



# AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, call the Visitor Center at (413) 863-3221.

 ADA/Reasonable Accommodation:  
Call (617) 645-0358, or email [Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov)

**Visitor Center  
Open Hours.**

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,  
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm.**  
Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed with our dynamic exhibit dioramas year-round. Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible. Closed Mondays.

**Ongoing,  
July 2–  
August 26.**  
  
Accessible  
during open  
hours.

**Great Hall Art Exhibit: *Ways of My Ancestors-Imagery: Lighting the Path to Awareness.***  
Scott Strong Hawk Foster is a Native American photographer whose proud roots include Hassanamisco Nipmuc, Mohegan, and Cherokee lineage. His exhibit captures travels throughout the ancestral homelands of the Native American Peoples of New England. While attending powwows, cultural events, workshops, and Indigenous practices that span millennia, Scott’s passion highlights the rich, resilient, diverse cultures and history of the Indigenous peoples that are still here and living amongst us. Scott’s tagline, *Capture the Moment...Share the Experience* ©, expresses his philosophy that life is filled with unique and fleeting moments that must be captured and imprinted or they could be lost forever. For all ages.

**Ongoing,  
July 3–  
August 4.**

**Outdoor StoryWalk® — *Bowwow Powwow.***  
Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center’s grounds for a free self-guided Story Walk® featuring *Bowwow Powwow* by Brenda Child. For ages 3–7 and anyone who loves dogs and powwows!  
  
**The StoryWalk® Project** was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® 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, NEXT PAGE.**

Coming Events



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Coming Events

**Ongoing,**  
August 11–  
Sept. 30.

**Outdoor StoryWalk® — *Honk! Honk!***  
Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center’s grounds for a free self-guided Story Walk® featuring *Honk! Honk!* by Mick Manning. For ages 4–8 and everyone who wished they could fly!

**Ongoing,**  
August 1–2.

**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.

**Ongoing.**  
Accessible  
during open  
hours.

**Chill Out Indoor StoryWalks®.**  
Come on inside the Center and Chill Out with DCR! You can find “COOL” activities for kids and families inside, including indoor StoryWalks® all summer long! Meet at the welcome desk.

**July 23–  
August 11.**

**StoryWalk®: *Sploot* by Sadonna Heathman.**  
Enjoy the story *Sploot* by Sadonna Heathman. Two squirrels. One mission: stay cool! When the summer sun is blazing, two silly squirrels will try anything to find the perfect cool-down spot. For ages 6–8 and everyone cool.

**August 12–  
Sept. 1.**

**StoryWalk®: *Summer Song*.**  
Enjoy the story *Summer Song* by Kevin Henke, a vibrant ode to nature and summer activities. For ages 4–8 and everyone who loves summer and changing seasons.

**When you  
see the  
Chill Out  
sign.**

**Drop-in and Chill Out: DCR Summer Arts.**  
Enjoy summer and wildlife related arts, activities, and investigation stations in our Great Hall building, or at our welcome desk, **whenever you see our Chill Out sign in front of our building!** Learn how wildlife keep cool while keeping your own cool. For adults, youth, and children 3 and up. Everyone, come on in, take a break and chill out!

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

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# Coming Events

**Saturday,**  
August 1,  
**10:00 am–**  
**5:00 pm.**

**Pocumtuck Homelands Festival:  
Fish Printing 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 1, 10 am—5 pm, families may visit the Northfield Mountain and 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](https://nolumbekaproject.org/events).

**Thursday,**  
August 6, 13,  
20, & 27.  
**10:00–**  
**11:00 am.**

**Nice & Easy Walks.**

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

**Friday,**  
August 7.  
**4:00–5:30 pm.**

**First Friday: McLane Silk Mill Walk.**

Join us on a walk to the site of the former McLane Silk Company, which was near today’s Swanson’s Fabrics. Hear the stories of two creative businesses and what they have in common. After WWI, the McLane mill purchased millions of yards of surplus “cartridge silk” to repurpose into “Armistice Cloth” suitable for garments. Today, Swanson’s Fabrics also repurposes fabric by offering for sale yardage and notions that have been stashed in attics and sewing rooms. Learn about silk production and take a look at silk fabric samples and cocoons.

**Fridays,**  
August 7, 14,  
21, & 28.  
**10:30–**  
**11:30 am.**

**Kidleidoscope Story Hour.**

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 are welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

- **8/7: Bobcats**
- **8/14: Ants**
- **8/21: Who Lives in a River?**
- **8/28: Butterflies**

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**

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**Saturday,**  
August 8,  
**3:00–4:00 pm.**

**Celebrate Smokey Bear’s Birthday!**  
Free and for all ages. Join Wildland Firefighters from the DCR Bureau of Fire Control & Forestry to hear a reading of *The Smokey Bear Story* and learn about campfire safety. Tour a Wildland Fire Engine and a Turners Falls Fire Department fire truck, try a scavenger hunt, and **meet Smokey Bear himself who is turning 82!** Take home a Smokey Bear souvenir and check out a library book from Montague Public Libraries. Sponsored by DCR and Montague Public Libraries. Rain or shine. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Sunday,**  
August 9.  
**2:00–3:00 pm.**

**Tom Ricardi: Birds of Prey.**  
Come see the raptors up close and personal! Meet in the Great Hall for a free program for all ages. See birds of prey presented by Tom Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist. Tom provides an educational presentation on their lives and habitats as well as conservation. You may see a variety of raptors such as a turkey vulture, a peregrine falcon, hawks, owls, and more!

**Thursday,**  
August 13.  
**3:30–4:30 pm.**

**Salamander Kids’ Craft and Story Hour at the Millers Falls Library.**  
Find us at the Millers Falls library (23 Bridge St., Millers Falls, MA, 01349) for a fun afternoon of stories, creativity, and salamanders at the Millers Falls Branch Library! We’ll read *The Salamander Room* together, then make a salamander-themed craft inspired by the story. Along the way, you’ll learn a little about these fascinating forest friends and the habitats they call home. This program is perfect for young nature lovers and families looking to explore the wonders of the outdoors through books and hands-on fun.

**Thursday,**  
August 13.  
**5:00–8:00 pm.**

**Fly Fishing 101.**  
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 and up). Bring your own fly-fishing gear or borrow ours. **Pre-registration required via EventBrite. To register visit:** [greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/calendar/fly-fishing-101-2026/](https://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/calendar/fly-fishing-101-2026/) or email Jim Lagacy at [jim.lagacy@mass.gov](mailto:jim.lagacy@mass.gov) for more information. Meet in the Great Hall.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

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# Coming Events

**Friday,**  
August 14.  
**7:00–9:00 pm.**

**Great Falls Coffeehouse:**  
**Austin & Elliot and The Boxcar Lilies.**  
Join us for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center’s concert series featuring local talent. Austin and Elliot offers songs about love gone wrong and death done right and The Boxcar Lilies play folk, country, blues and bluegrass-tinged Americana. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, in support of educational programming at the Center. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Saturday,**  
August 15.  
**2:00–3:30 pm.**

**Geology Talk: Amazing “Deep Time”**  
**Mysteries of Turners Falls and Vicinity.**  
Why does Turners Falls have a waterfall? Why are the rare Jurassic Armored Mud Balls found here? Why is the Connecticut River in Franklin County so strange? It has sharp 90-degree bends plus mysterious 100-foot-deep holes in its riverbed! Did you know the Connecticut used to flow into Greenfield? Join Prof. Richard Little, the discoverer of the Jurassic Armored Mud Balls, as he explains the unique and dramatic Earth events preserved in our scenic views and in the rocks under our feet. After the program there is a short walk to look at some amazing rocks. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Sunday,**  
August 16.  
**10:30 am–**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Art Naturally:**  
**Cyanotype Sun Prints from the Garden.**  
Discover nature through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. Create cyanotypes—or sun prints—to take home with sensitized paper, plants or stencils, glass, and the power of UV light. Rain or shine (we’ll use special light boxes if it rains). For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up. All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30am for complete instructions.

**Sunday,**  
August 16.  
**2:30–4:30 pm.**

**A French / Breton Jam Session.**  
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. Meet in the Great Hall.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

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# Coming Events

**Saturday,**  
August 22.  
**10:30 am–**  
**1:00 pm.**

**Find Us at the Farmers Market!**  
Join DCR staff for family activities at the Great Falls Farmers Market, located between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets along Avenue A at Peskeompskut Park. For all ages.

**Saturday,**  
August 23.  
**10:30 am–**  
**12:30 pm.**

**Drop-in and Chill-out Program:**  
**Sploot! How Animals Keep Their Cool.**  
Join us inside the Great Hall for drop-in family-friendly activities and crafts all about how animals keep cool, including a story about splooting squirrels. What can we learn from animals during the heat of summer? What’s your plan to keep cool? Come on in and chill out and make your own Flat Squirrely to take on cool adventures and consider painting a scene with acorn cap ink. For ages 4 and up including youth and adults.

**Saturday,**  
August 29.  
**10:00–**  
**11:00 am.**

**River Baron Walk:**  
**Reshaping New England’s Longest River.**  
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. Meet at the main entrance.

**Sunday,**  
August 30.  
**10:30 am–**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Art Naturally: Source to Sea Mosaics.**  
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 September. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up (accompanied by an adult). All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30am for complete instructions.

