



Great Falls Discovery Center

Department of Conservation and Recreation

JUNE 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.

Coming Events

Visitor Center Open Hours.

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm,
and open June 19, 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, except open on May 25.

Ongoing,
June 5 –
June 28.

Accessible
during open
hours.

Great Hall Art Exhibit: *Nature's Colors*.

Kate Marion Lapiere in her exhibit of paintings, *Nature's Colors*, emphasizes the colors and beauty of landscapes and flowers particularly during the Spring and Summer season. Kate's paintings are abstract and expressionistic, created with acrylic on canvas or watercolor on paper. Please come enjoy the colorful beauty that nature brings through Kate's artwork. An **artist reception** is held on June 7, from 12:00–2:00 pm. For all ages.

Ongoing,
June 1–30

Outdoor StoryWalk® — *We All Play*.

Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center's grounds for a free self-guided Story Walk® featuring *We All Play* by award winning Cree artist Julie Flett. For all ages 0–7 and anyone who loves to play, this story is a beautiful ode to the animals and humans we share our world with.

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.



JUNE 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

Ongoing.

Accessible during open hours.

Chill Out Indoor Story Walks.®

Come on inside 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.

June 1–16.

Story Walk®: *We Are Water Protectors*, by Carole Lindstrom.

This story honors Indigenous-led movements across the world to protect water. For ages 3–7 and everyone ready to safeguard the Earth’s water from harm.

June 17–30.

Story Walk®: *Fatima’s Great Outdoors*, by Ambreen Tariq.

Enjoy a family camping adventure, a love letter to the outdoors, and a reminder that public land belongs to all of us. For ages 4–8 and everyone who’s ready to go camping!

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,

June 4.

1:00–2:00 pm.

Nice and Easy Walk.

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. **Note:** there is no walk on 6/11.

Friday,

June 5.

4:00–5:30 pm.

First Friday: Turners Falls Brick-by-Brick Tour.

Under every cornice is a building with a story. This First Friday, learn about the brickmakers, builders and businesses behind the designs of the village blocks. Meet DCR staff outside the Great Hall for a 1.2-mile guided walk through downtown Turners Falls. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. Ages 8 and up. Meet at the main entrance.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.



JUNE 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

Saturday,
June 6.
10:00 am–
2:00 pm.

19th Annual Free Family Fishing Day!
At Two Locations.

Our annual Family Fishing Day, at Barton Cove, with additional activities at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Join us for a day of FREE fishing fun. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Event is held rain or shine. Parking is free. Free shuttle bus between sites.

At Barton Cove Campground: Barton Cove Road in Gill.

- Free fishing from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. All ages welcome.
- Fishing equipment provided - limited supplies available. Bring your own pole if you have one. No MA fishing license needed.

At Great Falls Discovery Center: 2 Avenue A.

- Fly lure tying demonstrations.
- Come see an impressive guest fish from the USGS Conte Anadromous Fish Research Lab.
- Fish printing: The art of Gyotaku, 11 am –2 pm.
- CATCH THE FISH BUS HERE! Free shuttle bus to and from Barton Cove, as needed, 10 am –2 pm.

Sunday,
June 7.
12:00–
2:00 pm.

Artist Reception. *Nature's Colors.*

Join painter Kate Marion Lapierre for an artist reception celebrating her exhibit, *Nature's Colors*. Come experience the colorful beauty that nature brings through Kate's artwork and enjoy light refreshments. Meet in the Great Hall.

Fridays,
June 12, 19,
& 26.
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.

- **6/12: Turtles**
- **6/19: Hummingbirds**
- **6/26: Spiders**

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JUNE 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

Friday,
June 12.
7:00–9:00 pm.

Great Falls Coffeehouse Presents: On the Lam.

Join us for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center’s concert series featuring local talent. *On the Lam* offers sweet harmonies and harmony-heavy Americana. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, in support of educational programming at the Center. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

Saturday,
June 13.
**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 6th and 7th streets along Avenue A at Peskeompskut Park. For all ages.

Sunday,
June 14.
**10:00 am–
12:00 pm.**

Pride Hike.

Connect with nature and community by hiking along the Canalside Rail Trail! Learn about birds, beavers and each other as we walk and talk beside a historic canal. This is a 2.6-mile hike on a flat, paved trail. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. For ages 10 and up. Meet outside the main entrance.

Thursdays,
June 18 & 25.
**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. **Note:** we are transitioning to our summer schedule of hosting walks at 10 am. to avoid afternoon heat.

Saturday,
June 20.
**1:00 –
3:00 pm.**

**Montague Public Libraries Presents:
Favorite Storybook Character Day.**

Whether you want to channel your inner hero, K-Pop singer, or a beloved blue heeler pup, we can’t wait to see your favorite stories come to life. Take home themed art inspired by classic and contemporary storybook characters. Costumes are highly encouraged but not required. This is a fun, family-friendly event perfect for book lovers of all ages! Sponsored by Montague Public Libraries. Meet in the Great Hall.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.



JUNE 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

Sunday,

June 21.

10:00–

11:00 am.

Solstice Stroll for Pollinators!

Help us kick off Pollinator Week and the Summer Solstice! Grab your friends and family for a leisurely 1.5-mile summer solstice stroll as we look for signs of pollinators and talk about their favorite plants on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center, downtown Turners Falls, and along the Canalside Rail Trail. For ages 6 and up. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. Meet at the main entrance.

Saturday,

June 27.

2:00–

4:00 pm.

Mammals of the North Woods Presentation, and Friends Group Annual Meeting.

Dawn Marvin Ward, naturalist/educator, presents a slide show on mammals common to the New England woodlands followed by a hands-on sharing of related nature findings. Dawn is an educator and naturalist who has been sharing her appreciation of nature to folks of all ages for over 30 years now, and she is a board member of our Friends Group. Learn about the Friends Group in a brief annual meeting before the program begins. For ages 8 and up. Meet in the Great Hall.

Sunday,

June 28.

10:30 am–

12:00 pm.

**Art Naturally: Fields & Forests —
What Do Bees Need?**

In honor of Pollinator Week, make your own native bee habitat by “painting” with yarn, fleece, pre-felt shapes and water. Will your bees live in a tree trunk or holes in the ground, in a nest made of mud or leaves? Learn how important native bees are, especially for growing food. For ages 4 & up, including teens and adults! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Designed for families. All are welcome! Meet in the Great Hall.

Sunday,

June 28.

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.