



SEPTEMBER 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

**Visitor Center
Open Hours.**

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm.,
Open Monday, Sept. 7, 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, but open Monday holidays.

Ongoing,
Sept. 4 – 29.

Accessible
during open
hours.

Great Hall Art Exhibit:
Stitched Through the Seven Sisters.
Stitched Through the Seven Sisters is a location-specific series about honoring an almost-daily practice of communing with nature as visual artist Kerry St. Laurent stitches herself through her local trail system. Matte hot press photographic prints are layered with matte gouache that nods to mapping and ink and colored pencil stitching that references both woven comfort and the idea that wandering counters life’s unraveling and knits us back together.

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!

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.

Ongoing,
Sept. 2 – 30.

Indoor StoryWalk – *Change is in the Air.*
Enjoy our indoor StoryWalk, *Change is in the Air* by *Rebecca Donnelly*, about the hidden discoveries of Eunice Newton Foote, the first climate scientist. For ages 6 and up and everyone who loves science.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.

Coming Events



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Friday,
Sept. 4.
4:00–5:30 pm.

First Friday: A Sampling of Labor Sentiments.
As we head into Labor Day weekend, join us on a mile walk along the Canalside Rail Trail. View the factories, now gone or about to be demolished, and share a sampling of snippets from our local newspaper archives. Get a glimpse into the sentiments of workers, owners, and newspaper editors regarding shifts, pay, unions, and strikes during the late 18th & 19th Centuries.

Saturday,
Sept. 5.
2:00–3:00 pm.

**Labor History Talk:
The Keith Paper Mill Strike of 1937.**
How far would you go to keep your livelihood? Learn about the 90 women and 8 men who struck during the Depression at the Keith Paper mill, through newspapers, maps and photos. Meet in the Great Hall. Ages 8 and up.

Thursdays,
Sept. 10, 17,
& 24.
**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, no walk on Sept. 3.**

Fridays,
Sept. 11,
18, & 25.
**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. **Note that there is no Story Hour on Sept. 4.**

- **9/11: Skunks;**
- **9/18: Snakes;**
- **9/25: River Otters.**

Friday,
Sept. 11.
7:00–9:00 pm.

Great Falls Coffeehouse: Jenny Burtis Duo.
Join us for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center’s concert series featuring local talent. *The Jenny Burtis Duo* offers originals favoring the Romantic tradition with irony and humor. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, in support of educational programming at the Center. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

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Saturday,
Sept. 12.
2:00–3:00 pm.

**It's Weird Duck Season:
Waterfowl of the Connecticut River.**
Join Chad Witko, ornithologist and founder of Birding University, for an engaging introduction to North America's waterfowl. As fall migration reaches the Connecticut River Valley, discover how to identify ducks, geese, and swans, explore their remarkable migrations, and learn why the Connecticut River is such an important stopover and wintering habitat throughout their annual cycle. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

Sunday,
Sept. 13.
2:00–4:00 pm.

Constitution Banner Program.
Learn about the Constitution, and how our government was structured. 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're invited to place your handprint on the banner (non- toxic washable paints). 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, or in case of rain, meet in the Great Hall.

Saturday,
Sept. 19.
**10:00 am–
12:00 pm.**

20th Anniversary Source to Sea Cleanup.
Hard work, real fun, true impact: the annual fall trash cleanup of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Join DCR staff to clean up the Canalside Rail Trail. Register at sourcetoseacleanup.org/event/dcr-canalside-rail-trail-cleanup-group/, or contact DCR staff at (413) 863-3221 for more information. Meet at the main entrance. For ages 8 and up.

Sunday,
Sept. 19.
2:00–4:00 pm.

**Artist Reception: Kerry St. Laurent's
Stitched Through the Seven Sisters.**
Meet the artist, Kerry St. Laurent, who created a unique journey on the Seven Sisters of the Holyoke Range through art. Light refreshments. All ages. Meet in Great Hall.

Sunday,
Sept. 20.
**10:30 am–
12:00 pm.**

Art Naturally: Leaf Prints for Leaf Peepers.
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 inspired by autumn using paint, paper, gel and even leaves. Free. All art materials provided. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30 am for complete instructions.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.



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Sunday, Sept. 20. 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.
Thursday, Sept. 24. 3:30–5:00 pm.	Canal Draw Down History Stroll. Check out the annual draining of the Turners Falls canal. Take a stroll along the Canalside Rail Trail, and absorb local history with staff from Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center and DCR. Two-mile walk on flat terrain. Free. Meet at the main entrance. For adults and youth.
Saturday, Sept. 26. 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.
Saturday, Sept. 26. 2:00–5:00 pm.	Montague Community Fair at Unity Park. Discover us at Unity Park (at 56 First Street)! Celebrate “Good Neighbor Day” with an afternoon of free family activities and learn about local community organizations. Join DCR staff at the fair to learn all about our animal neighbors at our activity table with crafting. The fair has light refreshments, music, and fun activities for all ages, in collaboration with Montague Public Libraries.
Sunday, Sept. 27. 10:30 am–12:00 pm.	Art Naturally: Paper Marbling and Mini Books. Discover nature through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. Inspired by the Montague Paper Company’s history of making book paper, we’ll celebrate the book arts—right here in the building that was once the company’s machine shop. With instruction and technique, you create an art piece to take home using Suminagashi techniques (the Japanese art of marbling) and making small accordion-pleated books. 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.