

Berks County Parks & Recreation

PROGRAMS

WINTER 2025



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**

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

@BerksCountyParks

JANUARY

Saturday January 4 | Winter 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 January 11 | Winter Outdoor Cooking Class

11 am @ Bingaman House

Join us for an amazing demonstration on cooking outdoors using a campfire while we learn how to make an assortment of homemade dishes. We will be outside for the duration of the program, so be advised to dress according to the weather. This program is catered towards teenagers and adults 15 years of age or older.

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Saturday January 11 | Owl Prowl

6 pm @ Bingaman House

Enjoy a moonlit stroll on rustic Antietam Lake Park's trails while learning about owls. We'll meet in the Bingaman House to discuss these nighttime birds of prey, their nesting habits, and their impacts on our environment before heading out on the trail. Wear hiking shoes, bring a flashlight, and dress accordingly.

FREE | Registration Required

Tuesday January 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 January 15 | Junk Journaling- Part 1

6 pm @ Heritage Center

Join us for this workshop series to learn the art of junk journaling. Junk journals can be made out 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

Friday, January 17 | Volunteer Invasive Removal

3 pm @ Angora Fruit Farm

Invasive plant species have changed our natural landscape for centuries. They have completely taken over the understory of our forests, preventing healthy native plants from growing in those areas. Come and join our efforts in helping the environment by removing and cutting back on invasive plant populations. We will be working outside the entire time, so be sure to come dressed appropriately for the weather. Water and a sturdy pair of shoes are recommended.

FREE | Open to the Public

Saturday January 25 | Tracks, Scat, and Animal Pelts

9 am @ Bingaman House

Join us as we observe the natural world around us and the animals within it by looking at the tracks and scat of local wildlife. Get to know which animals are which as we also get to observe and feel the fur of different animals.

FREE | Registration Required

Sunday January 26 | Snowshoeing Pennsylvania Trails

2 pm @ Bethel AT: Rt 501 Parking Lot of the AT, Lancaster Avenue, Bethel, PA (40.512678, -76.344475)

Join BMECC and Berks Parks & Recreation Department in an out and back snowshoe adventure on the Appalachian Trail. Geared towards those with OR without snowshoe experience, BMECC member Adaiah Bauer and Parks Staff members will share tips, tricks, and equipment notes on snowshoeing on Pennsylvania trails during winter. This is a great introduction to this fun winter activity, and snowshoeing can be done by anyone able to hike but is considered a moderate activity on the uneven terrain of the AT. Bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair

ahead of time. In the event of lack of adequate snowpack, we'll hike on foot without snowshoes. Length of hike will depend on size and ability of the group.

Program is FREE | Registration is required (with or without snowshoe reservations). Please indicate if you need snowshoes and if so, what size.

FREE | YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE.

FEBRUARY

Saturday February 1 | Winter 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, February 1 | Volunteer Invasive Removal

12 pm @ Angora Fruit Farm

Invasive plant species have changed our natural landscape for centuries. They have completely taken over the understory of our forests, preventing healthy native plants from growing in those areas. Come and join our efforts in helping the environment by removing and cutting back on invasive plant populations. We will be working outside the entire time, so be sure to come dressed appropriately for the weather. Water and a sturdy pair of shoes are recommended.

FREE | Open to the Public

Tuesday February 11 | 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 February 12 | Full Moon Snowshoe With Your Sweetheart
6 pm @ Heritage Center**

Grab your honey and enjoy a snowshoe walk down the Union Canal Trail with Parks staff. We'll grab a cup of hot chocolate and discuss snowshoe tips before trying out a few pairs outside. In the event we don't have snow, we'll still look at snowshoes and then go for a hike on foot on the trail.

Program is FREE | Registration is REQUIRED

**Saturday February 15 | Winter Tree Identification
9 am @ Angora Fruit Farm**

Come with us as we get to know our favorite natural friends in a different light (or in this case, season). Trees can be easy to identify when they have leaves, however, as we dive into the colder months where leaves are scarce, we are here to emphasize their other identifiable features. Join us as we look at a variety of different tree and shrub species and test your ID knowledge. This program is geared towards teens and adults, but all are welcome. We will be outside so water and sturdy walking shoes/boots are recommended.

FREE | Registration Required

**Wednesday February 19 | Junk Journaling- Part 2
6 pm @ Heritage Center**

Join us for this workshop series to learn the art of junk journaling. Junk journals can be made out 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 February 22 | Maple Sugaring
10 am @ Gring's Mill**

Learn how to identify the right kinds of trees to tap and make your very own syrup. Observe the process of taking sap to syrup and see just how much it takes to get the sweet and sticky liquid we love.

\$5 per person, kids under 3 FREE | Registration Required

MARCH

Saturday March 1 | Winter 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 March 1 | Volunteer Open House

11 am- 1 pm @ Heritage Center

Come out and learn more about volunteering for the Berks County Park system! We're looking for energetic volunteers to assist us in a variety of roles. Would you be interested in being a tour guide, visitor center attendant, event staff, trail ambassador or park steward? There are opportunities for all ages with no experience necessary. Come out and help us keep the Parks beautiful and accessible!

Saturday March 8 | Volunteer Invasive Removal

10 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

Invasive plant species have changed our natural landscape for centuries. They have completely taken over the understory of our forests, preventing healthy native plants from growing in those areas. Come and join our efforts in helping the environment by removing and cutting back on invasive plant populations. We will be working outside the entire time, so be sure to come dressed appropriately for the weather. Water and a sturdy pair of shoes are recommended.

FREE | Open to the Public

Tuesday March 11 | 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 March 12 | Blue Bird Box Workshop

6-8 pm @ Heritage Center

Join parks staff as we explore the finer points to enticing beneficial wildlife to your backyard! Learn the benefits of attracting bluebirds and why providing proper nesting spaces for them can be a boon for your flowers, veggie gardens and more. Roll up your sleeves and complete a bluebird box of your own to take home!

\$20/ Kit. Additional kits can be purchased in person while supplies last at the program- please bring exact cash or check for additional kits. Im-Registration is REQUIRED for this event.

Friday March 14 | Full Moon Hike

7 pm @ 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 warm.

FREE | Registration Required

Wednesday March 19 | Junk Journaling- Part 3

6 pm @ Heritage Center

Join us for this workshop series to learn the art of junk journaling. Junk journals can be made out 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 March 30 | Theorem Painting Class

1-3 pm @ 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

APRIL

Saturday April 5 | Winter Wellness Walk

9 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

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 April 5 | Volunteer Invasive Removal

10 am @ Angora Fruit Farm

Invasive plant species have changed our natural landscape for centuries. They have completely taken over the understory of our forests, preventing healthy native plants from growing in those areas. Come and join our efforts in helping the environment by removing and cutting back on invasive plant populations. We will be working outside the entire time, so be sure to come dressed appropriately for the weather. Water and a sturdy pair of shoes are recommended.

FREE | Open to the Public

Tuesday April 8 | Trail Tales

10 am @ 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

Saturday April 12 | Egg-cellent Eggs!

10 am-12 pm @ Gring's Mill

Discover some truly egg-cellent facts about eggs! We'll take a look at birds, insects, reptiles and share just why eggs are so incredible. Learn to ID common birds' nests, dissect an egg, peek at evidence of insect eggs, and meet some cold-blooded egg layers too. A non-competitive egg hunt will follow the program. Geared towards families with children ages 5+.

FREE | Registration Required

Saturday April 12 | Full Moon Hike

8 pm @ Antietam Lake Park

Walk the trails at Antietam Lake Park 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 warm.

FREE | Registration Required

Saturday April 26 | Healthy Kids Day

10 am-2 pm @ Heritage Center

Berks County Parks and YMCA of Reading & Berks County presents a family fun day at the Heritage Center filled with activities.

For more info and a full list of activities and vendors visit

<https://www.ymcarbc.org/>

FREE | Open to the Public

Sunday April 27 | Teacup Birdfeeder Workshop

1-3 pm @ Beidler House

Join instructor Peggy Allen of Heritage Art and Crafts Studio in making a birdfeeder from upcycled teacups. Participants will choose a teacup to match their décor, assemble a jeweled chain and receive a gift bag of bird seed. Enjoy complimentary tea and cookies afterward, followed by an educational workshop. 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

MAY

Saturday May 3 | Spring Salves and Tinctures Workshop
9 am @ Bingaman House

If you enjoy learning about medicinal plants, this workshop is for you! We will be demonstrating how to make salves and tinctures as well as show what plants help with different ailments.

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Monday May 12 | Full Moon Hike & Yoga
7:30pm @ Berks Leisure Area

Take a few deep breaths, a downward dog or two and relax for an easy intro session of yoga before heading out onto the Union Canal Trail to take in the moonlight. Bring your own yoga mat, water, and a sturdy pair of walking shoes. Inclement weather may cancel event.

FREE | Registration REQUIRED

Sunday May 18 | Schuylkill Navigation Bicentennial
10-4 @ Berks County Heritage Center

Join canal historians and hobbyists as the Berks County Heritage Center hosts a history symposium and display event. Lectures will take place indoors, but will only be open by registration/fee with more details forthcoming at <https://waterhistoryphl.org/2024/09/schuylkill-navigation-bicentennial/> Displays featuring historic artifacts will be available to view for free and the Hiester Canal Center will be open for self-guided tours. For more info call: 610-374-8839.

Displays & museum will be FREE and open to the public.

Lectures will have a fee and registration will be required.

**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!





OUR PARKS ARE
open
FOR RECREATION

January : 8am-5pm

February : 8am-5:30pm

March : 8am-7pm

April : 8am-8pm