

Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

FEBRUARY 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,
617-645-0358 | Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

Visitor Center

Open Hours.

Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

Wednesdays to Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm.
and, open February 16, 10:00 am–4:00 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, except Feb. 16.

Ongoing,

February 5 –
March 28.

Great Hall Exhibit:

Maps of River History by Joe Kopera

Come see the secret histories of your favorite rivers! Geologist and cartographer Joe Kopera has studied the New England landscape for over 25 years. View the land like a geologist: *Maps of River History*, reveals the hidden details in the topography of rivers and their floodplains, clues to the past 15,000 years of their work shaping the land on which we live.

Ongoing,

February 1–28.

Indoor Story Walk® — ***Rabbit's Snow Dance***

Read master storytellers Joseph and James Bruchac's *Rabbit's Snow Dance*, a hip and funny take on an Iroquois folktale about the importance of patience, the seasons, and listening to your friends. Rabbit loves winter. He knows a dance, using an Iroquois drum and song, to make it snow—even in summertime! When rabbit decides that it should snow early, he starts his dance and the snow begins to fall. The other forest animals are not happy and ask him to stop, but Rabbit doesn't listen. How much snow is too much, and will Rabbit know when to stop? Meet at the welcome desk.

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.



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**Sunday,
February 1.
2:00–3:45 pm.**

Snow Date
February 8.

**Thursdays,
1:00–2:00 pm.
February
5, 12, 19, & 26.**

**Fridays,
10:30–
11:30 am.
February
6, 13, 20, & 27.**

**Friday,
February 6.
3:00 –
5:00 pm.**

Sunday Matinee Documentary Series: *Fire of Love* from Sandbox Films.

Our free winter Sunday matinee documentary series from Sandbox Films continues with *Fire of Love*. Curiosity is stronger than fear. This film tells the story of two French lovers, Katia and Maurice Krafft, who died in a volcanic explosion doing the very thing that brought them together: unraveling the mysteries of our planet, while simultaneously capturing the most explosive volcano imagery ever recorded. Along the way, they changed our understanding of the natural world, and saved tens of thousands of lives. Previously unseen hours of pristine 16-millimeter film and thousands of photographs reveal the birth of modern volcanology through an unlikely lens — the love of its two pioneers. Sandbox Films is an Oscar-nominated production studio that illuminates the art and beauty of scientific inquiry: humankind's weird, messy, brilliant way of navigating the world. Free hot chocolate. For adults and youth ages 12 and up.

Nice and 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 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.

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 welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

February 6 — Winter Insects.

February 13 — Porcupines.

February 20 — Rabbits.

February 27 — When Will It Be Spring?

First Friday: Zine on the River.

Drop in and make a Connecticut River zine! Zines are small booklets usually made from a single piece of paper. Share your message about the Connecticut River or keep it as unique nature journal. For teens and adults, and children with a solid grasp of scissors. Meet in the Great Hall.



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Coming Events

**Saturday,
February 7.
11:00 am-
1:00 pm.**

Montague Public Libraries Presents: Valentine Card-Making.

Celebrate love by making a card for someone you care about. Children of all ages and their caregivers. Free. Sponsored by Montague Public Libraries.

**Saturday
3:00-4:00pm.
February 7.**

Winter Local History Series: Quabbin Obscura — The Swift River in Black & White.

From farm to canvas to camera, artist Burt V. Brooks (1849-1934) captured the landscapes and daily life in the “drowned towns” before the Quabbin Reservoir (today managed by DCR) was filled. Join DCR staff as we look back on Brooks’ work for answers about who he was and what life in the Swift River Valley was like around the turn of the century. For adults and youth ages 12 and up. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Ongoing,
10:00 am-
5:30 pm.
February
13 - 14.**

Who Do You Love?

Valentines for Wildlife Investigation Station.

For all ages, stop by our Welcome Desk to make Valentines to give to the ones you love, keep for yourself, or give to your favorite wildlife biologist — all in honor of your favorite animal.

**Ongoing,
10:00 am-
5:30 pm.
February,
15 - 22.**

School Vacation Week Investigation Station: Amphibians and Reptiles in Winter.

What are amphibians and reptiles up to during the winter? Join us at our investigation station by the Welcome Desk to find out. Explore through touchable artifacts and habitat diorama scavenger hunts. For ages 4 and up.

**Sunday,
February 15.
2:00-3:45 pm.**

Snow Date
February 21.

Sunday Matinee Documentary Series: How Deep is Your Love? from Sandbox Films.

Our free winter Sunday matinee documentary series from Sandbox Films continues with *How Deep is Your Love?* Scientists explore the mysterious deep sea to collect and name undiscovered species. As they uncover mesmerizing creatures and ecosystems thriving in darkness, a looming threat emerges: the prospect of deep-sea mining in this untouched wilderness. This film weaves wonder with urgency, challenging us to balance the drive for resources with the intrinsic value of an ecosystem. As we journey through this breathtaking realm, we are left to ponder — how deep is our love? Free hot chocolate. For adults and youth ages 12 and up.

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**Saturday,
February 21.
10:30 am-
12:00 pm.**

Art Naturally - Watershed 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, marbles and glue, inspired by nature in wintertime. 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,
February 22.
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.

**Saturday,
February 28.
2:00-3:00 pm.**

Winter Local History Talk Series: Getting Across - Connecticut River Ferries.

Before bridges spanned the Connecticut River, travelers relied on flatbottomed ferries to cross. How connected were towns on the east and west banks? Join DCR staff for maps, photos and firsthand accounts of an all-but-gone mode of travel. Ages 10 and up. Meet in the Great Hall.

