



## Berks County Parks and Recreation Department

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@BerksCountyParks

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

March: 8 am - 7 pm

April: 8 am - 8 pm

May: 8 am - 8:30 pm

June : 8 am - 9 pm



Berks County Parks & Recreation

# PROGRAMS



*Spring*  
**2023**

**Saturday  
MARCH  
4**

## **Winter Wellness Walk**

**9 am | Berks Leisure Area**

Join Parks staff as we get out on the Union Canal Trail to enjoy an hour-long brisk walk. 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 and dress accordingly.

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611

**Saturday  
MARCH  
4**

## **VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

**11am to 1pm | Heritage Center**

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

This Open House will run from 11 am to 1pm,  
stop in any time to learn more!

## **THIS SUMMER IN THE PARKS**

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Saturday June 3 | National Trails Weekend: Family Hike Day

Saturday June 3 | Beidler Open House

Sunday June 4 | National Trails Day Weekend: Intro to Trail Running Clinic

Wednesday June 7 | Art Explorations- Drop In Art Class (ages 7-12)

Saturday June 10 | Americana Music Fest

Saturday June 10 | History of Carsonia Park

Tuesday June 13 to Thursday June 15 | Art In the Parks Kids' Camp (ages 7-12)

Friday June 16 | Intro To Paddleboarding w/ Aqua Om

Saturday June 17 | Epler's Schoolhouse Grand-Reopening

Tuesday June 20 to Thursday June 22 | Toddler Trail Time Camp (ages 3-6)

Saturday June 24 | Yocum Institute Presents: Be Curious, Wonderland Adventures

Saturday June 24 | School House Games Every Fourth Saturday

Wednesday July 5 | Art Explorations: Drop-In Art Class (ages 7-12)

Thursday July 6 | Drop-In History Camp: Fun with Fibers (ages 7-12)

Friday July 7 | Concert: SlothLoveChunk

Saturday July 8 | History of the Keystone Marker Trust

Saturday July 15 | Early Educational Practices in Berks & Montgomery Counties

Wednesday July 19 | Wednesday Night Workshop: Traditional Redware Tiles

Thursday July 20 | Drop-In History Camp: Clay Cookware (ages 7-12)

Friday July 21 | Concert: Josh Squared

Saturday July 22 | Schoolhouse Games Every Fourth Saturday

Sunday July 23 | Historic Soap Making Demonstration

Monday July 31 | National Mutt Day Trail Walk

Tuesday August 1 | Full Moon Hike

Wednesday August 2 | Art Explorations: Drop In Art (ages 7-12)

Saturday August 5 | Concert: Vinyl Groove

Wednesday August 16 | Wednesday Night Workshop: Nature Still Life

Thursday August 17 | The Return of the Bats

Saturday August 18 | Concert: Swing Fever

Thursday August 24 | Creative Flower Photography w/ Valerie Hoffman

Saturday August 26 | School House Games Every Fourth Saturday

Saturday  
**MAY**  
**27**

# 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 school and experience what student life was like in a one-room schoolhouse. Games and activities will be available every fourth Saturday starting May 27 and will continue on June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, and October 28 from 10 am to 4pm.

Activities are Free and Open to the Public



Tuesday  
**MARCH**  
**7**

# FULL MOON HIKE

7 pm | Heritage Center

Walk the Union Canal Trail on the evening of the Full Moon!  
Wear sturdy hiking or walking shoes and bring a flashlight. We'll be outside the entire time, so dress warm.

Registration: Lisa Gauker

[LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com)

610-374-2944 x 2611



Tuesday  
**MARCH**  
**14**

# READ with a *Ranger* Spring Fling!

10 am | Bingaman House

Join Chief Park Ranger Grove 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).

Program is FREE but registration is suggested.

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611

Wednesday  
**MARCH**  
**15**

# **BUILD A BLUEBIRD BOX**

**6-8 pm | Heritage Center**

Join woodworker Ed Burger as we explore the finer points to enticing beautiful bluebirds to your backyard! Learn the benefits of attracting wildlife and why providing proper nesting spaces for birds can be a boon for your flowers, veggie gardens and more.

Roll up your sleeves and complete a bluebird box of your own to take home!

Registration is **REQUIRED** for this event | \$15/ Box Kit

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611



Sunday  
**MAY**  
**21**

# **Cindy Ross: Walking Toward Peace**

**1 pm | Heritage Center**

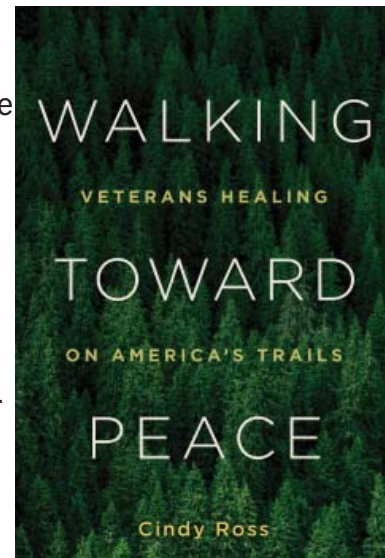


Join author, triple crown thru-hiker, and artist Cindy Ross as she shares her insight into finding peace among nature and how it's helped veterans and everyday citizens struggling with their mental health. Hear more about the impacts of hiking, community, and the healing aspects of nature through her incredible adventures through life-from building a log cabin by hand to guiding veterans through long distance hikes on our national trails. Cindy's husband recently suffered a tragic accident leaving him a quadriplegic- hear from Cindy about how major life changes have affected them, and how accessibility to the outdoors is more important than ever! Veterans are encouraged to attend, all are welcome.

We'll head out on the Union Canal Trail after the lecture to enjoy some time on the trail. Trail is packed gravel and flat for those with mobility concerns.

\$5 per person, veterans are **FREE**, includes light refreshments.

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611



Saturday  
**MAY**  
**20**

## The Schuylkill Navigation System in Berks

11 am | Heritage Center



Starting in Schuylkill County and continuing down the Schuylkill River to Philadelphia, 19th century Schuylkill Navigation Company boats brought anthracite by canal and slackwater from the Coal Region to tidewater markets, creating boom towns in between. Today the Navigation is abandoned, but not entirely gone. Over the past ten years, Sandy Sorlien has photographed the remaining stone infrastructure—locks, aqueducts, and dam abutments—all 108 miles

of it. Join Sorlien, author of the new book *Inland: The Abandoned Canals of the Schuylkill Navigation*, as she reveals what she found along the essential middle of the system in Berks County: the Hamburg Canal, the Duncan Canal, the Reading Canal, and the Berks half of the Girard Canal. Historic and contemporary maps will put this section in context, including rarely seen 1827 watercolor maps by Thomas Gill, and a 2022 map by Morgan Pfaelzer. Sandy's book will be available for sale and signing after the talk.

Program is Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday  
**APRIL**  
**18**

## READ with a *Ranger* Earth Day

10 am | Bingaman House

Join Park Ranger Doug Grove 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. Parents/guardians must attend with their child (this is not a drop-off program).

This program is FREE but registration is required.

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611

Thursday  
**APRIL**  
**20**

## Celebrate Earth Day Pollinator Water Station

5:30 PM | Berks Leisure Area



Celebrate Earth Day's approach by promoting the wildlife in your own backyard! Create your own simple bee watering station and learn why providing a good place to stop and take a drink can be beneficial to lots of wildlife!

Registration Required | \$5 per project

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611

Thursday  
APRIL  
20

# COLONIAL HOMESCHOOL DAY

11am – 1pm | **Beidler House**



Join the Berks County Parks and the Field and Forest Homeschool Group at the historic 18th century Beidler House. Outdoor craft demonstrations and tours through the Beidler House will be available.

Free & Open to the Public

For more information:

Daniel Roe | [droe@countyofberks.com](mailto:droe@countyofberks.com)

Saturday  
APRIL  
29

# BERKS FAMILY FUN DAY

11am–3pm | **Heritage Center**

Berks County Parks and Western Berks YMCA presents a family fun day at the Heritage Center filled with activities. A 5k fundraiser kickoff at 9am (pre-registration through Pretzel City Sports & RunSignUp) will be followed by a day of vendors, food trucks, a mac & cheese cookoff and pig roast, kids color run and more starting at 11am!

Visit [www.ymcabc.org](http://www.ymcabc.org) for more info and a full list of activities and vendors.

Tuesday  
MAY  
16

# READ with a *Ranger* Waterways

10 am | **Heritage Center**

Join Park Ranger Doug Grove 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. Parents/guardians must attend with their child (this is not a drop-off program).

This program is FREE but registration is required.

Registration: Lisa Gauker | [LGauker@countyofberks.com](mailto:LGauker@countyofberks.com) | 610-374-2944 x 2611



Saturday  
**MAY**  
**13**

## Hike & Yoga with Aqua Om

**9 am | Angora Trailhead, Antietam Lake**

Together we will mindfully explore Antietam Park. This is a great way to unplug for a few hours and enjoy one of the most beautiful parks in our area. Event includes a pre-hike stretch, guided hike and 30-minute guided Yoga practice with and full body relaxation at the end. Hike is rated 'easy'. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended, please bring your own yoga mat or towel. Appropriate for ages 8 and up.

Registration Required | \$5/person

Pre-registration required via Aqua Om at <https://www.aopaddle.com>

Saturday  
**MAY**  
**13**

## *Mother's Tree* **History Hike & Open House**

**Hike 12 pm | Open House 10am-3pm | Antietam**

Join Parks' staff for a hike at Antietam Lake Park. The hike will highlight the history of the Mother Tree first planted in 1923 as well as the many historical building remnants visible along the trails of the Park. Hike will begin in the Angora Trailhead parking lot, 230 Angora Road. After the hike, head into the Bingaman House to learn more about Antietam Lake Park and its history. Open House runs 10-3.

Registration for the hike is required by May 10.

Register by contacting Daniel Roe: [Droe@countyofberks.com](mailto:Droe@countyofberks.com) or 610-374-8839

Saturday  
**APRIL**  
**29**

## **HERITAGE CENTER** *Opening Day*

**10am - 4pm | Berks County Heritage Center**

Visit the Berks County Heritage Center during the 2023 season. The park's museums will be open Thursdays-Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm and on Sundays 12pm to 4pm.

Tours of the National Historic Landmark, the Gruber Wagon Works will be offered every hour during the Heritage Center's operating hours with the last tours departing at 3 pm.

The Canal Center will be open for walk-in visitors by suggested donation during the operating hours of the site.

The Epler's One Room Schoolhouse will be open on Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays 12 pm to 4 pm.

The Visitor Center Barn will be open and staffed during the Heritage Center's hours of operation, which includes the Snack Bar and Country Store Thursdays through Sundays.



Friday  
**MAY**  
**5**

# FULL MOON HIKE

**8 pm | Gring's Mill**

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 | Pre-registration required.

Registration: Lisa Gauker

LGauker@countyofberks.com | 610-374-2944 x 2611



Saturday  
**MAY**  
**6**

# Women in the Civil War

**11 am | Heritage Center**

Local historian Hallie Vaughn will provide an overview of the contributions of women during the American Civil War. Vaughn will highlight women who dedicated their lives, or part of their lives to what they believed in. Some were spies, some disguised themselves as men to fight, some were couriers. Their stories might not be familiar, but after the program, you will wonder why they are not.

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday  
**MAY**  
**6**

# National Regiment Civil War Encampment

**10am - 4pm | Heritage Center**

Officers from the National Regiment, an American Civil War reenactment group including more than 15 units throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, will be onsite at the Heritage Center. Explore an authentic recreated Civil War encampment, experience military drills and activities and discover what soldier life was like during the Civil War.

Free and Open to the Public

Sunday  
**MAY**  
**7**

# WILDFLOWER WALK

**9 am | Gring's Mill**

Join Naturalist Kathy Grim on a guided walk starting from Gring's Mill and heading out on the Union Canal Trail to locate and identify some of the wildflowers that call the Berks County Parks home.

This is a free event, ages 12+.

Pre-registration required, contact Kathy Grim:

kgrim@countyofberks.com or  
call 610-374-2944 ext. 2615

