



Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2025 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. An adult must accompany children. For more information call (413) 863-3221.



ADA/Reasonable Accommodation:

Cell: 617-645-0358, Email: Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov

VISITOR CENTER

OPEN 6 days a week:

- Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays—Sundays, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed with our dynamic exhibit dioramas. Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible. Located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

ONGOING,
AUGUST 1—
SEPT. 30

GREAT HALL EXHIBIT:

THE TOWNS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY— BY THE SPRINGFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Find out what makes our Franklin County communities so special through the eyes of avid photographers! This exhibit features a photograph of each of the communities in Franklin County by members of the Springfield Photographic Society. Founded in 1937, the club is made up of enthusiasts from the photographic novice to the professional who have in common a love of their craft. Among their recent field trips were stops in Franklin County, where members took photos together and learned from one another. To learn more visit: www.springfield-ps.com.

ONGOING

DEEP ROOTS: A HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY *

Hallway Gallery Exhibit

The PVMA exhibit in our hallway gallery explores agriculture in our fertile floodplain valley—from Indigenous land use before English settlement to today's Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) movement. For youth and adults. Funded by PVMA and Mass Humanities through the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Great Falls Discovery Center, Connecticut River Greenway State Park
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3221, greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org

coming events



Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2025 PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

ONGOING,
JULY 1—
AUGUST 26

OUTDOOR STORYWALK® — *

AGUA, AGÜITA: WATER, LITTLE WATER

Enjoy a story, fresh air and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center's grounds for a free self-guided StoryWalk® featuring *Agua, Agüita: Water, Little Water* by Jorge Tetl Argueta. For ages 4 to 7 and anyone who appreciates the water cycle! Follow the path to book pages posted along the route. *

FRIDAYS,
AUGUST 1, 8,
15, 22, & 29

KIDLEIDOSCOPE STORY HOUR

8/1: Dragonflies; 8/8: Ants; 8/15: Who Lives in the River?; 8/22: Bobcats; 8/29: Spiders;
10:30—11:30 a.m., Great Hall

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about our wildlife neighbors in the Connecticut River Watershed. Program includes a story, activities, and crafts. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome.

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 1

FIRST FRIDAY:

MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION STATION

3:00—5:30 p.m., Outside the Center

Help us welcome the last generation of monarch butterflies to live their entire life in the north before their offspring begin the long journey to Michoacán in Mexico. Find our drop-in butterfly migration investigation station outside the center for artifacts and crafts as we celebrate this continental migration. All ages.

SATURDAY
& SUNDAY,
AUGUST 2 & 3

OUTDOOR STORYWALK® AT UNITY PARK — **MOSBAS AND THE MAGIC FLUTE**

For thousands of years people have gathered at the Great Falls to tell stories. Enjoy a self-guided StoryWalk®, *Mosbas and the Magic Flute* by Western Abenaki author Jesse Bruchac, at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival at Unity Park on First Street along the river's edge. Find out how Mosbas is changed forever when he finds the power of a magic flute too much to control! For all ages.

* **The StoryWalk® Project** was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Great Falls Discovery Center, Connecticut River Greenway State Park
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3221, greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org

coming events



Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2025 PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 2**

POCUMTUCK HOMELANDS FESTIVAL:

FISH PRINTING, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., at Unity Park

A free two-day celebration at Unity Park on First Street in Turners Falls, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and RiverCulture. This festival is the perfect combination of live music, drumming, dancing, storytelling, native crafts and food. On Saturday August 2, 10 a.m.— 5 p.m., families may visit the Northfield Mountain & Great Falls Discovery Center tent to make your own vibrantly colored fish print to take home. All materials provided. For more information on the entire event visit nolumbekaproject.org/events.

**THURSDAYS,
AUGUST 7, 14,
21, & 28**

NICE & EASY WALKS

10:00—11:00 a.m., Main Entrance

Easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all. Enjoy natural and local history along the way. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. Inclement weather cancels.

**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 8**

GREAT FALLS COFFEEHOUSE PRESENTS: SILVERBACK SWING

7:00—9:00 p.m., Great Hall

Join us for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center's concert series featuring local talent. Silverback Swing performs Gypsy Jazz, and swing music of the 1920s and 1930s. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, all in support of educational programming at the Great Falls Discovery Center. For all ages.

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 9**

RIVER BARON WALK: RESHAPING NEW ENGLAND'S LONGEST RIVER

10:00—11:00 a.m., Main Entrance

Experience America's longest log drive through the photos and stories of locals, laborers and the infamous River Baron, George Van Dyke. Join us for an easy 1.25-mile hike through downtown Turners Falls and along the Canalside Rail Trail. This walk is scheduled for rain or shine. For adults and children ages 9 and up.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Great Falls Discovery Center, Connecticut River Greenway State Park
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3221, greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org

coming events



Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2025 PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS CONTINUED

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 16**

ART NATURALLY: SOURCE TO SEA MOSAICS

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Great Hall

Discover nature through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. With instruction and technique, you create an art piece to take home from tile, pebbles, marble and glue, inspired by the Connecticut River's annual Source to Sea Clean-up in late September. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up (accompanied by an adult). All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30 a.m. for complete instructions.

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 17**

A FRENCH/BRETON JAM SESSION

2:30—4:30 p.m., Great Hall

An informal group of musicians gathers to play the enchanting traditional dance music from France and Brittany, commonly known as bal folk. This is not a performance but rather a coming together of musically-minded friends. The event is free and open to the public to come and go at will. For all ages.

**THURSDAY.
AUGUST 21**

FLY FISHING 101, 5:00—8:00 p.m., Great Hall

Join MassWildlife to get started in this wonderful pastime. Learn about fly fishing gear, how to rig, and cast a fly rod, as well as tips on how to fly fish. This class is designed for beginner fly anglers (ages 15+). Bring your own fly-fishing gear or borrow ours. **Pre-registration required.** Visit: greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/calendar/fly-fishing-101/ or email Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@mass.gov for more information.

**SATURDAYS,
AUGUST
23 & 30**

FIND US AT THE FARMERS MARKET!

10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Peskeompskut Park

Join DCR staff for family activities at the Great Falls Farmers Market, located between 6th and 7th streets along Avenue A at Peskeompskut Park. In case of rain, you can find our activities inside the center instead. For all ages.

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 31**

WATERSHED HISTORY STATION: WOMEN WHO MADE FRANKLIN COUNTY

3:00—5:30 p.m., Outside the Center

This Labor Day Weekend, experience Franklin County through the maps, stories, photos and lives of four women who worked here. Stop by our table for a few minutes or longer to explore and relive history. In case of inclement weather, find us inside the center. For all ages.

coming events