heritage Center**

Do you ever long for the days when you would leave school and get to go to a museum? Do you miss those visits to an old schoolhouse, or perhaps learning about the critters that live in our local streams? If you said “yes” to any of that, this is the program for you! Leave the kids at home and experience the typical field trip our student visitors receive. This includes a tour of the Wagon Works and Canal Museum, a stream study program, and a visit to Epler’s Schoolhouse and the onsite Herb Garden. For more info call: 610-374-8839. Registration Fee 5\$ | Registration REQUIRED

**Wednesday September 17 | Junk Journaling
6 pm @ Heritage Center**

This is an open-session style class where journaling friends can gather! Junk journals can be made out of an assortment of different materials, which are often recycled or found. Learn about ways you can use your journal and what supplies can be utilized to create one. A limited amount of art materials are provided but please bring your own book and any supplies you would like to include in your journal. If you need to purchase a journal, we will have some available for \$5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

**Sunday September 21 | Park Ranger Paddle
10 am @ Blue Marsh Lake – Church Road**

Come kayak with Rangers from the Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake! Learn more about water safety and changes occurring at Blue Marsh. You must bring your own kayak and life jacket. Meet at the Church Road Access (right off the intersection of Church Road and 183).FREE | Registration Required

**Sunday September 21 | The History & Preservation of Pennsylvania’s
Civil War Battle Flags
2-3 pm @ Heritage Center**

Jason Wilson, Historian for the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee, will present a program on the history and preservation of Pennsylvania’s collection of nearly 400 Civil War battle flags. Pennsyl-

vania's collection is one of the largest state collections in the nation and was used throughout many of the major campaigns and battles of the Civil War. As such, many of the flags have bullet holes and bloodstains from the horrific combat which they endured. The collection represents approximately 340,000 Pennsylvanians who answered the call during the war. More Medals of Honor were awarded for actions involving flags during the Civil War than for any other reason. Free | Open to the Public

**Saturday September 27 | Gruber Wagon Works Belt Running Day
10 am-4 pm @ Heritage Center**

Experience the Wagon Works 'come to life' during this unique demonstration. The engine and belt line-shaft system remained functional throughout the factory's operation, running numerous machines and equipment. Witness the once-a-year, public demonstration of the Gruber Wagon Works line shaft-belt system and the demonstration of the Wagon Works' hit-and-miss 15 horsepower Otto Engine that served as the main power source for the factory. The Gruber Wagon Works will be open to the public throughout the day with stationed guides throughout the museum. The Belt running will begin at 11 am and run intermittently through 4 pm. Demonstrations of the Otto "Hit and Miss" Engine will take place at 11:30 am, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm. The C. Howard Heister Canal Museum will be open for self-guided tours as well. Contact 610-374-8839 for more information. FREE | Open to the Public

OCTOBER

**Friday October 3 | Gruber Wagon Works Lantern Tours
5:30-9 pm @ Heritage Center**

Visit the Gruber Wagon Works after hours and enjoy our annual evening tour of this one-of-a-kind National Historic Landmark. Tours will start every half-hour beginning at 5:30 pm with the last tour starting at 8:30 pm. Tours of the Wagon Works will last approximately 1 hour and are best enjoyed by children and adults ages 7+. \$7/adult, \$6/senior and \$5/child ages 6-12 | Registration Required for Wagon Works Tour

While waiting for your tour, join in on a guided walk out to the historic Deppen Cemetery located in the back of the Heritage Center Field. Tours will depart at 6 pm and 7:30 pm. Guided Cemetery Walk is FREE.

Saturday October 4 | Wellness Walk

9 am @ Antietam Lake Park

Join Parks staff as we get out on the trails at Antietam Lake Park to enjoy an hour-long brisk walk with likeminded friends. Getting moving this time of the year can be tough, but studies show that outdoor time is just as important in winter as the warmer months of the year. Just a few minutes of walking can greatly improve the state of your mind, create healthy habits, and introduce new connections among others looking to do the same! Wear walking shoes or other appropriate footwear and dress accordingly. FREE | Registration Suggested

Saturday October 4 | Pennsylvania Owls w/ Red Creek Wildlife**6 pm @ Gring's Mill Barn**

For ages Middle School through adult: This informative and entertaining program uses visual media to introduce the eight species of Pennsylvania owls, followed by two live owls. FREE | Registration Suggested

Monday October 6 | Fall Full Moon Glow Hike**7 pm @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Berks Parks' staff will guide a twilight hike on Antietam Lake Parks' forested trails by the light of glowsticks! Enjoy the beauty of the forest as we learn about the history, local flora and fauna, and experience the park in a new way. Meet at the Angora Fruit Farm, wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring a flashlight (just in case). Glowsticks provided, but feel free to bring your own. This program is appropriate for children ages 7+ due to uneven terrain on the trail. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Wednesday October 8 | Basket Weaving with Invasives**10 am-1pm @ Heritage Center**

Join shepherdess and homesteader Lelayna Yarnall as we create a simple foraging basket using invasive species gathered from the park. A short walk with invasive species ID will take place before coming back to learn simple techniques on weaving a basket. Tools will be provided. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Saturday October 11 | Birding BIG DAY with Baird**10 am-2 pm @ Gring's Mill**

Join members of Baird Ornithological Club on the October 'Big Day' for birding! Members will have wildlife photographs from the Tulpehocken Creek area on display to view, and bird walks out on the trail will be run by Baird members. FREE | Registration Suggested

Tuesday October 14 | Trail Tales

10 am @ Heritage Center

Get wrapped up in a trail tale and discover plants and animal friends in our parks. This toddler-age program focuses on a nature topic each month partnered with a story and a craft. Special guests and visitors may make an appearance to join us in the fun! Geared towards children ages 3-5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Wednesday October 15 | Junk Journaling**6 pm @ Heritage Center**

This is an open-session style class where journaling friends can gather! Junk journals can be made out of an assortment of different materials, which are often recycled or found. Learn about ways you can use your journal and what supplies can be utilized to create one. A limited amount of art materials are provided but please bring your own book and any supplies you would like to include in your journal. If you need to purchase a journal, we will have some available for \$5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Saturday October 18 | Fungi Foray w/ the East Penn Mushroomers**10 am @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Join members of the Eastern Penn Mushroomers club for a morning mushroom experience! 'Forays' are not for foraging edible fungi species but instead intend to gather information and identification of all the fungi species living in an area. Join club members and parks' staff to collect and identify the fungal species of Antietam Lake Park! Information about safe mushrooming practices will be shared before exploring the park's terrain to collect and record species of interest. If you've ever wondered about the fantastic fungi in your area- this program will educate and elucidate! Geared towards participants ages 10+ due to uneven terrain and fungi collection. Held rain or shine, dress accordingly! FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Saturday October 18th | Birdseed Wreath Workshop**12- 2 pm @ Beidler House**

Create a birdseed wreath this winter to provide sustenance for your backyard birds. You'll make your very own seed wreath using our materials of birdseed, dried fruit and a bundt pan for crafting multiple feeders throughout the winter months. Our educational program will also cover suitable seed types for attracting specific birds and optimal feeder placement. Registered participants should bring \$25 in cash or check made payable to Heritage Art & Craft Studio for supplies. For more info

call: 610-374-8839. Registration Fee \$5 | \$25 Material Fee | Registration REQUIRED

**Sunday October 19 | Nature's Best Hope Guided Hike & Invasive Pull
1 pm @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Interested in how you can be an active participant in the preservation of our natural spaces? Join us on the trails of Antietam Lake Park for a guided hike with conservationist Doug Tallamy and learn how we can be stewards of nature starting in our own backyards. Wear comfortable shoes for hiking and bring gloves to pull invasives we encounter. FREE | Registration Suggested

**Sunday October 19 | Dark History of Penn's Woods
2-3 pm @ Heritage Center**

Join Jennifer Green, author of "Dark History of Penn's Woods," as she features true dark stories of Penn's Woods-including a cult in Chester County, a fiery disaster in Berks County and a lust-fueled poisoning in northern Delaware that resulted in the state's only legal execution by burning. Please note that some stories and material may be frightening to younger audiences. This talk is recommended for adults only. Registration fee \$5 | Registration REQUIRED

**Friday October 24 | Halloween Hike
5, 6, & 7 pm @ Heritage Center**

See the park after dark- hear tragic histories, see crepuscular critters and walk the trails with a guide. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a flashlight. Hikes leave at 5, 6, and 7 pm and have limited space. Please register for a timeslot accordingly. This is a family friendly event but consider that small children will need to walk some distance. \$5/person | Registration REQUIRED

**Sunday October 26th | Pitcher Basket Workshop
12-3 pm @ Heritage Center**

Join Vicky Heffner as she returns to teach this basket-making workshop where students will create a basket that makes a wonderful display for fresh flowers. All basket supplies are included. Participants should bring: 10 spring clothespins, a small flathead screwdriver, an old pair of scissors, a tape measure or ruler, a large bucket and an old towel. Participants should bring cash or check made payable to Vicky Heffner in the amount of \$45.

For more info call: 610-374-8839.

Registration Fee \$5 | \$45 Material Fee | Registration REQUIRED

NOVEMBER

Saturday November 1 | Wellness Walk

9 am @ Heritage Center

Join Parks staff as we get out on the Union Canal Trail to enjoy an hour-long brisk walk with likeminded friends. Getting moving this time of the year can be tough, but studies show that outdoor time is just as important in winter as the warmer months of the year. Just a few minutes of walking can greatly improve the state of your mind, create healthy habits, and introduce new connections among others looking to do the same! Wear walking shoes or other appropriate footwear and dress accordingly. FREE | Registration Suggested

Saturday November 1 | Owl Pellet Dissection

10 am @ Heritage Center

Berks Nature and Berks Parks host an owl-fully great program about the gross but fascinating science behind owl pellets. Learn why our night-time birds of prey produce these little packages of puke- and dissect one of your own! Geared towards families with children ages 5+. FREE | Registration Suggested

Saturday November 1 | Partridge in a Pear Tree Theorem Workshop

12-3 pm @ Beidler House

Discover the rich history and techniques of Theorem Painting, a cherished Early American art form that flourished in Colonial New England during the first half of the 19th Century through the mid-1800s. In this beginner's workshop you will create this 8x10 Theorem of a Partridge in a Pear Tree, a traditional symbol of Early America. Guided by experienced instructor Peggy Allen you will master the art of applying oil paint with brushes to a cotton velveteen fabric board using a series of pre-cut stencils. Registered participants should bring \$25 in cash or check made payable to Heritage Art & Craft Studio for supplies. For more info call: 610-374-8839. Registration Fee \$5 | \$25 Material Fee | Registration REQUIRED

Wednesday November 5 | Full Moon Hike

5:30 pm @ Gring's Mill

Walk the trails of the Union Canal Trail on the evening of the Full Moon! Wear sturdy hiking or walking shoes and bring a flashlight. We'll be out-

side the entire time, so dress warm. FREE | Registration Required

Saturday November 8 | History Hike: Antietam Lake Park

9 am @ Antietam Lake Park, Angora Trailhead Lot

Learn the fascinating history of Antietam Lake's creation, the surrounding hillside's past and why the lake stands as a reminder for us all in taking care of the land. Wear walking shoes or other appropriate footwear and dress accordingly. FREE | Registration Suggested

Sunday November 16 | Colonial Candle Workshop

1-3 pm @ Beidler House

Step back in time and discover the art of hand-dipped candle making as it was done in Early America. Our class provides a detailed, hands-on experience, resulting in your own 100% natural beeswax dipped candle. You'll receive a peppermint scented miniature star ornament as a gift and create your own 6-inch beeswax display ornament, scented with cinnamon oil and crafted using a Stoneware Cookie mold. Our knowledgeable, period-dressed instructors, Greg and Peggy Geesaman will share interesting facts about Early American life and current beekeeping practices to enhance your experience. Registered participants should bring \$25 in cash or check made payable to Heritage Art & Craft Studio for supplies. For more info call: 610-374-8839. Registration Fee \$5 | \$25 Material Fee | Registration REQUIRED

Tuesday November 18 | Trail Tales

10 am @ Heritage Center

Get wrapped up in a trail tale and discover plants and animal friends in our parks. This toddler-age program focuses on a nature topic each month partnered with a story and a craft. Special guests and visitors may make an appearance to join us in the fun! Geared towards children ages 3-5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Wednesday November 19 | Junk Journaling

6 pm @ Heritage Center

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FREE | Registration REQUIRED

DECEMBER

Saturday December 6 | Kids Holiday Craft Workshop

12-3pm @ Heritage Center

Drop in to the barn at the Heritage Center any time between 12 and 3pm to make some holiday crafts! Stop by and visit Santa at the Epler's Schoolhouse while you're on site. For kids ages 3 and up. FREE | Open to the Public

Tuesday December 9 | Trail Tales

10 am @ Heritage Center

Get wrapped up in a trail tale and discover plants and animal friends in our parks. This toddler-age program focuses on a nature topic each month partnered with a story and a craft. Special guests and visitors may make an appearance to join us in the fun! Geared towards children ages 3-5. FREE | Registration REQUIRED



Holiday Lights AT GRING'S MILL

5:30 to 8:30 PM

Free Parking | Free Admission | Live Music | Food Trucks

*Enjoy the light displays
on these dates in
December 2025*

3 4 5 6 7
10 11 12 13 14
16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23

RecDesk

Use the QR code or link below to register
for any of the programs in this booklet!

<https://countyofberks.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

For for more information or to
register by phone:

610-372-8939

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4pm

OUR PARKS ARE
open
FOR RECREATION

September : 8am-8pm

October : 8am-6:30pm

November : 8am-5pm

December : 8am-4:30pm

