



# Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

## JULY 2026 PROGRAMS

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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)

# Coming Events

### Visitor Center Open Hours.

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,  
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm,  
and open July 4, 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.**

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# Coming Events

## Ongoing.

Accessible during open hours.

## Chill Out Indoor Story Walks.®

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 1–10.

### Story Walk®: *Berry Song*, by Michaela Goade.

This story is a gorgeous celebration of the land and the powerful wisdom of elders. For ages 4 – 8 and everyone who loves berries!

## July 11–21.

### Dino Trail Week\* Story Walk®:

#### *Daring to Dig* by Beth Strickler.

Enjoy this story for young readers ages 8 – 12, and everyone who appreciates women in science. Includes the stories of Mary Anning, a hero of fossil discovery, and of Mignon Talbot and the discovery of *podokesaurus holyokensis*.

## July 23 – August 11.

### Story Walk®: *Splot* by Sadonna Heathman.

Enjoy the story *Splot* 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.

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!

Thursday,  
July 2, 9, 16,  
23, & 30.  
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.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



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# Coming Events

**Friday,**  
July 3.  
**2:30–5:30 pm.**

### **First Friday: Eagles.**

Celebrate the bald eagle, our national bird by joining us at our drop-in eagle investigation station **outside the Center on our grounds**. We'll have artifacts and crafts as we imagine the freedom of flight. Find out how long your wingspan is! In case of rain, join us inside the Center.

**Fridays,**  
July 3, 10, 17,  
24, & 31.  
**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.

- **7/3: Eagles**
- **7/10: Coyotes**
- **7/17: Dinosaurs\***
- **7/24: Bee & Flowers**
- **7/31: Dragonflies**

**Saturday,**  
July 4.  
**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,**  
July 11.  
**1:00 –**  
**2:00 pm.**

### **Dino Trail Week\* - Dinosaur Footprints at Barton Cove: History and Geology Walk.**

Join Sarah Doyle and a guest geologist/paleontologist for a leisurely walk around Barton Cove in Gill, MA. Learn about the role of this site in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century discovery of fossilized dinosaur footprints when the property was owned by Roswell Field, a local farmer and businessman who was an early discoverer of the tracks.

Rain Date  
Saturday  
July 18.

Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Consider enjoying a picnic before the walk. The trails are not difficult but are rough in spots and covered in tree roots. **Meet at the picnic tables at the Barton Cove Campground Day Use area on Barton Cove Road in Gill, MA.** The walk is less than 1 mile long. For adults and children over 12 years old. Sponsored by our Friends Group.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# JULY 2026 PROGRAMS

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# Coming Events

**Sunday,**

July 12.

**10:30 am –  
12:00 pm.**

**Dino Trail Week\* - Art Naturally:  
Gel Printing Trace Fossils.**

Discover nature and pre-history through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. Create an art piece inspired by the valley's fossilized dinosaur footprints using paint, paper, and gel, with instruction and techniques. For adults, teens and children ages 6 and up. All art materials provided. Arrive at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall for complete instructions.

**Thursday,**

July 16.

**10:00 –  
11:00 am.**

**Dino Trail Week\* - Nice & Easy Walk:  
Geologic Walking Tour of Turners Falls.**

Easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail and downtown Turners Falls, geared for older adults, but open to all. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. Inclement weather cancels. This week's topic is the geology of downtown Turners Falls in celebration of Dino Trail Week! Meet at the main entrance.

**Friday,**

July 17.

**10:30 -  
11:30 am.**

**Dino Trail Week\* -  
Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Dinosaurs.**

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Learn about giant creatures from the past that roamed the Connecticut River Valley. Program includes a story, activities, and crafts. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Saturday,**

July 18.

**10:00 am –  
12:00 pm.**

**Dino Trail Week\* -  
Find us at the Great Greenfield DinoFest!**

In Greenfield, join Piti Theatre, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and Great Falls Discovery Center staff for interactive exhibits, activities, fossils and a chance to make up a dino story with Story Wizards: Dino Drama. **Location: on the lawn in front of the 2nd Congregational Church on the Common.** For All ages.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# JULY 2026 PROGRAMS

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# Coming Events

**Saturday,**  
July 18.  
**1:00 –**  
**3:00 pm.**

**Constitution Banner Program.**

Help us create a “We the People” banner together inspired by the United States Constitution. Pick out core statements, phrases or meaningful words from our Constitution and place them on the banner. You are also invited to place your handprint on the banner (non-toxic washable paints). Come learn about the Constitution, how our government was structured, and enjoy a fun and creative afternoon with our community. Prizes for young folks who show up with the Preamble to the Constitution memorized! Sponsored by Indivisible Montague. For all ages, meet in the courtyard.

**Sunday,**  
July 19.  
**10:30 am –**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Dino Trail Week\* - Art Naturally:  
Make Your Own Jurassic Dinosaur  
Habitat Diorama and Collage Workshop.**

Discover dinosaur pre-history through story, poetry, and art in our series of free art programs. Create a Jurassic habitat diorama for your own dinosaur, with instruction and techniques or make your own Jurassic inspired collage. For adults, teens and children ages 6 and up. All art materials provided. Arrive at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall for complete instructions.

**Saturday,**  
July 25.  
**2:00 –**  
**4:00 pm.**

**Artist Reception: *Ways of My Ancestors -  
Imagery: Lighting the Path to Awareness.***

Join photographer Scott Strong Hawk Foster, whose proud roots include Hassanamisco Nipmuc, Mohegan, and Cherokee lineage, for an artist reception. 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. Light refreshments. For all ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Sunday,**  
July 26.  
**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.**



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**Sunday,**  
July 26.  
**10:30 am –**  
**12:30 pm.**

## **Drop-in and Chill-out Activities:**

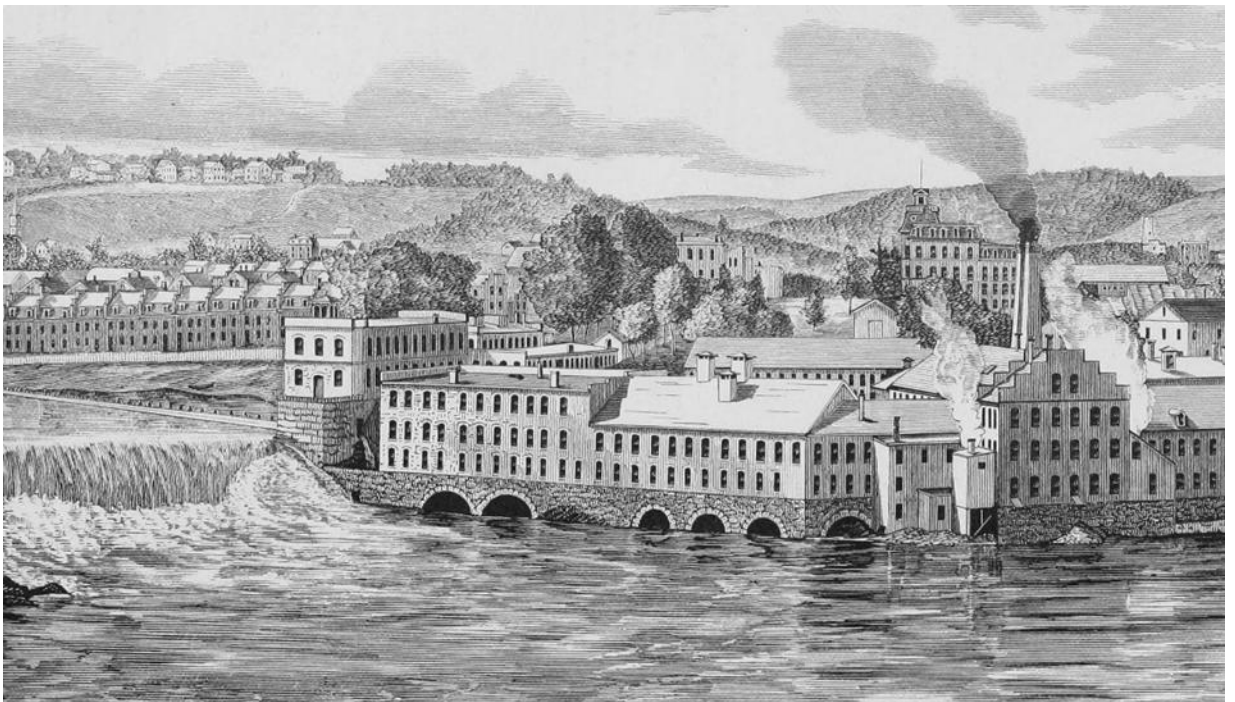
### **Sploot! How Animals Keep Their Cool.**

Join us inside the Center 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.

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### **Dino Trail Week.**

An asterix identifies Dino Trail Week programs, part of a celebratory week in July of performances, films, talks, exhibits, and activities inspired by dinosaur footprints in the Connecticut River Valley. Look for events from our partners during Dino Trail Week: Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Piti Theatre, the Beneski Museum, the Trustees of Reservations, Springfield Science Museum, Wistariahurst, and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Visit the website [dinotrail.org](http://dinotrail.org) to learn more.



Coming Events