

HUNTERDON PARKS HARBINGER

Your source for Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation
events, programs, and news.

Winter 2025-2026
December, January, February



We have an important update! We moved!

You may have heard that the Hunterdon County Arboretum is being renovated and expanded to better serve the community. While the building is under construction the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation office has temporarily moved.

You can find our new temporary office at 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822. We are located on the lower level of Building 2. Our mailing address is still PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Office Location: 1020 State Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ

Telephone (908) 782-1158 · Fax (908) 806-4057

Email: parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation>



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Online Program Registration

You can register for any of our Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation programs online. Visit our website www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation and click the photo for Online Program Registration.

Register in person by completing the program registration and medical record form on the last pages of this Harbinger. Visit the Division Office at 6 Gauntt Place, Building 2, Lower Level, Flemington, NJ 08822, Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or mail your completed form with check payment to Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Program details including parking addresses and any other pertinent information such as items to bring will be printed on your receipt.

CANCELLATION POLICIES:

You will be notified by phone if we cancel a program and you will receive a full refund. Programs are designed for all types of weather and participants should dress appropriately. Cancellations and requests for refunds made by participants must be in writing. Cancellations made less than one week prior to the program will not receive a refund.

Scan here to
register online.



Bus Trips

New York City

Sunday, December 7, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Departs NYC at 6:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

NYC Location: Bryant Park

Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$50

Join us for a coach bus trip into the winter wonderland of NYC. Experience the holiday season in historic Manhattan, where the aromas of hot chocolate and pine waft through the air! On this Christmas expedition, you design your perfect day in the city and we will bring you there. You can spend your day at the world-famous Rockefeller Center ice rink or on a carriage ride through Central Park with your loved ones. You can shop at the historic New York City Macy's or go to the Broadway show of your choice; the options are endless. The private coach bus departs from Deer Path Park at 8:30 AM, and will head straight to Bryant Park which is near Times Square and other attractions. The bus will leave Bryant Park at 6:00 PM; please plan your day accordingly. No more dealing with trains and traffic; we provide the transportation, and you take it from there.



Philadelphia Flower Show

Tuesday, March 3, 9:45 AM to 7:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$90 includes PFS ticket

Registration Deadline: February 1.

Special Cancellation Policy: All cancellations by participants must be made in writing before February 1.

Sit back & relax as we take you by coach bus to the world's oldest and largest indoor flower show! The show features large-scale gardens, elaborate landscapes, and over-the-top floral creations. Visitors are treated to fabulous floral designs, live entertainment, gardening how-to workshops, and lectures by experts. You can shop for plants and gifts, sample wines, and attend different seminars. The 2026 theme is "Rooted: Origins of American Gardening." Through immersive garden exhibits and stunning floral displays, Rooted: Origins of American Gardening brings to life the personal stories, cultural traditions, and horticultural inspiration that connect us to plants, each other, and shape how we garden today. Enjoy lunch at Reading Terminal across the street from the Flower Show; meals are not included in the cost of the trip.

Parks Van Trips

Birding and Wildlife Trips

Barnegat Light State Park

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Barnegat Light State Park is a great winter birding spot, with lots of sea ducks, gulls, and winter shorebirds. We will hike to the end of the jetty from 7th Avenue. Dress warmly; a rigorous sandy hike on the beach is to be expected. Along the way, we will make a few more stops to pick up a few other species in the bay and ocean. If time permits, we will check out one of the surrounding salt marshes before heading back.

Sandy Hook

Sunday, January 25, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Cost: \$37

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Sandy Hook is a 2,044-acre barrier beach peninsula that offers seven miles of beach line. The variety of coastal habitats including sand dunes, grasslands, salt and freshwater marshes, thickets, and maritime forest offers a diverse range of birding opportunities. From shorebirds and songbirds to waterfowl, join us as we search these locations for wintering birds.



North Shore Run

Saturday, February 21, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join us on a run along the North Shore of New Jersey looking for winter ducks and other species in and around the lakes, waterways, beaches and ocean in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. We will start in Ocean at the Manasquan River Inlet and work our way north at least as far as Lake Takanassee. The trip will have multiple stops so dress in layers and be prepared for climbing in and out of the van.

Seals & Winter Birds on Sandy Hook

Thursday, March 12, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$75

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Join us for a day on Sandy Hook! We'll meet a naturalist from the American Littoral Society for a light walk on a paved pathway to a seal-viewing area, then visit two birding hotspots—bayside and oceanside—to look for wintering waterfowl. While sightings aren't guaranteed, the trip is timed for the best chance to see wildlife. Afterward, we'll stop for lunch at Off the Hook (not included in the price of the trip), then explore the historic Twin Lights lighthouse, with the option to climb one of its towers. We'll finish with a stop at Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook for stunning views of Sandy Hook, Raritan Bay, and the New York skyline and 9/11 memorial. Bring water, dress in layers, and bring binoculars (some available to borrow).

Adult Trips

New Jersey State Museum and Planetarium, and Trenton City Museum

Friday, January 16, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: \$38 includes Planetarium fees
Instructors: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

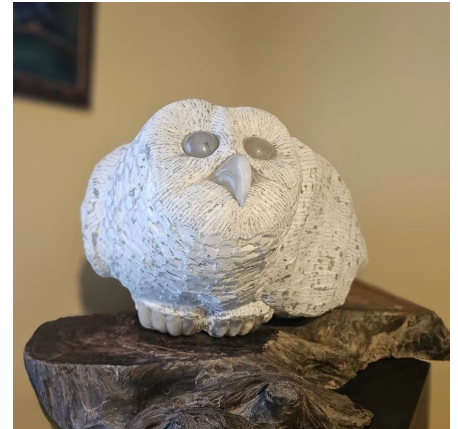
Discover two fascinating museums in Trenton! At the New Jersey State Museum, explore over two million artifacts spanning natural and cultural history, archaeology, ethnography, and fine art. We will also enjoy a show at the state-of-the-art Planetarium, featuring an 8K projection system that brings everything from ancient Mayan astronomy to Mars exploration to life. Finally we will visit the Trenton City Museum in historic Cadwalader Park, home to an impressive collection of locally made ceramics and decorative arts celebrating Trenton's rich industrial past. Admission to both museums is free (donations appreciated). Bring a bag lunch and drink to enjoy in the museum cafeteria.



Sterling Hill Mining Museum & Skylands Museum of Art

Friday, February 6, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Parking Location: Deer Path Park
Ages: Adult
Cost: \$57 includes two entrance fees
Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Journey underground on a guided walking tour of Sterling Hill Mine, traveling 1,300 feet through historic tunnels dating back to the 1830s. Along the way, your guide will share stories about the mine's geology, history, equipment, and working conditions. We'll visit the lamp room, shaft station, and other fascinating areas before enjoying our bagged lunch at the mine (a snack bar is also available). Then, we'll explore the Skylands Museum of Art, featuring an eclectic collection of sculptures and paintings that celebrate the imagination and creativity of artists from around the world. Bring a bag lunch and drink.



Nature Programs

Youth Nature Series

Engaging children in outdoor play and learning can foster creativity, curiosity, and physical development. Nature offers a dynamic environment that stimulates the senses, encourages problem-solving, and nurtures imagination. Spending time outside can also support a child's mental well-being and help cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Baby Walks

Fridays, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration required

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Get outside with your baby and explore your local trails! We will do some nature education geared toward the adults and enjoy the company of other parents and caregivers in the area. We will walk at the pace of the adults; we ask that babies be carried or in a stroller depending on the location.

December 12: Miquin Woods, dirt trails appropriate for carriers only.

January 23: Landsdown Trail, 11 West Main St, Clinton. Fine gravel trail appropriate for strollers and carriers.

February 13: Echo Hill Park, dirt trails appropriate for carriers only.

Nature Club

Eight Tuesdays, January 6 to February 24

Times:

Session A: 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Session B: 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$90 per child for all 8 lessons

Ages: 3-6 years with adult

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

Discover, innovate, engage in games, and embark on explorations! Our well-loved nature clubs offer an array of captivating subjects to introduce your child to the wonders of the natural world. Engaging hands-on experiences, such as science experiments, games, and craft projects, will add to the enjoyment. The children will have the opportunity to witness the fascinating transformations in nature week by week. Please be sure to dress your child for the outdoors so they will be able to enjoy these activities. We strongly recommend old clothes and sneakers/boots that can get dirty.

Tot Walks

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 2 to 3 years with adult

Cost: \$10/session

Instructor: Laura Bush,
Principal Park Naturalist



Discover nature at your local park! Leave the strollers behind as we read a story and take a walk to learn about the nature around us and do a craft on each theme.

Winter Trees

Session A: Wednesday, December 10

Session B: Thursday, December 11

Weather

Session A: Wednesday, January 21

Session B: Thursday, January 22

Groundhogs

Session A: Wednesday, February 18

Session B: Thursday, February 19

Nature Adventurers

Ten Wednesdays, January 7 to March 11

Time: 4:15 PM to 5:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$100 per child for all 10 lessons

Grades K-4 | Drop-off program

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist



"Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, less aggressive, and show better concentration."

-National Wildlife Foundation

Hey explorers! Ready to jump into awesome adventures and discover the wild outdoors? Join Nature Adventurers and get ready for super fun hikes, animal spotting, campfire stories, and wild games! Whether you're a nature newbie or a backyard pro, you'll make cool new friends, learn amazing stuff about plants and animals, and help keep our planet happy and healthy. So, grab your backpack, put on your adventure hat, and come play outside with us — the wild is waiting!

Homeschool Nature Series

Ages: 7 to 17 years with adult

Cost: \$8 per session

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join our Homeschool Nature Program for a monthly dose of outdoor education and exploration! In each session, your child will immerse themselves in a new and exciting nature topic, fostering curiosity and a deeper connection to the natural world.

NJ Black Bears

Wednesday, December 10, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Black bears are back and thriving in New Jersey. In this newly updated program, we will explore the history, life cycle, and behavior of these powerful yet misunderstood animals. Learn how the state monitors bear populations, what to do if you encounter one, and how we can all coexist safely.



Constellations, Their Myths, and the Kings

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Before computers, televisions, or even books, people looked to the sky for stories and guidance. Spend an evening under the stars as we explore the constellations of the season and the myths and legends that surround them. We'll also take a closer look at the "Kings of the Gods" — Jupiter and Saturn.

Screech Owls Exploration

Friday, February 13, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Section of the South Branch Reservation

Learn the proper etiquette for owling as we focus on the fascinating Eastern Screech Owl. We'll take a quiet walk into the park's interior and attempt to call to these elusive birds, listening carefully for their reply. If we're lucky, we may even catch a glimpse, though sightings are never guaranteed. Participants should not bring flashlights or headlamps; red lights will be provided for the brief walk along Sunnyside's wide, flat trail. This program is only for registered participants and their guardians, no additional siblings are permitted.

Nature Programs

Maple Sugaring

Maple Tree Tapping

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 6 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructors: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist, and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Have you wondered how we tap the trees to collect maple sap, or where the Echo Hill sugar bush is? Well, here's your chance to find out! We will meet at the playground and take the five to ten-minute walk to the sugar bush. You will learn how to identify a sugar maple and see a demonstration on how to tap a maple tree. Participants will collectively tap about 25 trees.



Maple Sap Collection

Session A: Sunday, February 8

Session B: Sunday, February 22

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructors: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist, and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Collecting the sap is a crucial step of the maple sugaring process! Many methods are used on commercial farms, but the basic idea is the same, moving the sap from the maple trees to the stove. Come participate in the process at Echo Hill! We will meet at the playground and then take the five to ten-minute walk to the sugar bush to help us collect our sap for sugaring. This program will also be available to groups during weekdays in February. Please call to schedule a group program.



Maple Sugaring Living History Open House

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free | No pre-registration required

Experience first-hand the North American tradition of maple sugaring at Hunterdon County's Maple Sugaring Program. You'll take a trip through time to experience the art of the sugaring process. Along the way you will see an early American Frontiersman tapping his trees, visit a sugar "farmer" at his evaporator, and enjoy a Native American story about the discovery of maple sap.

Sessions start every 30 minutes beginning at 10:00 AM. The last session starts at 2:30 PM.

School Field Trips and Private Groups

**Maple Sap Collection or
Maple Sugaring Living History**

Cost: \$40 per session

Maple Sugaring To Go Bring our maple sugaring program to you! | Cost \$70 per session

Family Nature Programs

Mammals by Other Means

Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park Main Lodge

Age: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Many people know the County's mammals by sight, but what about at night? What about those times when we hear something moving about in the backyard? There are still ways to identify these animals. Come join us for the basics on how to identify our mammals during the night. We will cover identification by sounds and eye shine.

Jupiter and Saturn

Friday, January 9, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 10 though Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join us for an evening as we view the Solar System's two biggest planets. Saturn will be our first look, as we view it and its rings. We will then observe the "King of Planets" – Jupiter. Jupiter will be at opposition, meaning it is at its closest approach to the Earth. We should be able to view the bands on the planet and its four largest moons. To end the evening we will scan for other seasonal features of the night sky.



Winter Wilderness Survival Skills

Sunday, January 11, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

Do you know what to do if something doesn't go according to plan on your cold outdoor adventures? Join us to learn the essentials of preparing for the outdoors, how to build a basic shelter and fire, and some basic first aid skills.

Animal Clues Walk

Date: Saturday, January 17

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Sometimes we don't see animals, but they certainly live around the park! They may be out at night, or just good at hiding when we are near. We will walk our trails to discover clues to our animal residents. Find out who left that scat, those tracks, or built that home! Please dress for the weather as we will be outside for the entire program.

Nature Programs

Ice Age New Jersey

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park Main Lodge

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

We all know of the Ice Age and the creatures of the era, but where did they actually roam? What was New Jersey like during this period and who was walking around here? Join us for the evening as we discuss what New Jersey was like over 12,000 years ago, and just how far the ice really advanced on the continent.

Birding

Bird Walk for the New Year

Monday, January 5, 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: Point Mountain Reservation

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Now that the new year has started, join us for a bird walk around our Point Mountain Reservation. For those that keep a year list, this can be a great way to start your new list. We will hike the blue trail near the Musconetcong River. Please dress for weather conditions.



Screech Owl Exploration

Friday, February 27, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM

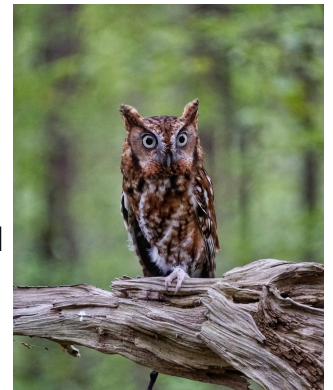
Location: Sunnyside Section of the South Branch

Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

February is the time for owls. This nighttime walk will focus on the etiquette one must use when owling. During this walk, Tom will attempt to call to the Eastern Screech Owls for a response. Depending on the assumed distance, he will try to draw one in for viewing, but no guarantees. The group is not permitted to bring flashlights or headlamps. The trail at Sunnyside is wide and flat and Tom will provide red lights for the limited walking that will be done for the program.



Wood Duck Box Walk

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

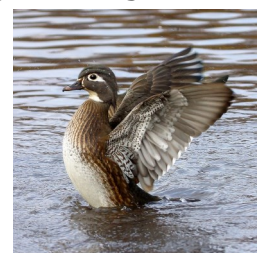
Location: South Branch Reservation, Wings Section

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

Each March, Wood Ducks return to Hunterdon to raise their young—just in time for us to get to work! Join us for a scenic riverside walk where we'll observe local waterfowl and prepare nesting boxes for the upcoming breeding season. This hands-on event blends wildlife education with real conservation work. With a bit of luck, we might even spot an early migrant!



Scouting Programs

Shapes in Nature Hike Junior Girl Scout Badge

Thursday, February 26, 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 8 to 12 years with adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Math is everywhere in nature! From spirals in flowers and pinecones to the mirror images of butterfly wings, nature is beautiful and intricate. This program will include an indoor component followed by a hike to look for nature's designs. We will discuss symmetry, fractals, and the Fibonacci sequence. This program is designed around the Junior Girl Scout badge Shapes in Nature, but is open to anyone interested in learning about these topics!



Scan here to
register for any
program online.

Champions for Nature Cub Scout Bear Elective

Saturday, February 28, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 5 to 10 years with adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

We have natural resources all around us that we need to survive! Join a naturalist to investigate soil, learn about air pollution, and find out what happens to water after it leaves your house. This program will include a short video, a demonstration, and a walk. Scouts will also participate in a short litter pick as a conservation project. This program is designed around the Cub Scout Bear Elective Adventure Champions for Nature, but is open to anyone interested in learning about these topics!

Group Requested Programs

Your youth or adult group can request a variety of nature, craft, or skill-based programs to be brought to you at a public meeting location or held on-site in a county park. We can cover topics from baskets to CPR, amphibians to wildflowers. Our staff can provide your group with an informative fun event. For more information about what programs we offer, or to request more information about scheduling a program, visit our website:



www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs

Basketry

Basketry, with its deep historical roots in cultures worldwide, offers an enriching and timeless experience for individuals of all backgrounds. Through hands-on learning, participants can appreciate the therapeutic and creative aspects of basketry, connecting with tradition while fostering a sense of accomplishment and personal fulfillment.

Breadbasket

Tuesday, December 9, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$28

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Skill Level: All

Learn this 3-directional weave and create hexagonal spaces and star shapes. Completed basket measures approximately 15" long x 6" wide by 4" deep. Bring a drink and bag lunch for a 30-minute lunch break. Students can choose to make a round-shaped cheese basket if they prefer.



Cathead Basket

Saturday, January 10, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Skill Level: Some basket experience helpful

This basket is called a cathead for its two sets of cat ear like points that the basket stands on. The basket is rimmed with a unique fold and lash rim which is quite different from the rim we usually do. Bring a drink and bag lunch for a 30-minute lunch break.



Square Ribbed Basket

Friday, February 20, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM and

Saturday, February 21, 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$52

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced

This two-day project will have participants make a 10" x 10" square ribbed basket. On Friday we will bend and clamp the spokes. On Saturday we will lash the rim and handle and insert the spokes. Some weaving homework may be necessary. Bring a drink and bag lunch for a 30-minute lunch break.

Crafts

Making crafts offers creative outlets for both children and adults, promoting self-expression, problem-solving, and stress relief. Making crafts provides a sense of achievement and the chance to bond with others through collaborative projects. Whether for artistic exploration or relaxation, crafting offers a fulfilling and engaging experience.

Nature Inspired Crafts

Evergreen Walk & Craft

Boxwood Tree: Thursday December 4
Wreath: Friday, December 5
Swag: Saturday, December 6
Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
Location: Arboretum Gardens
Ages: 5 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: \$15 per project
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Warm up with a winter nature walk around the Arboretum! Do you know the difference between pines, spruces, and hemlocks? Can you find five different shades of green? What's the difference between a conifer and an evergreen? Let's find out the answers to these questions while exploring your local park. Bring your own clippers and a tote bag, or borrow ours, to collect some greens during the walk. We will then assemble your project to use in your holiday decorating. Families may work together on one project or pay per person to each create their own. We will collect greens at the Arboretum and then participants can walk or drive to Echo Hill Park to assemble their projects indoors.



Nature Created Holiday Candles

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Ages: 8 through Adult
Location: Echo Hill Park
Cost: \$12 per candle
Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

Join us for a winter walk and craft in our park to discover the sights and scents of the season. As we explore, we'll gather crisp natural aromas to preserve in homemade candles—perfect gifts for the holidays. We'll also learn about the diverse array of evergreens that thrive here. While conifers are an ancient group of trees, are all conifers evergreen? And are all cones actually pinecones? Join us to create, explore, and uncover the secrets of these remarkable trees that bring beauty to our homes during the holidays.



Scan here to
register for any
program online.



Walks and Hikes

Adult Walks and Hikes



Senior Strolls

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Join our Senior Strolls, specially designed for those aged 55 and above, and experience the sheer delight of walking together. Our walks not only promote a healthier and more active lifestyle but also offer the chance to form meaningful connections with peers, making each walk an enjoyable and socially enriching experience.

December 3: Landsdown Trail, Fox Lumber

January 7: South Branch Reservation: Stanton Station Section

February 4: Echo Hill Park

Adult Recreation Walks

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Indulge in the tranquility of local parks and uncover their natural beauty on our walks. As you meander through these serene landscapes, our knowledgeable staff will sprinkle in fascinating tidbits of historical insight, enhancing your appreciation for both the environment and the past. These walks are moderate difficulty with varying elevation, and some technical terrain. Please wear appropriate footwear.

December 10: Hoffman Park

January 14: Musconetcong Gorge Preserve

February 11: Point Mountain Reservation

One-Way Hikes

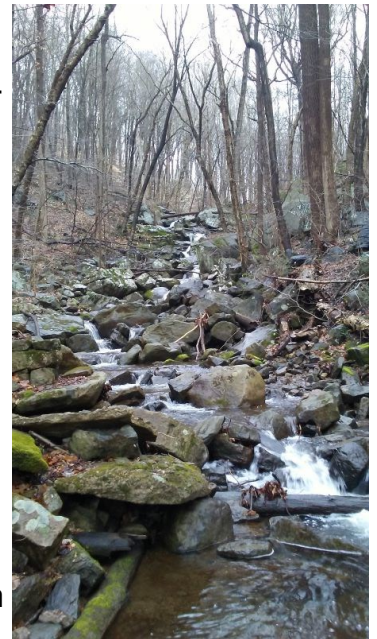
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Many County parks feature trail “stems” that don’t form loops—but these paths lead to some of the most peaceful, lesser-known corners of the parks. Join us for a series of one-way hikes along these less-traveled routes. Hikes will be moderately difficult and may include water crossings, tall grasses, uneven stone fields, and slopes. Group size is limited, as a shuttle will transport participants from the meeting point to the trailhead. Each hike will cover 2–3 miles; actual times may vary. Please dress for the weather and trail conditions, and bring a snack and at least a quart of water.



Tuesday, December 16:

Musconetcong Gorge Preserve

Monday, January 26:

Sourland Mountain Preserve

Monday, February 23:

Point Mountain Reservation

Family Walks and Hikes

HOPE 2 Walks

Saturdays, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator and Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

People of all ages can explore nature together. HOPE stands for Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration. Join us for a guided walk to one of our scavenger hunt destinations at one of 14 different Hunterdon County Parks. Complete all 14 destinations and earn the token! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. This program is guided by the HOPE 2 booklet. Learn more about the HOPE program on Page 16.

December 20: Union Furnace

January 17: Uplands Reserve

February 28: Higginsville Trail and Wings
Van trip included, Ages 8+ only.

Kids' Hikes for Fun

Sundays, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

This winter, let your kids embark on an unforgettable outdoor adventure! Our winter Hikes for Fun are designed to combine fun, education, and exercise in the great outdoors. With engaging activities, your young explorers will discover the beauty and excitement of winter like never before.

January 4: Point Mountain Reservation South Section

February 15: Musconetcong Mountain Preserve

March 1: Clover Hill Park

A Walk by Lantern Light

Thursday, December 4, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Debra Reed, Senior Park Naturalist

Be part of something special as we host our first walk by lantern light. As the sun sets and twilight deepens, join us for a quiet evening walk along gently lit trails, where the warm glow of lanterns will guide you through peaceful woodlands and open spaces. This family-friendly event offers a chance to experience nature in a new light, surrounded by the sounds of the evening and the soft flicker of lanterns. Bring your own lantern or borrow one at the entrance, and help us begin a new tradition of reflection, and enjoy the wonder of the natural world after dark.



Guided Highlands Trail Hike (Part 2)

Thursday, January 29, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Tower Hill Reserve

Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

The Highlands Trail spans more than 180 miles across New Jersey and New York, connecting existing and new trails. For this hike, we'll meet at Tower Hill Reserve and follow the wooded connector trail to Jugtown Mountain Preserve, then walk one mile along Tunnel Road to NJ Audubon's Deerpath Sanctuary. Our shuttle will meet us on Turkey Hill Road for a return ride. This 4.5-mile hike features woods, fields, rocky terrain, and some wet areas. Naturalist Laura will share fascinating nature facts along the way. Bring at least a liter of water, snacks, and consider wearing orange.