



**Berks County Parks and Recreation
Department**

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@BerksCountyParks

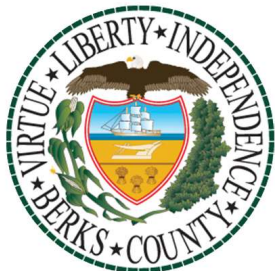
OUR PARKS ARE
open
FOR RECREATION

September : 8 am-8 pm

October : 8 am-7 pm

November : 8 am-5 pm

December : 8 am-5 pm



Berks County Parks & Recreation

PROGRAMS



Fall **2023**

**Saturday
SEPT 2**

Fall Frolic Wellness Walk

9am | Heritage Center

Join Parks staff as we get out on the Union Canal Trail to enjoy an hour-long walk with likeminded friends. Studies show that outdoor time is important for overall mental health. 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!

The Union Canal Trail is great for any ability level and speed, and attendees can choose the distance they'd like to go- it's all about getting out there! Wear walking shoes or other appropriate footwear and dress accordingly.

FREE | Registration Suggested

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Saturday
SEPT 2**

Fit4Mom Stroller Session

9:30-10:30am | Heritage Center

FIT4MOM offers pre and postnatal health, wellness, and fitness programs for every stage of motherhood. Our programs were created by moms for moms to provide Strength in Motherhood®. Stroller Strides®, our signature class, is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller! You'll leave class feeling strong, empowered, connected, and energized—no matter your stage of motherhood.

This program is FREE | Register directly through Fit4Mom

Registration link: <https://fit4mom-reading.pike13.com/schedule>

**Monday
SEPT 4**

Labor Day Ringgold Band Concert

10 am-12pm | Heritage Center

Food trucks on site, bring your own chairs and blanket and dance the day away! Two Can Catering LLC will be on site offering delicious snacks.

FREE | Open to the Public

Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill

2023 ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

FRI 1: Emme Ryan

SAT 2: TBA

SUN 3: Wendy Thompson, Harpist

FRI 8: Mount Laurel Brass

SAT 9: Ken Gehret & Irish Mist

SUN 10: Matt Miskie

WED 13: Sensory Night- NO BAND

FRI 15: Berks Tubadors

SAT 16: Stephanie Grace Band with Diane Rotherberger

SUN 17: Polished Brass

MON 18: SV Valley Voices

TUES 19: Josh Squared

WEDS 20: TBA

THURS 21: Crow Hill | Winter Solstice Celebration with King Winter

FRI 22: Dave Kline & the Mountain Folk Band

SAT 23: Brass Megagerie

THURS 28: Wendy Thompson, Harpist

FRI 29: Maggie Spike Trio with Tom Montgomery

SAT 30: TBA

MUSIC 5:45-7:45PM IN THE OUTDOOR PAVILION

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Check our Facebook page @berkscountyparks for updates!



*Visit Santa, stroll through light displays,
listen to music & get into the holiday spirit during the
35th Season of a Berks County tradition!*

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT *Gring's Mill*



**Thursday
SEPT 7**

Basket Weaving with Invasives

10 am | Heritage Center

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

FREE | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Saturday
SEPT 9**

Civil War Medicine

11am | Heritage Center

Join historian and retired living history interpreter Dave Smoot for an in-depth discussion on Civil War medicine and practices. Union troops during the Civil War faced many serious problems- bullets, shells and especially disease took a bloody toll. Luckily, for the sick and wounded soldiers, their medical care was first rate... by the standards of the time, that is. Smoot will use original and reproduction artifacts to discuss the medical practices of the time and to "treat" historic Berks County Civil War Veterans.

FREE | Open to the Public

**Friday
SEPT 15**

Family Fishing Day

5:30 pm | Antietam Lake Park

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

FREE | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Saturday
SEPT 16**

Gruber Wagon Works Belt Running Day

10 am-4pm | Heritage Center

Witness a rare, public demonstration of the Gruber Wagon Works line shaft-belt system and the demonstration of the Wagon Works' hit-and-miss 15 horsepower Otto Engine that served as the main power source for the factory. The engine and belt line-shaft system remained functional throughout the factory's operation, running numerous machines and equipment. Experience the Wagon Works 'come to life' during this unique demonstration.

Belt-Running Demonstrations will be at 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Otto Engine Demonstrations will be at 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy FREE admission to the Gruber Wagon Works and the Canal Museum on the day!
Tours of the Gruber Wagon Works will be offered at 10:00, 12:00, 1:00 and 3:00.

FREE | Open to the Public

Contact Daniel Roe at droe@countyofberks.com
or at 610-374-8839. Ext 2630 for more information.

**Tuesday
SEPT 19**

Read with a Ranger: Fall Fun!

10am | Bingaman House

The Berks County Park Rangers will be presenting Read with a Ranger one TUESDAY a month. Join our Berks County Park Rangers on an adventure! Kids ages 3-5 are invited to enjoy a themed story, go for a walk on the trail and complete a craft to become an honorary Junior Ranger. Each month will feature a different theme and location, which will be noted on the event. Parents/Guardians must attend with their child (this is NOT a drop-off program).

FREE | Registration Suggested

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill

5:30-8:30pm | December 1-30

Celebrating 35 years! Berks County Parks & Recreation is back for the 35th year of Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill starting Friday, December 1! We're celebrating with new light displays and musical acts every night!

Visitors can stroll the grounds to view a glistening light display that highlights the historic buildings and landscape of Gring's Mill. Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill will be open Fridays through Sundays, December 1 to December 17, and from Monday, December 18 to Saturday, December 23 and will continue after Christmas with three additional nights including music, food, and lights- December 28th-30th.

Opening hours will be from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm with *FREE* parking and admission. After enjoying the walk-through light display visitors can enjoy food and beverages from local food trucks, warm up next to the fire pit and listen to live music in the outdoor pavilion each night from 5:45 to 7:45 pm.

Don't miss a chance to get an up-close look at our model train display in the former generating station on the bridge.

Santa will make appearances throughout the month in his Christmas Tree Lane located in the barn- decorated by local organizations.

New this year is a **Holiday Craft Market & Kid's Craft Workshop** at the Heritage Center on December 9. We're continuing our sensory-friendly night on December 13th and Winter Solstice Celebration on the 21st featuring our very own King Winter and a luminary lighting.

Check our Facebook events [@berkscountyparks](https://www.facebook.com/berkscountyparks) for up-to-date information on musical acts and food and beverage offerings for each evening's festivities as well as updates in the case of inclement weather.

December

**Saturday
DEC 9**

Holiday Craft Market & Kids' Craft Workshop

10am-2pm | Heritage Center

Find unique holiday gifts created by local artisans! Bring the kiddos along to join Parks staff in a parks-themed workshop where kids can make crafts in anticipation of the holiday season- all while you shop.

Workshop is \$5 per child | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944, Ext 2611

**Tuesday
DEC 19**

Read with a Ranger: Winter Wonders

10am | Heritage Center

Join our rangers on an adventure! Kids ages 3-5 are invited to enjoy a themed story, go for a walk on the trail and complete a craft to become an honorary Junior Ranger. Each month will feature a different theme and location, which will be noted on the event. Parents/Guardians must attend with their child (this is NOT a drop-off program).

FREE | Registration Suggested

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944, Ext 2611

**Saturday
SEPT 23**

Schoolhouse Games

10am-4pm | Heritage Center

Join the Friends of the Epler's One Room Schoolhouse every fourth Saturday May through October to discover and try hands-on games enjoyed by students of the past. Step inside the newly restored One School House and experience what school was like in a one room schoolhouse. Games and activities will be available every fourth Saturday, and will continue on October 28 from 10am to 4pm.

FREE | Open to the Public

**Saturday
SEPT 23**

Park Ranger Paddle

10am | Blue Marsh Lake

Berks County and Blue Marsh Rangers unite in this guided Park Ranger Paddle on Blue Marsh Lake. Kayaks and equipment not provided, bring your own, and life jackets are required. Meets at Old Church Road Access, near the intersection of Old Church Road and 183.

FREE | Registration Required

To register contact Doug Grove

DGrove@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944, Ext 2610

**Friday
SEPT 29**

Full Moon Walk & Yoga

6:30pm | Heritage Center

Enjoy an hour-long beginner's yoga session with Christina Bierbach of Moonflower & Sage Wellness Studio before heading out on the trail with Parks' staff to enjoy a leisurely stroll under the moonlight. Bring your own yoga mat and wear comfortable walking shoes. Inclement weather will cancel the walk portion of the program.

FREE | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944, Ext 2611

**Saturday
SEPT 30**

Fall Glow Hike

7 pm | Antietam Lake Park

Kick off the start of the Fall season with some fun. Berks Parks' staff will guide a twilight hike on Antietam Lake Parks' forested trails on the first day of fall- by the light of glowsticks! Enjoy the beauty of the forest as we learn about the park, local flora and fauna, and experience the park in a new way. Meet at the Angora Trailhead parking lot, wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring a flashlight (just in case). Glowsticks provided, but feel free to bring your own. This program is appropriate for children ages 7+ due to uneven terrain on the trail.

FREE | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

October

**Friday
OCT 6**

Gruber Wagon Works Lantern Tours

5-9 pm | Heritage Center

Visit the Gruber Wagon Works after hours and enjoy our annual evening tour of this one-of-a-kind National Historic Landmark. Tours will start every half-hour beginning at 5:30 with the last tour starting at 8:30. Tours of the Wagon Works will last approximately 1 hour.

Families can also enjoy a guided 'Halloween Hike' along the Union Canal Trail (separate registration required- see next page for more info) and hitch a family-friendly hayride out to Deppen Cemetery (no registration required).

\$7.00/adults and \$5/ages 6-12 | Registration Required

Register with Droe@countyofberks.com or 610-374-8839. Ext 2630

Register by October 2, 2022.

**Saturday
NOV 4**

Fit4Mom Stroller Session

9:30-10:30am | Heritage Center

FIT4MOM offers pre and postnatal health, wellness, and fitness programs for every stage of motherhood. Our programs were created by moms for moms to provide Strength in Motherhood®. Stroller Strides®, our signature class, is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller! You'll leave class feeling strong, empowered, connected, and energized—no matter your stage of motherhood.

This program is FREE! Register directly through Fit4Mom

Registration link: <https://fit4mom-reading.pike13.com/schedule>

**Wednesday
NOV 8**

Wednesday Workshop: Cast Resin

5:30-7:30pm | Heritage Center

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

\$10 per person | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Tuesday
NOV 21**

Read with a Ranger: Terrific Turkeys

10am | Heritage Center

Join our rangers on an adventure! Kids ages 3-5 are invited to enjoy a themed story, go for a walk on the trail and complete a craft to become an honorary Junior Ranger. Each month will feature a different theme and location, which will be noted on the event. Parents/Guardians must attend with their child (this is NOT a drop-off program).

FREE | Registration Suggested

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Saturday
OCT 28**

Full Moon Hike

6:30pm | Heritage Center

Step out onto the Union Canal Trail to experience the parks after dark. We'll take a stroll on the trail and look skyward to enjoy the celestial sights while learning more about the history, natural world, and more.

FREE | Registration Required.

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

November

**Saturday
NOV 4**

Leaf Peeper Hike

9am | Antietam Lake

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

Meet at the Angora Trailhead Lot.

FREE | Registration Required.

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Friday
OCT 6**

Halloween Trail Hike

5-9 pm | Heritage Center

Enjoy a guided non-spooky 'glow hike' along the Union Canal Trail, visit with characters of the Tulpehocken Creek valley, and learn about the critters that call the parks home! Hikes run every half hour starting at 5pm. Costumes are welcome, but make sure you can walk in them!

After your hike, hitch a family-friendly hayride out to Deppen Cemetery and roast a marshmallow over an open fire.

\$3.00/person for Halloween Hike | Registration Required

Lantern Tour registration is separate.

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

Register by October 1, 2022.

**Wednesday
OCT 11**

Fit4Mom Stroller Session

9:30-10:30am | Heritage Center

FIT4MOM offers pre and postnatal health, wellness, and fitness programs for every stage of motherhood. Our programs were created by moms for moms to provide Strength in Motherhood®. Stroller Strides®, our signature class, is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller! You'll leave class feeling strong, empowered, connected, and energized—no matter your stage of motherhood.

This program is FREE! Register directly through Fit4Mom
Registration link: <https://fit4mom-reading.pike13.com/schedule>

**Saturday
Oct 14**

Trail Challenge Guided Hike

10 am | Berks Leisure Area

This guided hike hosted by staff from Berks County Parks & Recreation is offered through the Berks Trail Challenge. The purpose of the Berks Trail Challenge is to promote a free form of exercise to residents of our community. The challenge encourages individuals, groups, and/or clubs to explore various trails and parks throughout Berks County and enjoy mindful leisure activity. You don't need to join the challenge to participate in this guided walk. Walk will include natural and location history and is rated as an easy hike.

Meet at 1901 Tulpehocken Rd (Berks Leisure Area)

For more information on the Berks Trail Challenge visit www.bewellberks.org,

FREE | Open to the Public

**Sunday
Oct 15**

Geocaching 101

1pm | Gring's Mill

Learn the basics of GPS navigation and discover the geocaches hidden in our Berks County Parks. Bring your own smartphone or GPS unit.

FREE | Registration Required

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Tuesday
OCT 17**

Read with a Ranger: Spooky Season

10 am | Heritage Center

Join our rangers on an adventure! Kids ages 3-5 are invited to enjoy a themed story, go for a walk on the trail and complete a craft to become an honorary Junior Ranger. Each month will feature a different theme and location, which will be noted on the event. Parents/Guardians must attend with their child (this is NOT a drop-off program).

FREE | Registration Suggested

Register with LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Saturday
OCT 21**

Fall Fest

12 am - 4 pm | Heritage Center

Enjoy a fun filled fall afternoon with the Berks County Parks Dept. and the Yocum Institute. Paint a pumpkin, enjoy a play, and visit the Heritage Center sites and attractions. Geared towards families with children.

FREE | Open to the Public.

Contact Lisa Gauker for more information:

LGauker@countyofberks.com or call 610-374-2944. Ext 2611

**Sunday
OCT 22**

Bridges Across the Tulpehocken

2pm | Heritage Center

Join historic bridge expert Fred Moll as he looks back at some of the bridges that spanned the Tulpehocken Creek including a stone bridge, a concrete bridge, four iron bridges, and eight covered bridges. Moll will also offer an in depth look at Wertz's Red Bridge, located at the Berks County Heritage Center, highlighting its history, unknown facts, and why it is so unusual.

Free | Open to the Public

**Saturday
OCT 28**

Schoolhouse Games

10am-4pm | Heritage Center

Join the Friends of the Epler's One Room Schoolhouse every fourth Saturday May through October to discover and try hands-on games enjoyed by students of the past. Step inside the newly restored One School House and experience what school was like in a one room schoolhouse. Games and activities will be available every fourth Saturday, and will continue on October 28 from 10am to 4pm.

Free | Open to the Public