dcr
Massachusetts

Holyoke Heritage State Park
Department of Conservation and Recreation

NOVEMBER 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming events

Programs are free and open to the public. All programs meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather. Inclement weather cancels outdoor programs. For more information call (413) 534-1723.

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

Tuesday–Sunday.
12:00–4:00 pm.

Closed Mondays.

Visitor Center Open.

Located at 221 Appleton Street in Holyoke. Accessible by PVTA public transit. Free admission. Open daily except for Mondays. Exhibits depict Holyoke's affluent industrial mill era. Park information, restrooms, drinking water, wheelchair accessible. Also visit the neighboring Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, Children's Museum at Holyoke, and International Volleyball Hall of Fame.

FOR ADULTS.

Friday, Nov. 13,
10:00–11:30 am.

From Tree to Bat: A Visit to Rutto Bats.

Did you know that trees sequester carbon from the air and make wood out of it? We use wood for many things – like baseball bats. Nearby, Rutto Bats manufactures quality baseball bats from locally harvested trees. Learn about and watch the process of making a bat unfold. Hard hats and safety goggles are issued. Children (ages 8 and over) must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Visitor Center for a one-block walk. **Registration required.** Call (413) 534-1723.

Saturday, Nov. 14,
Friday, Nov. 20, &
Saturday Nov 28.
10:00 am–
12:00 pm.

Holyoke's Historic Canals and Dam Tour.

Join the park interpreter for a walk along Holyoke's canal system. Explore history, engineering prowess, mill operation and the power of water. Walk along parts of the first and second level canals of this fascinating planned industrial city. Distance: 2 miles on sidewalks. **Tour limit 15 people. Registration required -** call (413) 534-1723.

Saturday, Nov 21.
10:00–11:00 am.

Holyoke, the *Water* City presentation.

Topography and the Connecticut River's character gave rise to a prosperous city in late-19th and early-20th centuries. This guided illustrated 1-hour presentation inside the Visitor Center utilizing exhibits and visuals, describes the origins of our planned industrial city and how water continues to power Holyoke! Wheelchair accessible.

PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.

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FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES.

Friday, Nov. 27, 10:00 am–12:30 pm.

Location:
Mount Holyoke Range State Park
1500 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002.

Gratitude After Gravy Hike.

Best for ages 5 and up. Bring the whole family to **Mount Holyoke Range State Park** to hike off that Thanksgiving gravy! Choose between an easy 2-mile hike or a more challenging 4-mile hike, both featuring casual interpretation along the way. Not up for a hike? Enjoy the Notch Visitor Center, cozy up by the wood stove, and enjoy self-guided activities while others hit the trail. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Hot drinks served after the hike. **Meet at the kiosk outside the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West St., Amherst, MA.** Inclement weather or icy trail conditions cancel the hikes.

Daily, (except Mondays), 8:30 am–4:00 pm.

StoryWalk.®

Combine a walk outdoors along the park sidewalks with reading a delightful children's book and you have a StoryWalk®. Book titles change monthly.

Daily, (except Mondays), 12:00–4:00 pm.

Investigation Tables.

All ages. Make yourself a Turkey Crown or play the "Hike-opoly" board game. Test your skill at working in a mill with the Spindle Game or try the Mountain Park Ring Toss. There is always something for youngsters to do in the Visitor Center while guided by adults.

IN THE GALLERY.

Nov. 3–Dec. 31. 12:00–4:00 pm.

Holyoke Preservation Trust Art Contest.

All adult and youth art entries are displayed. Celebrating our country's 250th anniversary, pieces depict "Spirit of 1776," "The Free and the Brave," and "Best Contemporary Interpretation." **Award ceremony and artist reception for all ages is Sunday, December 6, from 1:00–3:00 pm**. Rain date is Sun., Dec. 13.

GROUP PROGRAMS BY APPOINTMENT.

Schedule your Group today. Call: (413) 534-1723.

Made in Holyoke – Papermaking.

Here in The Paper City, we like to make our own paper! This guided hands-on program explores Holyoke's papermaking industry while making your own paper and embossing it with a design from an actual dandy roll. Appropriate for 4th grade and up. 1.5 to 2-hour program.

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