

Berks County Parks & Recreation

# PROGRAMS



*Fall*  
**2024**

## Berks County Parks & Recreation

# 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



**Berks County Parks and Recreation  
Department**

9.5K likes · 11K followers

*Follow us on Facebook*

for up-to-date schedules,  
program changes & parks news.

**@BerksCountyParks**

# SEPTEMBER

## **Sunday September 1 |**

### **Labor Day Float | 9am @ Stilling Basin**

Float down the Tulpehocken Creek starting from the Stilling Basin at Blue Marsh Lake to the carry-out at Gring's Mill. Participants must provide their own vessels (paddleboards or kayaks) and transportation back to the starting point from the finish. Parks staff will be on hand to talk about historic and natural points of interest as we float. All participants must wear proper life jackets.

FREE | Registration Recommended

## **Monday September 2 |**

### **Ringgold Band | 10am-12pm @ Heritage Center**

Bring your own chairs and blanket and enjoy traditional band music against the backdrop of our covered bridge and the Tulpehocken Creek.

FREE | Open to the Public

## **Saturday September 7 |**

### **Fall Frolic Wellness Walk | 9am @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Join parks staff as we get out 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. We'll be meeting at the Angora Fruit Farm.

FREE | Registration Recommended

## **Sunday September 8 |**

### **The History of Nolde Forest | 2pm @ Heritage Center**

Nolde Forest serves as the state's first Environmental Education center now, but it has changed dramatically over the past 150 years. What did the land look like? How was it managed? And what do nylons have to do with it? Join staff from the Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center as we learn about the social and environmental factors that made Nolde Forest the gem of Reading that it is today.

FREE | Open to the Public

### **Thursday September 12 |**

#### **Trail Tales (Replacing Read with a Ranger) | 10am @ Bingaman House**

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

### **Thursday September 12 |**

#### **The Return of the Bats | 7-8:30pm @ Heritage Center**

Join Dr. Karen Campbell of Albright College for her popular talk as she explores and explains the lives of bats, from around the world, to Pennsylvania, to our own Wertz's Covered Red Bridge. We will talk about the characteristics that these flying mammals share, those that make them distinctive, and how they support a range of different roles in nature, including the interactions between bats and humans.

Free | Open to the Public

### **Saturday September 14|**

#### **Family Fishing Day | 9am @ Antietam Lake Park**

Join parks staff and rangers as we enjoy an evening of fishing fun! Learn how to tie fishing knots, try your hand at casting, and hear some fish tales! No experience or tackle necessary AND no fishing license required. All rods, bait, and tackle will be provided.

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

### **Saturday September 14|**

#### **Nature Journaling with Berks Nature | 10am @ Heritage Center**

Nature journaling is a fun, relaxing practice that deepens our connections with nature by encouraging mindfulness, increasing attention to detail, and fostering a sincere appreciation of nature's beauty. The whole family is encouraged to attend this program, as nature enthusiasts of any age are bound to find joy and peace through this creative practice. Start by building your own nature journal and then head out into the park for inspiration! Berks Nature will provide prompts to help you get started on filling your journal with nature art and observations of the natural world. The journal is yours to keep continuing your nature journaling practice as a family!

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

## **Sunday September 15|**

### **Farm Fest: Celebrating Farm Life Past to Present | 12-4pm @ Heritage Center**

Before it was a county park the Berks County Heritage Center was a working farm for over 200 years! Come celebrate farm life and farm culture with this fun family event where we look behind the scenes and visit some of the rarely opened parts of the property that tell that story of life on a Berks County farm. Jim Ohlinger, former resident, will be giving tours of the property and sharing stories from his time here. Visit the herb garden and Melcher's Grist Mill to learn about how farms grew and processed their food. Learn about local farms from our area. Wagon rides, animals, food and more.

Farm Tours with Jim Ohlinger – 12:15 & 2pm

Native Pollinator Talk – 1 pm

Stories of Berks County – 3pm

FREE | Open to the Public

## **Tuesday September 17 |**

### **Hike & Yoga | 6:30- 8:30pm @ Berks Leisure Area**

Walk under the glow of a full moon on the beautiful Union Canal trail while you enjoy the sounds of the Tulpehocken Creek. Once the moon rises, we will stop for a relaxing yoga class and peaceful meditation. All ages are welcome, sturdy walking shoes and a yoga mat or towel is required.

Register here:

<https://aopaddle.simplybook.me/v2/#book-class/service/65>

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

## **Friday September 27|**

### **Fall Glow Hike | 7pm @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Kick off the start of the Fall season with some fun! Berks parks staff will guide a twilight hike on Antietam Lake's forested trails on the first day of fall- by the light of glowsticks! Enjoy the beauty of the forest as we learn about the park, 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

## **Saturday September 28|**

### **Wagon Works Belt Running Day | 10am-4pm @ Heritage Center**

Experience the Gruber 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 belts will run beginning at 11:00 am and continue intermittently through 4:00pm. Demonstrations of the Otto "Hit and Miss" Engine will take place at 12:30 and 3:00 pm. The C. Howard Heister Canal Museum will be open for self-guided tours as well.

FREE | Open to the Public

Contact 610-374-8839 for more information.

# **OCTOBER**

## **Saturday October 5 |**

### **Fall Frolic Wellness Walk | 9am @ Rebers Bridge Parking Lot**

Join parks staff as we get out 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. We'll be meeting at the Rebers Bridge parking lot and walking the 'Connector Trail' section to the Stilling Basin and back.

FREE | Registration Recommended

## **Sunday October 6 |**

### **Theorem Painting Workshop – Botanical Pears | 12-2:30pm @ Beidler House**

Join Instructor Peggy Allen, of Heritage Art & Craft Studio, to learn the history and techniques of Theorem Painting. This colonial American painting technique uses a series of pre-cut stencils to apply oil paint to a velveteen background and create a frame-worthy work that looks hand-painted. Participants will learn about the history of this (almost) lost painting technique, the methods involved, as well as create their

own display worthy theorem painting to take home. Beginners welcome --- No prior painting skills necessary! Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop. 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 6 | Fall Forage ID w/ The Wild Edibles Lady | 1pm @ Heritage Center**

Join Debbie Naha-Koretzky, "The Wild Edibles Lady," to learn more about foraged foods that are found in the fall. Learn proper ID of plants and how to prepare edibles you can find in your own backyard. There will be a small tasting following a PowerPoint presentation and hike. Copies of Debbie's book, Foraging Pennsylvania and New Jersey, will be available. To learn more about The Wild Edibles Lady, visit [www.wildediblesnjpa.com](http://www.wildediblesnjpa.com).

\$5/Person | Registration REQUIRED

**Thursday October 10 | Trail Tales | 10-11am @ Bingaman House**

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

**Friday, October 11 | Lantern Tours | 5-9pm @ 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 with the last tour starting at 8:30. Tours of the Wagon Works will last approximately 1 hour and are best enjoyed by children and adults ages 7+.

\$7.00/adult, \$6/Senior, and \$5.00/child ages 6-12 | Registration Required

**Friday, October 11 | Heritage Haunts | 5-9pm @ Heritage Center**

Explore the history of Halloween, hear about the history of little seen corners of the park, learn about superstitions and participate in Hallow-

een traditions from another era and even carve a jack-o-lantern out of a turnip! This self-guided tour will take you around the Heritage Center to points of interest either before and after your scheduled tour of the Gruber Wagon Works or as a fun, free, family friendly way to explore the culture of Halloween.

FREE | Open to the Public

### **Thursday October 17 |**

#### **Full Moon Halloween Hike | 6, 7, & 8pm @ Heritage Center**

See the park after dark- hear tragic histories, see crepuscular critters, and walk the trails with a guide as we enjoy the full Hunter's Moon. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a flashlight. Hikes leave at 6, 7, and 8pm 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 20 |**

#### **Cat Head Basket Workshop | 12-4pm @ Heritage Center Barn**

Just in time for Halloween, Vicky Heffner returns to lead this class in creating a basket, when turned upside down, looks like a cat's head! Please bring along these items: 10 spring clothespins, bucket, old pair of scissors, ruler or tape measure, flathead screwdriver, towel. Supply cost: \$40 – checks or cash payable to Vicky Heffner day of program.

For more info call: 610-374-8839

Registration Fee \$5 | \$40 Material Fee | Registration REQUIRED

### **Saturday October 26 | Theorem Painting Workshop – Early American Shaker Tree of Life | 12-2:30pm @ Beidler House**

Join Instructor Peggy Allen, of Heritage Art & Craft Studio, to learn the history and techniques of Theorem Painting. This colonial American painting technique uses a series of pre-cut stencils to apply oil paint to a velveteen background and create a frame-worthy work that looks hand-painted. Participants will learn about the history of this (almost) lost painting technique, the methods involved, as well as create their own display worthy theorem painting to take home. Beginners welcome --- No prior painting skills necessary! Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop. 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



# NOVEMBER

## **Saturday November 2 |**

### **Leaf Peeper Walk | 9am @ Antietam Lake Park**

Hike with parks staff through crisp fall trails at Antietam Lake Park and enjoy learning about forest ecology and the importance of our native trees. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water.

FREE | Registration Recommended

## **Sunday November 3 |**

### **Carsonia Park Remembered | 2 pm @ Heritage Center**

At the end of every rainbow there may not have been a pot of gold but at the end of every trolley line there was an amusement park. Historian John Gunsser. Join Henry Boettlin as he shares about the history and the stories behind Reading's favorite amusement park, Carsonia Park.

FREE | Open to the Public

## **Wednesday November 6 |**

### **Wednesday Workshop: Cast Resin | 6-8pm @ Heritage Center**

Preserve the beauty of the natural world in cast resin with this two-hour workshop that will guide participants through casting and creating a wearable piece of jewelry from found natural objects.

\$10 per person | Registration Required

## **Thursday November 14 |**

### **Trail Tales | 10- 11am @ 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

## **Friday November 15 |**

### **Full Moon Hike | 5:30pm @ Berks Leisure Area**

Walk 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.

FREE | Registration Required

**Sunday November 17 |**

**Orange and Cinnamon Spice Holiday Wreath Workshop | 12-2pm @ Beidler House**

Join Instructor Peggy Allen, of Heritage Art & Craft Studio, to create a beautiful botanical wreath using a grapevine base and added fragrant natural botanicals. Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop. 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

# DECEMBER

**Thursday December 12 |**

**Trail Tales | 10am @ 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

**Saturday December 14 |**

**Beidler House - Holiday Open House | 12-6pm @ Beidler House**

Visit the historic 18th century Beidler House to experience the feel of a colonial era Pennsylvania German Christmas. Costumed interpreters will guide visitors through the historic 1783 Beidler House. Learn about the Beidler family and their operation of an onsite sawmill and gristmill during the mid-1700s along with history of the park. Local crafters and artisans will be featured throughout the house. Join us for traditional holiday cooking demos, festive dancing, music, and crafts. Refreshments and food available.

FREE | Open to the Public

**NEED A SPACE FOR YOUR  
NEXT GET-TOGETHER?**

Rent the Gring's Mill barn or a pavilion  
for your next event by using this QR code!





*join us for*

# **HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT GRING'S MILL**

*Wednesdays-Sundays in December*

**5:30 TO 8:30 PM**

Free Parking | Free Admission | Live Music | Food Trucks

*Enjoy the light displays  
on these dates in  
December*

4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8

11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15

18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

26 | 27 | 28 | 29

BERKS COUNTY



HERITAGE CENTER



*Open for the Season*

**April 27–October 27**

**Thursday to Saturday**

**10 am– 4pm**

**Sunday**

**12pm–4pm**

Site features the C. Howard Hiester Canal Center, Wertz Covered Bridge, Epler's One-Room Schoolhouse and guided tours of the Gruber Wagon Works, on the hour through 3 pm.

Visit the lower level of the barn for Gruber tour tickets, Snack Bar, Country Store and information.

For more information  
and ticket pricing call  
610-898-5562



**OUR PARKS ARE**  
*open*  
**FOR RECREATION**

**September : 8am–8pm**

**October : 8am–6:30pm**

**November : 8am–5pm**

**December : 8am–4:30pm**