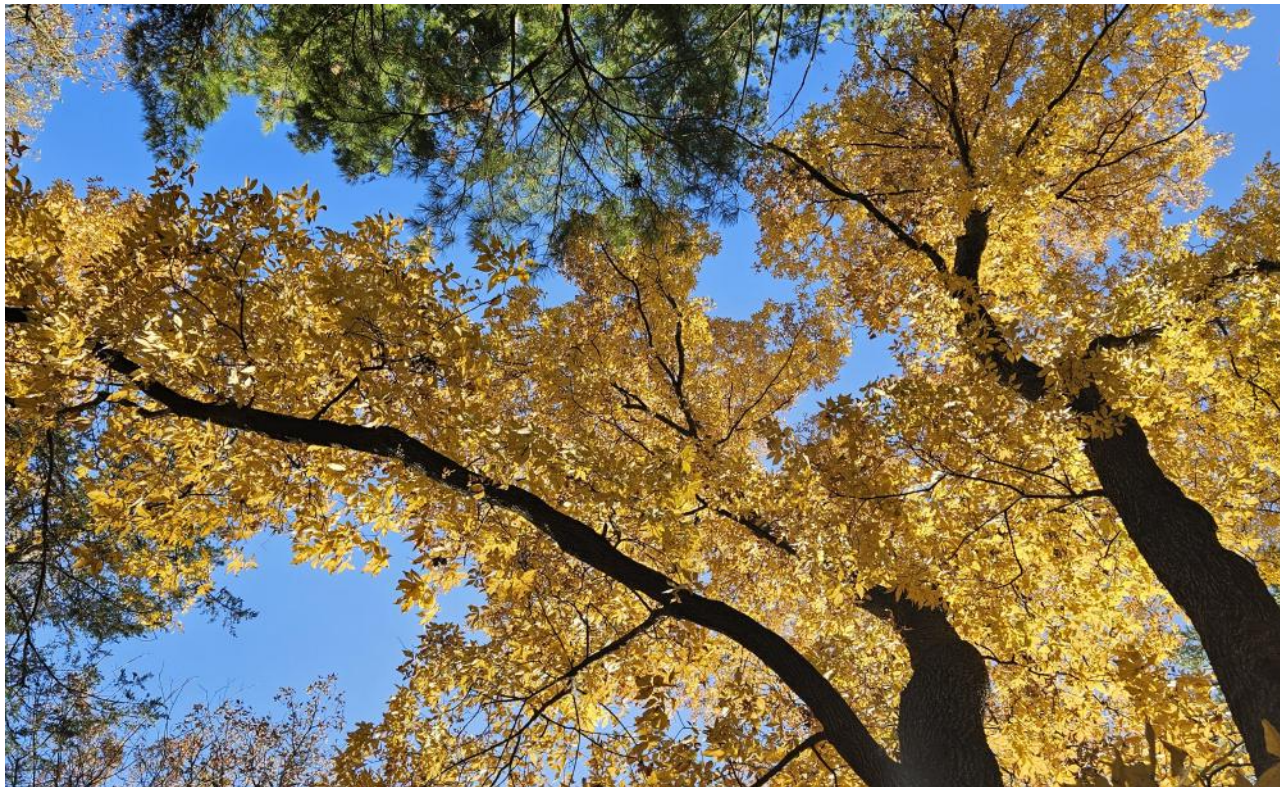


HUNTERDON PARKS HARBINGER

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

Fall 2026
September, October, November



While the Hunterdon County Arboretum is under construction the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation office has temporarily moved.

You can find our 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 page of this Harbinger. Visit 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.



Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Deer Path Park

Free for All Ages | All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. No registration required.



"The parade that stands still" returns to Deer Path Park. "Hold the Horn," from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, is a special time of quiet—no horns, flashing lights, or sirens! Imagine dump trucks, fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, military jeeps, and lots more; over 25 vehicles all in one place—parked so kids of all ages can get a close-up look! Join us for this exciting event. You will be able to examine these cool motorized machines at our 21st Annual Touch-A-Truck. This event is free for all ages with something for everyone. Don't forget your camera! If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our fleet of unique vehicles please email peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us or call (908) 782-1158.

Bus Trips

Grounds for Sculpture

Sunday, September 13, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Parking location: Deer Park Path

All ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$62 per person

Grounds For Sculpture is a unique 42-acre sculpture park and museum in Hamilton, New Jersey, where art and nature come together in beautifully landscaped gardens. Explore more than 300 contemporary sculptures thoughtfully placed throughout the grounds, discover seasonal exhibitions in six indoor galleries, and enjoy ever-changing views around every corner. This is a self-guided walking tour, allowing participants to explore at their own pace. Solo participants are welcome to spend the day with Parks and Recreation staff. Rain or shine, this is both an indoor and outdoor experience, so please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Wheelchairs and electric convenience vehicles (scooters) are available for rental at the Welcome Center on a first-come, first-served basis.



Longwood Gardens Christmas Display

Monday, November 23, 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: 13 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$85

Registration closes October 28.

Special Cancellation Policy: All requests for cancellations must be made in writing before October 28.

Longwood is one of America's quintessential landscapes, with handcrafted feats of horticultural wonder, and an awe-inspiring collection of the most beautiful plants from around the globe. At Christmas time horticulture artists use plants as their palette to create an extraordinary display with festive trees draped in delights, gardens of bold blooms, and so much more. Outside, more than 500,000 lights delight, as colorful fountains dance to holiday music, and surprises await at every turn. This is a self-guided walking tour. The trip will run rain or shine, and is an indoor and outdoor experience, please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the outdoors. Wheelchairs and motorized scooters are available for a fee from Longwood Gardens.

Bus Trips continued

New York City

Sunday, December 6, 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 that is 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 aroma 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 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.



Parks Van Trips

Adult Trips

Whale Watching Adventure

Thursday, September 17, 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$83

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Embark on a thrilling whale-watching adventure along New Jersey's coast, where the Atlantic waters teem with majestic humpback whales, playful dolphins, and a variety of seabirds. The prime whale-watching season typically spans from spring through early winter, aligning with the whales' migration patterns and providing optimal conditions for sightings. During this period, the Jersey Shore's waters are rich with marine life, as whales follow schools of fish, making for spectacular encounters. We will be traveling to Belmar Marina and embarking on the Jersey Shore Whale Watch Boat. Whether you're a seasoned wildlife enthusiast or a curious first timer, this excursion promises an awe-inspiring glimpse into the wonders of marine life.



Holland Ridge Sunflowers

Tuesday, September 29, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Rain Date: Thursday, October 1

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$48

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Fall in love with sunflowers at the famous Holland Ridge Farms! This 300-acre farm boasts rows and rows of towering sunflowers and wildflowers. Wander through the vibrant fields with many photo opportunities! We will have the chance to do a self-guided tour and use the tractor shuttle around the farm. Pick your own sunflowers, gladiolus, dahlias, and more to take home at 50 cents a stem. Check out the farm animals too! Bring your own picnic lunch or purchase a snack at the food trucks on site. We will have about 3 ½ hours to enjoy ourselves including lunch. Don't forget your camera!



Naturalist Guided Pine Barrens Hike

Friday October 16, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$33

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

The Pine Barrens is a unique ecosystem characterized by its acidic, low-nutrient water and soil. So distinctive is this area that it was designated an International Biosphere Reserve in 1988. The Franklin Parker Preserve provides an excellent 6-mile route to experience its natural beauty. Along the way, you'll traverse through wetlands, open meadows, cranberry bogs and blueberry fields. Discover the wonders of the Pine Barrens with Naturalist Debra Reed as your guide. Embark on a captivating journey through this unique ecosystem and gain a deeper appreciation for its natural beauty. Lunch will be on the trail; please bring a daypack with water and lunch. There is a portable restroom at the trailhead.

Birding Van Trips

Island Beach State Park

Saturday, September 19, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

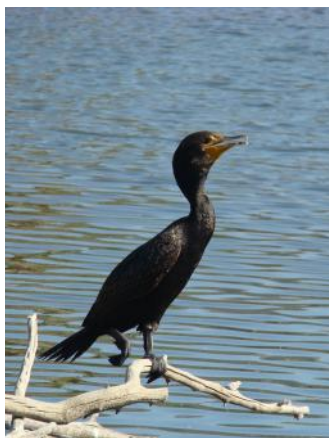
Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

The 10-mile long peninsula of Island Beach State Park is perfect for hunting fall migrants moving along the Jersey Coast. We will walk along the bay-side trails for songbirds and check the beaches for shorebirds and waterfowl. Either side could give us a view of Brown Pelicans. Please pack a lunch and snacks for the day as there are no guaranteed food stops available.



Sandy Hook

Saturday, October 17, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$37

Instructors: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

We lost this trip in January to a snowstorm, let's try again and visit it for the fall. Sandy Hook is a 2,044-acre barrier beach peninsula that offers seven miles of beach line, salt marshes and a maritime holly forest. The variety of coastal habitats sand dunes, grasslands, salt and freshwater marshes, thickets and maritime forest offer a diverse range of birding opportunities from shorebirds to songbirds, and waterfowl.



Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge

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

Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

The Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge is famous throughout the United States as one of the best birding spots in New Jersey. "Brig" embraces more than 20,000 acres of coastal salt marsh, islands, open bays and channels. Fresh-brackish impoundments created by diking off the salt marsh are the main attraction for birds. We will spend the entire trip within the main area searching for all the winter birds and waterfowl we can find.



Nature Programs

Youth Nature Series

Baby Walks

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.

Wednesday, September 16: Columbia Trail, High Bridge Commons Lot, Fine gravel trail appropriate for strollers and carriers.

Friday, October 23: Point Mountain Central, mostly flat dirt trail appropriate for carriers only.

Friday, November 20: Deer Path Park, grass trails with small hills appropriate for all-terrain strollers and carriers.



Baby Playdates at the Park

Fridays, 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration required

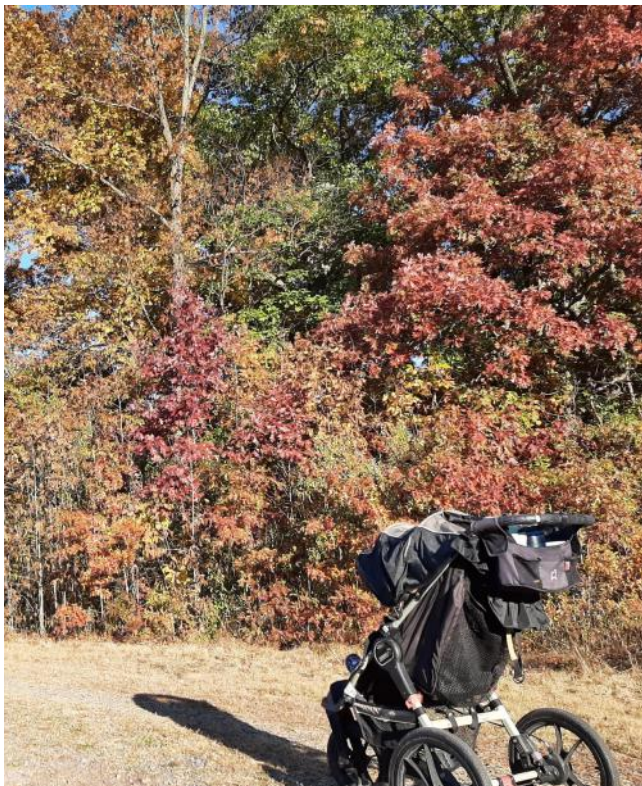
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Be prepared to sit on the grass and experience nature! Join a park staff to explore sensory activities, read nature books, and play games. Bring a blanket to sit or lay on if desired, and dress for the weather.

September 4: South Branch Reservation, Stanton Station Section

October 2: South Branch Reservation, Sunnyside Section

November 13: Hunterdon County Arboretum



Scan here to
register for any
program online.



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. Please dress for the weather as these programs will be fully outside.

Seeds

Session A: Wednesday, September 9

Session B: Thursday, September 10

Squirrels

Session A: Wednesday, October 14

Session B: Thursday, October 15

Animal Homes

Session A: Wednesday, November 18

Session B: Thursday, November 19



Nature Club

Eight Tuesdays, September 15 to November 10

No class November 3

Times:

PreK AM: 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

PreK PM: 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$90 per child for all 8 lessons

Ages: 3-6 years | All children must be accompanied by an adult

Instructor: Debra Somers, 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. Children will explore nature through engaging hands-on experiences, such as science experiments, games, and craft projects. As we move through the season, 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 or boots that can get dirty.



Nature Adventurers

Ten Wednesdays, September 16 to December 2

No class November 11 or 25

Time: 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM

Location: Echo Hill

Ages: 5 to 9 | Drop off program

Cost: \$100 for all 10 lessons

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

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!



Nature Programs

Homeschool Nature Series

Wednesdays, 1:00 to 2:00 PM

Ages: 7 to 17 years with adult

Cost: \$8 per session

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Nature & Tree Walk

September 9

Location: Cushetunk Preserve

Cushetunk is located on the northern slope of the Round Valley Reservoir. Its forest landscape offers a varied selection of trees and some unique features. Join us for an easy to moderate walk through this property. Along the way, we will point out some of these trees, features and history of the property. Bring your own questions to ask as we take this walk.



Physics in Nature

October 14

Location: Echo Hill Park

Through the use of practical experiments and participation from the group, we will experience various forces of nature. The group will have to hypothesize what will happen prior to each activity and then figure out what actually happened. Each force will then be explained including how it occurs and how it can affect a natural setting.

Rocks and Minerals

November 4

Location: Echo Hill Park

Rocks and Minerals make up the inorganic part of our environment. Come and learn what the differences are between rocks and minerals. We will examine the rock cycle, perform some quick experiments, and identify some mystery minerals. We will also discuss tectonics due to the earthquake that hit our county in Spring 2024.

Fall Break Nature Day

Thursday, November 5, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$38 | This is a drop-off program.

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Get ready for an awesome adventure in nature while school is closed for teachers' convention! Join our park staff for a day packed with excitement! We will explore the park with a hike, make a craft, and enjoy hands-on discovery as animals and plants are getting ready for winter. Don't miss out on a day full of fun, friends, and fantastic discoveries! Please bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle. Please wear sturdy close-toed shoes and dress for the weather.



Family Nature Programs

Naturalist-Guided Hike to Point Mountain

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Point Mountain Central

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

Cost: \$12

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Point Mountain is one of the most challenging and rewarding hikes in Hunterdon County. We will start with a rocky, uphill climb to a beautiful view over the woods and farm fields below. If the winds are right, perhaps we will even see some raptors migrating along the ridge. Then we will gradually descend through hardwood forest, which will allow us to glimpse early fall foliage. We will skirt two farm fields and re-enter the woods to ramble along the fast-moving Musconetcong River on the return journey. Join naturalist Laura on this 4-mile loop to explore nature at its best at Point Mountain. Please bring at least a liter of water and snacks for the hike.

Rodents Of Hunterdon

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 8 through adult | 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

Probably most of us do not think about mice and rats with much respect. But they are an important part of our wildlife, along with all the rodent species in our environments. Rodents are the largest group of mammals by species. Come and join is for an evening as we only scratches the surface of this topic.



Butterflies and Wildflowers Walk

Friday, September 25, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: Teetertown Preserve Parking Lot 2

Ages: Adults

Cost: Free, but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Stroll through the fields and discover the vibrant world of wildflowers and the butterflies they support. Learn how native blooms provide essential habitat and nectar for pollinators, explore the fascinating relationships between plants and insects, and discover the many butterfly species that call these meadows home. This relaxed, guided walk offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the season while gaining a deeper appreciation for the ecology of our fields.

Tree Walk with a Horticulturalist

Friday, October 2, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Steve Lederach with Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Join horticulturalist and landscape architect Steve Lederach for a guided walk through the arboretum focused on tree identification. Drawing on years of experience studying and working with trees, Steve will share practical tips for recognizing species by their leaves, bark, buds, flowers, and overall form. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned tree enthusiast, you'll gain new skills and insights while exploring the arboretum's diverse collection.

Nature Programs

Cryptids Of New Jersey

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 8 through adult | Children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free, but pre-registration is required.

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Most people know that New Jersey is the most densely packed state in country. Yet, we still have our open spaces and are known for our wildlife. Like other states, apparently there have been some unique sightings in the state. Join us for a night to learn about the creatures, serpents and other monsters that have been reported in New Jersey.



Fall Foliage Walk

Saturday, October 24, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

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

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

The Hunterdon County Arboretum is beautiful in the fall! We will learn about trees and how they make their colors. We will also look for fall wildflowers and signs of animals. See what's going on in nature in the fall! Be prepared to walk about one mile, on fairly flat terrain. Don't forget your camera!

Full Moon Hike

Monday October 26, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: Hoffman Park, Main Entrance

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

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Come explore the park after dark! Under the light of the full moon, we will listen for any lingering fall insects and learn about the adaptations of nocturnal animals. We will also learn about the phases of the moon. We will walk about 1.75 miles.

Woodpeckers Of Hunterdon

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

Cost: Free

Ages: 8 through adult | Children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Location: Echo Hill Main Lodge

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Woodpeckers are one of the more interesting families of birds. We will explore their adaptations that make them great at pecking wood, how they use their tongue to catch insects, and how it's stored and more. We will also review all the species of the state and how one can identify them, and how you may attract them to your property, along with the issues of having them in the area.



Birding

Morning Bird Walks

Thursdays, 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

Ages: 12 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



Join us as we look for the fall migrants and local breeding birds around the county. We will use both eyes and ears to determine which birds are around us, as well as to observe other signs of the fall season. This is a great chance to brush up on your songbird identification skills. Binoculars are available to borrow. In the event of rain, a skills workshop will be offered at Echo Hill Park. If you enjoy our Morning Bird Walks, try one of our Birding Van Trips.

September 10	Hoffman Park
September 17	Hunterdon County Arboretum
September 24	South Branch Reservation, Stanton Station
October 1	Deer Path Park
October 8	Hilltop Preserve
October 15	Uplands Reserve
October 22	South Branch Reservation, Sunnyside
October 29	Echo Hill Park



Group Requested Lectures

Is your group interested in learning more about a specific topic? Contact us about requesting a lecture about one of our topics including bats, birds, mammals, Jurassic and Ice Age eras, wildflowers, and so much more. Programs can be held at a county park, at your public meeting place, or virtually.



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.

Skills Workshops

CPR and First Aid for the Community

Sunday, October 25

CPR: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

First Aid: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

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

Cost: CPR: \$31 per person

First Aid: \$31 per person

Both: \$43 per person

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

If you have ever wanted to learn CPR and First Aid, this is the time. These courses are taught by an American Heart Association (AHA) instructor. You will learn Adult, Child, and Infant CPR, Choking, and First Aid, allowing you to help anyone of any age. This is not a course for health care personnel. Sign up for CPR and/or First Aid, and bring a lunch if you are doing both classes.

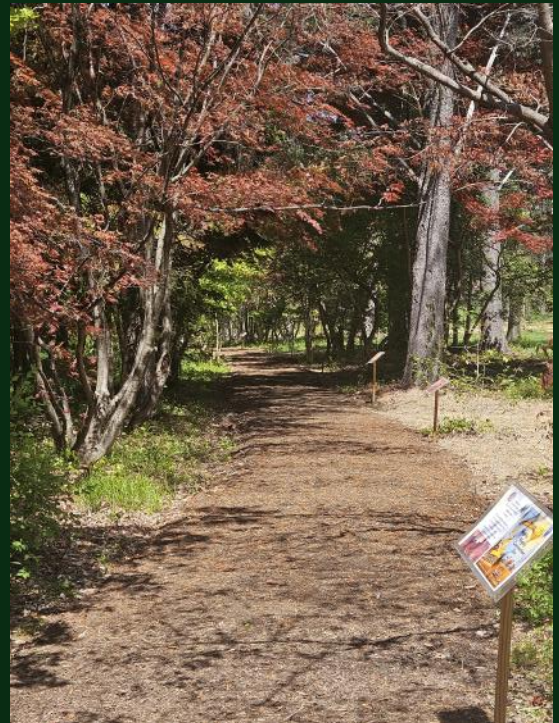
*The American Heart Association strongly promotes knowledge and proficiency in CPR and instructional material for this purpose. Use of these materials in an education course does not represent course sponsorship by the American Heart Association. Any fees charged for such a course, except for a portion of fees needed for AHA course material, do not represent income to the Association.

STORYWALK® at the Hunterdon County Arboretum

This is your invitation to experience our StoryWalk®. Enjoy nature and get some fresh air while reading the storybook *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site*, by Sherri Duskey Rinker. StoryWalk® is a fun journey reading the pages of our favorite books while walking along the new Grove of 13 Trail in the Gardens at the Hunterdon County Arboretum. The StoryWalk® is open, for your enjoyment, from dawn to dusk.

Our StoryWalk® was created by a partnership between Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation and the Hunterdon County Library. Funding is provided by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library and Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation.

StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Anne Ferguson.



Fitness Programs

Exercising outdoors has been shown to improve mental well-being and reduce stress levels. Studies have found that just five minutes of exercise in a green space, such as a park, can have a positive impact on mood and self-esteem. So, not only does outdoor exercise benefit your physical health, but it also provides a boost to your mental health too.

Let's Try Trail Running

New day! Mondays, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Ages: 14 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: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Experience the joy of trail running with "Let's Try Trail Running," a program welcoming to both beginners and seasoned runners alike! Each weekly group run will be filled with exploring scenic trails and embracing the outdoors. Most runs are planned to be between 2.5 to 4 miles. The terrain will vary from technical and steep to flat and comfortable. Whether you're new to trails or a seasoned runner seeking a change of scenery or some camaraderie, lace up your shoes, and let the adventure begin. You can sign up for just one run, or commit to every week. All paces are welcome, but participants should be comfortable jogging continuously for at least 30 minutes.

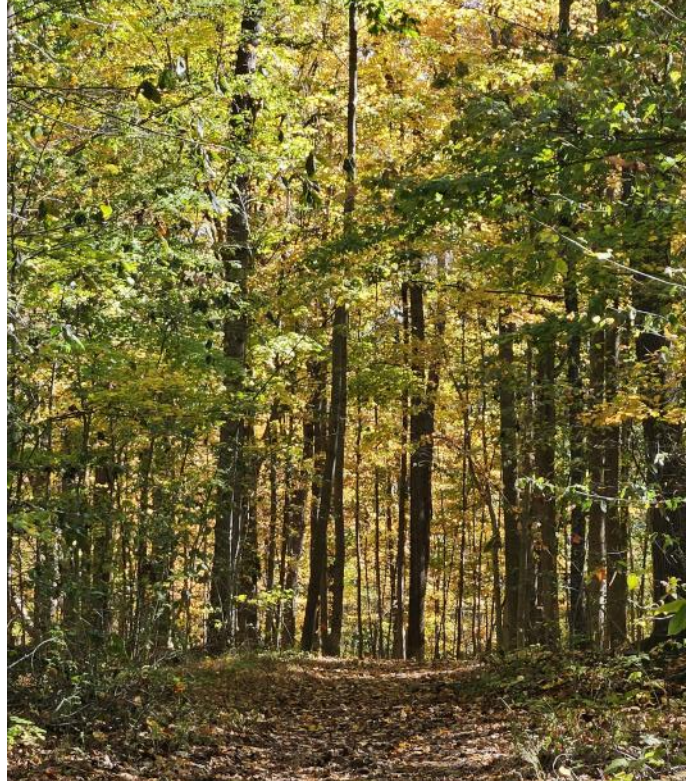
September 14: Deer Path Park

September 21: Point Mountain South

September 28: Musconetcong Gorge Preserve

October 19: Teetertown Preserve

October 26: Landsdown Trail



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



Art in the Parks

Nature Journaling

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$12

Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Gain new perspectives, curiosity, and wonder through the art of nature journaling. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, you'll explore the natural world by observing both the big picture and the smallest details, recording your discoveries through sketches, writing, and reflection. Learn nature journaling techniques, strengthen your observation skills, and deepen your connection to the outdoors while slowing down and appreciating the world around you.



Guidance and demonstrations will be provided throughout the program, with opportunities for questions and individual support. Basic materials and supplies will be available, or participants are welcome to bring their own preferred materials. Recommended supplies include a sketchbook, pencil

and/or pen, pencil sharpener with a lid, and colored pencils and/or markers. This program will be held outdoors. Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch, snacks, and water.

September 23: Echo Hill Park

October 21: Hunterdon County Arboretum

November 18: Hoffman Park

Kids Nature Journaling

Fridays, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Ages: 7 to 17 | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$8

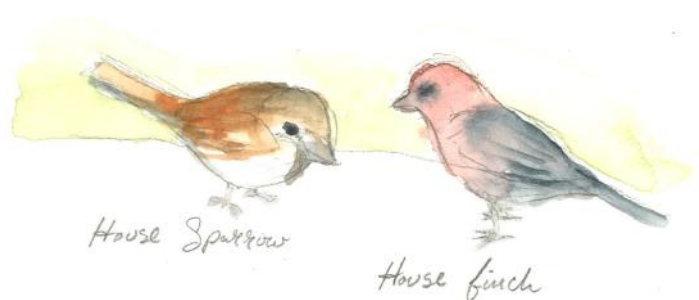
Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Explore the outdoors through art, observation, and discovery with nature journaling! Participants will investigate the natural world by looking closely at plants, animals, insects, and other features of the environment, and recording their observations through drawings, notes, and creative activities. Through guided exploration, children will develop observation skills, curiosity, creativity, and a deeper appreciation for nature. Whether your child loves drawing, enjoys being outdoors, or simply likes discovering new things, nature journaling offers a fun and engaging way to connect with the environment. Participants will learn basic journaling techniques, practice sketching from observation, and create their own visual record of the natural world around them. Guidance and demonstrations will be provided throughout the program, along with opportunities for questions and individual support. Basic supplies will be available, though participants are welcome to bring their own preferred materials. Recommended supplies include a sketchbook, pencil and/or pen, pencil sharpener with a lid, and colored pencils or markers. This program will be held outdoors. Please dress for the weather and bring water and a snack.

September 25: Echo Hill Park

October 23: Hunterdon County Arboretum

November 13, 3:30 to 5:00 PM: Hoffman Park



Plein Air Painting

Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$20

Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

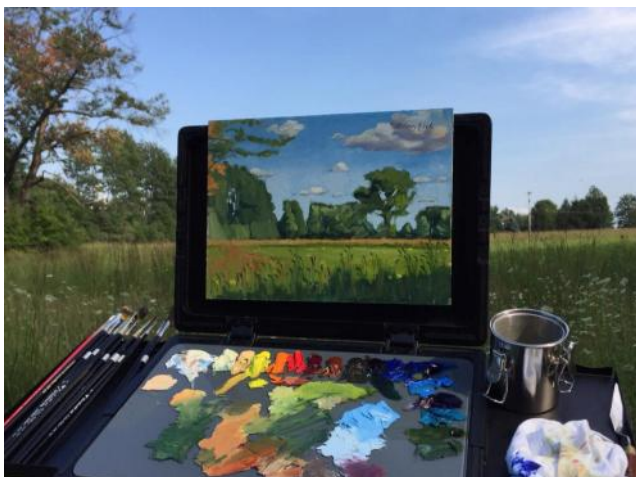
Step outside and discover the tradition of watercolor plein air painting, where artists paint directly from life in the open air. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced painter, you'll learn to observe the landscape, work with changing light and color, and create artwork inspired by the natural beauty around you. Enjoy a relaxing day outdoors while developing your watercolor skills and connecting with the environment through art.

Guidance and demonstrations will be provided throughout the program, along with opportunities for questions and individual support. Basic watercolor materials and supplies will be available, or participants may bring their own preferred materials. Suggested personal supplies include watercolor paints, brushes, watercolor paper or sketchbook, a reusable cup or container for cleaning brushes, paper towels, drawing pencils, and a portable chair or stool. This program will be held outdoors. Please dress for the weather and bring a lunch, snacks, and water.

September 5: Hunterdon County Arboretum

October 3: Hoffman Park

November 21: Deer Path Park



Still Life Drawing

Fridays, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

September 4 and 18

October 2 and 16

November 6 and 20

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 13 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8 per session

Instructor: Brian Eick, Recreation Program Coordinator

Practice and develop your observational drawing skills while working from life.

Through drawing a variety of still life arrangements, participants will explore fundamental artistic concepts such as proportion, shading, perspective, composition, and value. Objects and subjects will be provided

and arranged for drawing, offering new opportunities for observation and creative challenge throughout the season.

This program is open to all skill levels, from first-time artists to experienced artists. Enjoy a welcoming and supportive environment where you can practice regularly, experiment with new techniques, ask questions, and build confidence in your drawing abilities. Guidance and informal instruction will be available throughout each session. Still life drawing has long been a cornerstone of artistic training and provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the skills that support all forms of visual art.



**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: Brian Eick, 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.

September 9: Landsdown Trail, Clinton

October 7: Hoffman Park, Mechlin Corner Rd

November 4: Hunterdon County Arboretum

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 easy to moderate difficulty with varying elevation, and some technical terrain. Please wear appropriate footwear. Each location has varying degrees of intensity; select your walks based on your ability level.

September 16: Echo Hill Park

Difficulty: Moderate

October 21: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Difficulty: Easy

November 18: Deer Path Park, Round Mountain

Difficulty: Moderate

Introduction to Forest Bathing

Thursdays, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Step into a world of tranquility and rejuvenation with our Forest Bathing experience! Immerse yourself in nature and unlock the powerful benefits of this healing practice. You can expect a guided gentle walk through the forest with mindfulness exercises and relaxation techniques. Join us for a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Whether you're a nature lover or simply seeking a moment of peace, Forest Bathing is for everyone.

September 3: Musconetcong Mountain Preserve
October 15: South Branch Reservation Sunnyside Section

One-Way Hikes

Mondays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Discover the hidden corners of our parks with a series of one-way hikes along less-traveled trails. These moderately challenging hikes will take you on an exploration through unique landscapes, including wet foot crossings, knee-high vegetation, uneven stone fields, and slopes. A shuttle will transport participants from the meeting point to the trailhead. Each hike covers 2 to 3 miles; we may finish earlier than planned. Please come prepared with weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear, a snack, and at least a quart of water.

September 28: Teetertown to Turkey Top

October 26: Round Mountain

November 23: Point Mountain Preserve

Fall Hiking Week

Monday to Friday, October 5 to 9

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Ages: 15 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Explore your County parks! Each day, we will meet at a different park and do a moderate to strenuous hike. We will enjoy some exercise, build relationships, and learn about local flora and fauna. Dress for the weather as we plan to be outside even in light rain. If heavy rain or thunderstorms are forecasted, we will meet at the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 31 and do an indoor program on hiking or wildlife. Please bring a water bottle. Please note that many of these locations do not have bathrooms.

Monday, October 5: Jugtown Mountain

Tuesday, October 6: Sourland Mountain

Wednesday, October 7: Tower Hill

Thursday, October 8: Charlestown Reserve

Friday, October 9: Cushetunk Mountain Preserve



Family Walks and Hikes

Kids Hikes for Fun

Sundays, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Ages: 5 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: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist

Hiking is an exciting way for kids to discover the great outdoors and enjoy fresh air and exercise. It encourages them to explore wildlife, learn about plants, and develop a love for nature. Plus, hiking boosts their energy, creativity, and teamwork skills, making it a fun adventure that's good for both body and mind!

September 13: Musconetcong Mountain Preserve

October 25: Point Mountain Preserve North Section

November 15: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Guided Highlands Trail Hike (Part 4)

Tuesday, October 20, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Spruce Run Recreation Area

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 now spans over 180 miles in New Jersey, New York, and the adjacent states using existing trails, new trails, and road connections. For this hike, we will meet at Spruce Run Recreation Area's Tower Parking Lot and hike northeast along the beach and through shrubs and pine woods in the Recreation Area. After a short road walk, we will enter Union Furnace Preserve, a County park that is wooded with about 300 feet of elevation gain. We will meet our shuttle driver at Van Syckles Road and ride back to the cars in a County van. This hike is about 3.5 miles. Naturalist Laura will share fascinating nature information along the way! Please bring at least a liter of water and snacks for the hike. This program is co-sponsored by NJ State Parks, Spruce Run Recreation Area.

Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: 1020 Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Phone: (908) 782-1158

Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation

Like "Hunterdon County Parks" on Facebook

Follow us on Instagram @hunterdonparksandrec

Mission Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

Modification Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation welcomes all individuals to participate and enjoy our parks, facilities, and recreational programs. Reasonable modifications, individual adaptations, and support will be provided for persons of all abilities, to encourage everyone to benefit equally from their choice of leisure activities.

Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service. Each request will be assessed individually.

Reservable Facilities

Arboretum: Two Gazebos

Deer Path Park: Two Pavilions, Gazebo, & Softball Field

Court Street Park: Gazebo/Bandstand

Echo Hill Park: Main Lodge & Group Campsite

Teetertown Preserve: Group & Public Campsites

To reserve a facility, contact the park office.

For information on each park, visit our website.



Scan here to learn more
about the reservable
facilities.

Visitor Services Staff



Left to right:

Laura Bush: lkroon@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Laura Tarlowski: ltarlowski@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Debra Somers: dsomers@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Brian Eick: beick@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Patrick Eckard: peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Tom Sheppard: tsheppard@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Affiliated Organizations

Arc of Hunterdon County archunterdon.org

Hunterdon Flutterwheels Square Dance Club
hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
hunterdonhikingclub.org

NJ Beekeepers Association nwnjba.com



Heron Glen has quickly positioned itself as one of New Jersey's finest public golf facilities. From junior camps to leagues, we offer programs for every golfer out there. For your family outing or an afternoon spent with friends, we invite you to see why so many refer to Heron Glen as the course they call home. Our facility offers a beautiful 18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, and putting green. For more information, please visit our website at www.heronglen.com or call at (908) 806-6804. 110 US Highway 202/ Route 31, Ringoes, NJ 08551



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Combined Program Registration and Medical Record



Physician(s) Name and Number _____

List all known allergies _____

Describe allergic reaction(s) and how it is managed _____

Medical issues _____

Current medications _____

(Parks staff do not administer non-emergency medication)

Health Insurance Provider _____ Policy number _____

Please describe any other relevant conditions or information that we should know _____

RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS

As consideration for being allowed to participate in the event(s) described below I agree:

1. I hereby assume all of the risks of participating, viewing and/or volunteering in this event. I realize that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities organizing or conducting this event and hereby release them of all possible liability. I certify I am at least 18 years old, or this is signed by my legal guardian or Parent. I promise not to sue and agree to pay all court costs and all attorney fees that result from my action, civil or otherwise.
2. I certify that I am physically fit with no known physical or mental impairment and have prepared for participation in the event(s). I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the event(s), in which I may participate and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said events. I certify that I am not under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or other drug that may impair my understanding or judgment and that I will not at any time during the event(s) participate while under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or drug. I certify that I have fully adequate insurance to cover all medical claims, and any other equipment and any damage or liability I may ultimately be found responsible for, during all travel to the point of my entry into this event.
3. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) Waive, Release and Discharge from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter accrue to me during the event or during my traveling to and from this event, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: County of Hunterdon, and their respective boards and commissions, officers, agents, officials, employees, volunteers, contractors and representatives, the employees, organizers, sponsors, representatives, agents, volunteers and (B) indemnify and Hold Harmless the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of any of my actions during this event. Accordingly, I do hereby release and discharge the above from all claims, demands, and causes of action of every kind whatsoever for any death, damages and /or injuries which may result from my participation in this event. This shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.
4. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment, which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident and or illnesses during the event(s). I agree to pay for any and all costs related to medical response, treatment and transport on my behalf.
5. Photo Release: I authorize and acknowledge that I or my child may be photographed and/or videotaped for educational and publicity purposes (Website, Facebook, Instagram, Brochures, etc). Photos and videos will not include names or personal information about any individual unless permission is granted. **Initial:** _____

I hereby certify that I have read both pages of this Waiver, Release and Assignment of Claims in its entirety.

My signature below indicates that I fully understand it and agree to its contents.

Full Signature: _____ If a minor Parents signature _____

(Signature indicates agreement to terms and conditions)

Printed name: _____ **Date:** _____