

HUNTERDON PARKS HARBINGER

Your source for Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation
events, programs, and news.

Winter 2024-2025
December, January, February



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

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Online Program Registration

You can register for any of our Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation programs online. Visit our website www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation and click the photo for Online Program Registration.

Register in person by completing the program registration and medical record form on the last pages of this Harbinger. Visit the Hunterdon County Arboretum at 1020 Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833, Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or mail your completed form with check payment to Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Program details including parking addresses and any other pertinent information such as items to bring will be printed on your receipt.

CANCELLATION POLICIES:

You will be notified by phone if we cancel a program and you will receive a full refund. Programs are designed for all types of weather and participants should dress appropriately. Cancellations and requests for refunds made by participants must be in writing. Cancellations made less than one week prior to the program will not receive a refund.

Scan here to register online.



Bus Trips

New York City

Sunday, December 15, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Departs NYC at 6:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

NYC Location: Bryant Park

Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$50

Join us for a coach bus trip into the winter wonderland of NYC. Experience the holiday season in historic Manhattan, where the aromas of hot chocolate and pine waft through the air! On this Christmas expedition, you design your perfect day in the city and we will bring you there. You can spend your day at the world-famous Rockefeller Center ice rink or on a carriage ride through Central Park with your loved ones. You can shop at the historic New York City Macy's or go to the Broadway show of your choice; the options are endless. The private coach bus departs from Deer Path Park at 8:30 AM, and will head straight to Bryant Park which is near Times Square and other attractions. The bus will leave Bryant Park at 6:00 PM; please plan your day accordingly. No more dealing with trains and traffic; we provide the transportation, and you take it from there.



Philadelphia Flower Show

Tuesday, March 4, 9:45 AM to 7:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$88 includes PFS ticket

Registration Deadline: January 27.

Special Cancellation Policy: All cancellations by participants must be made in writing before January 27.

Sit back & relax as we take you by coach bus to the world's oldest and largest indoor flower show! The show features large-scale gardens, elaborate landscapes, and over-the-top floral creations. Visitors are treated to fabulous floral designs, live entertainment, gardening how-to workshops, and lectures by experts. You can shop for plants and gifts, sample wines, and attend different seminars. The 2025 theme is "Gardens of Tomorrow." VP and Creative Director of the Philadelphia Flower Show, Seth Pearsoll, says, "Gardens of Tomorrow' invites us to envision a future where our actions today nurture a healthier planet. Through the simple act of gardening and planting trees, we plant seeds of hope for a greener future." Enjoy lunch at Reading Terminal across the street from the Flower Show; meals are not included in the cost of the trip.

Parks Van Trips

Birding Trips

Barnegat Light State Park

Saturday, December 14, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Barnegat Light State Park is a great winter birding spot, with lots of sea ducks, gulls, and winter shorebirds. We will hike to the end of the jetty from 7th Avenue. Dress warmly; a rigorous sandy hike on the beach is to be expected. Along the way, we will make a few other stops to pick up a few other species in the bay and ocean. If time permits, we will check out one of the surrounding salt marshes before heading back.



Sandy Hook

Sunday, January 12, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

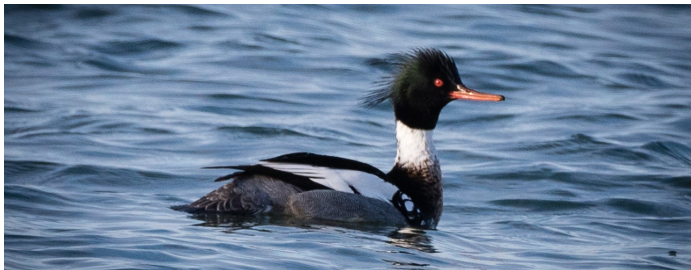
Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$37

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Sandy Hook is a 2,044-acre barrier beach peninsula that offers seven miles of beach line. The variety of coastal habitats including sand dunes, grasslands, salt and freshwater marshes, thickets, and maritime forest offers a diverse range of birding opportunities. From shorebirds and songbirds to waterfowl, join us as we search these locations for wintering birds.



Whitesbog and Abbot Marsh

Saturday, February 22, 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Ages: Adult

Parking Location: Echo Hill Park

Cost: \$41

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join us as we drive for a southern loop through South/Central NJ for swans and wintering ducks. We will first head to Whitesbog, the birthplace of the modern blueberry, as we look for Tundra Swans as they winter amongst the cranberry bogs. From there, we will come back north to the Abbot Marsh and walk the trails for wintering ducks. The marsh can be host to large rafts of ducks before they migrate up to or through Hunterdon. Species seen on this trip may include shovelers, teal, and other species.

Family Trips

Explore High Point

Sunday, January 26, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Parking Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Ages: 10 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$33, an additional entrance fee of up to \$25 and up to \$30 ski/snowshoe rental fee to be paid the day of the trip if there is snow.

Instructors: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Discover the natural beauty of High Point State Park while gliding on skis or snowshoeing. The view from High Point Monument, at 1,803 feet above sea level, is a spectacular panorama of rich farmland and forest, soft hills and lush valleys in three states. It is one of most beautiful places in the northern part of the state. High Point is an alpine hollow of lakes, trees and sweeping vistas. Come dressed to be outdoors for the day. No experience is necessary but be aware that snow activities can be strenuous. Bring a bag lunch. Skiing and snowshoeing are weather dependent; the trip will become a guided day hike if there is no snow on the ground.

Adult Trips



Roebling Museum and Bordentown

Thursday, December 12, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$35 includes tour fees

Instructors: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator and Debra Reed, Park Naturalist

The mission of the Roebling Museum is to document, preserve and exhibit the history of the John A. Roebling's Sons Company, the Roebling family, and the village of Roebling. Its focus is not only on the industrial and technological achievements of the company but on the unique social history of its workforce and the town it created. In Bordentown we will meet with a former Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation employee, historian Doug Kiovsky, who will lead us through the Bordentown Joseph Bonaparte Exhibit, the Clara Barton Schoolhouse and more. We will eat lunch at a local restaurant; lunch is not included in the cost of the trip.

Group Requested Lectures

Is your group interested in learning more about a specific topic? Contact us to request a lecture about one of our topics including bats, birds, mammals, Jurassic and Ice Age eras, wildflowers, travel, and so much more. Programs can be held at a county facility, at your public meeting place, or virtually.

For more information about what programs we offer, or to request more information about scheduling a program visit our website:

www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs.



Rutherford Hall & Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms

Thursday, January 9, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Parking Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$61 includes tour fees

Instructors: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator and Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

This National & Historic Landmark, Rutherford Hall "Big House" was designed by famed architect Whitney Warren, who designed Grand Central Station in NY City. The 18,000 square foot Tudor country home was built in 1904. Since early US history, the family has had a positive impact on this region. We will hear stories about how the local food production, hunts, animal breeding, boating, horseback riding, and hiking filled one's days.

At the Stickley Museum learn how Gustav Stickley was a visionary spokesman for the American Arts and Crafts movement. His furniture designs in the late 1800s were a radical departure from the furniture of the Victorian era. They reflected the Arts and Crafts ideals of simplicity, honesty in construction, and truth to materials. Craftsman Farms exemplifies Stickley's philosophy of building in harmony with the environment by using natural materials. In 1908 Stickley designed the farm to be self-sufficient. The produce grown on the farm was used in the restaurant operated by Stickley as part of his furniture showroom and department store in Manhattan. We will stop for lunch at a nearby restaurant, Alexis Diner in Denville; lunch is not included in the cost of the trip.

Scan here to register for any program online.



Nature Programs

Youth Nature Series

Engaging children in outdoor play and learning can foster creativity, curiosity, and physical development. Nature offers a dynamic environment that stimulates the senses, encourages problem-solving, and nurtures imagination. Spending time outside can also support a child's mental well-being and help cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Baby Walks

Fridays, 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult
Cost: Free but pre-registration required
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Get outside with your baby and explore your local trails! We will do some nature education geared toward the adults and enjoy the company of other parents and caregivers in the area. We will walk at the pace of the adults; we ask that babies be carried or in a stroller depending on the location.



December 13: Point Mountain Central, 99 Point Mountain Rd. Mostly flat dirt trails appropriate for carriers only.

January 10: Hoffman Park, 751 Mechlin's Corner Rd. Coarse gravel trails appropriate for robust strollers or carriers only.

February 14: Landsdown Trail, 113 Lower Landsdown Rd. Fine gravel trail appropriate for strollers and carriers.

"Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, less aggressive, and show better concentration."

-National Wildlife Foundation

Tot Walks

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Location: Echo Hill Park
Ages: 2 to 3 years with adult
Cost: \$10/session
Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Discover nature at your local park! Leave the strollers behind as we read a story and take a walk to learn about the nature around us and do a craft on each theme. Please dress for the weather as these programs will be fully outside. If it is too cold to craft outside, participants may take their craft home.

Rocks

Session A: Wednesday, December 11
Session B: Thursday, December 12

Patterns

Session A: Wednesday, January 22
Session B: Thursday, January 23

Tracking

Session A: Wednesday, February 19
Session B: Thursday, February 20



Nature Club

Eight Tuesdays, January 7 to February 25

Times:

PreK AM: 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

PreK PM: 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

School Age: 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM

Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1,
Assembly Space

Cost: \$90 per child for all 8 lessons

Ages: PreK: 3-6 years | All PreK children must
be accompanied by an adult

School Age: 5-9 years. Drop-off program.

Instructor: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist



Learn, create, play games, and explore! Our popular nature clubs will introduce your child to many exciting nature topics. Children will be guided through outdoor walks, exploring areas similar to their own backyard. Other fun hands-on activities include science experiments, games, and craft projects. The children will be able to observe the surprising changes in nature from week to week as we progress through the season. Through our explorations, children will also improve their attention to detail as we observe the colors, shapes, textures, and sounds of the natural world. Please be sure to dress your child for the outdoors so they will be able to enjoy these activities. We strongly recommend old clothes and sneakers/boots that can get dirty.

Homeschool Nature Series

Wednesdays

Ages: 7 to 17 years | All children must be
accompanied by an adult

Cost: \$8 per session

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park
Naturalist

Join our Homeschool Nature Program for a monthly dose of outdoor education and exploration! In each session, your child will immerse themselves in a new and exciting nature topic, fostering curiosity and a deeper connection to the natural world.

Adaptations

December 11, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

In order to survive, species must constantly be willing to adapt to their surroundings. But what does it mean to adapt? Does it have to be a physical change or something else? We will explore this concept through some discussions and activities. Let us help to show that you are adapting in your knowledge on our wildlife and their surroundings.

Water Issues

January 8, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Hunterdon County Library
Headquarters Branch

Water is one of the most abundant items on the planet. We will talk about how the Earth's rising sea levels are caused by the melting ice caps. If water levels are rising, then why are we worried about it as a resource for us? Join us to find out the answer and other issues that surround our dependence on water and the conditions of said water.

Late Winter Walk

February 12, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Point Mountain Central, 99 Point
Mountain Rd.

Let's adventure through Point Mountain for an exploratory walk during the end of the winter season. We will look for signs of animal activity, the coming of the spring season, and anything else that can be discovered. The sky's the limit for any nature-related questions that the students may have as we explore the park.

Nature Programs

Maple Sugaring

Maple Tree Tapping

Sunday, January 19, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 6 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructors: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist, and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator



Have you wondered how we tap the trees to collect maple sap, or where the Echo Hill sugar bush is? Well, here's your chance to find out! We will meet at the playground and to the five to ten-minute walk to the sugar bush. You will learn how to identify a sugar maple and see a demonstration on how to tap a maple tree. Participants will collectively tap about 25 trees.

Maple Sap Collection

Session A: Sunday, February 9

Session B: Sunday, February 23

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructors: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist, and Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Collecting the sap is a crucial step of the maple sugaring process! Many methods are used on commercial farms, but the basic idea is the same, moving the sap from the maple trees to the stove. Come participate in the process at Echo Hill! We will meet at the playground and then take the five to ten-minute walk to the sugar bush to help us collect our sap for sugaring. This program will also be available to groups during weekdays in February. Please call to schedule a group program.

Maple Sugaring Living History Open House

Saturday, March 15, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free | No pre-registration required

Experience first-hand the North American tradition of maple sugaring at Hunterdon County's Maple Sugaring Program. You'll take a trip through time to experience the art of the sugaring process. Along the way you will see an early American Frontiersman tapping his trees, visit a sugar "farmer" at his evaporator, and enjoy a Native American story about the discovery of maple sap.

Sessions start every 30 minutes beginning at 9:00 AM. The last session starts at 2:30 PM.



School Field Trips and Private Groups

Maple Sap Collection | January 22 - March 1

Maple Sugaring Living History |

February 10 - March 15

Cost: \$40 per session

Maple Sugaring To Go Bring our maple sugaring program to you | Cost \$70 per session

Family Nature Programs

Jupiter and the Galilean Moons

Friday, December 6, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 10 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8



Before the computer, TV and even books, all civilizations had was the sky above them. Join us for a night as we gaze at the stars, share some of the season's constellations and focus our gaze through the scope at Jupiter and the 4 Galilean moons. We will also share some of the myths/stories that went along with them.

A Year in Nature

Monday, January 6, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Hunterdon County Library, North Branch

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Make 2025 the year you spend more time outside! With this lecture, find out what is going on in nature month by month, from January to December. One of the great reasons to live in New Jersey is that the changing of the seasons makes life interesting throughout the year. Find out what animals and plants are doing as they prepare for different seasons. Then get out and explore nature and see if you can observe these changes in person!



Winter Wonderland Walk

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Although winter can be cold, it is also beautiful! Frozen water makes charming patterns along the surfaces of ponds and streams. Colorful berries and bright birds catch the eye.



Many animals are active through the winter months and leave signs of their passage. Enjoy an invigorating walk (at least one mile) to find out what's happening in nature in winter.

Love in Nature

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Hunterdon County Library, Headquarters Branch

Ages: 10 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

In honor of Valentine's Day, enjoy a slide show of various courtship rituals in nature around the world. The male house wren constructs "dummy nests" of a few sticks in several different locations, and brings the female around on a "house-hunting" tour before she decides on the perfect spot for her nest. Male nursery web spiders present a parcel of food wrapped in silk as a gift for their chosen female. Male bowerbirds build a "bower" of sticks and decorate it with blue objects, and then dance for the females.



Nature Programs

Animal Clues Walk

Date: Saturday, February 15

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Sometimes we don't see animals but they certainly live around the park! They may be out at night, or just good at hiding when we are near. We will walk our trails to discover clues to our animal residents. Find out who left that scat, those tracks, or built that home! Please dress for the weather as we will be outside for the entire program.



Screech Owl Exploration

Friday, February 28, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Section of the South Branch

Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

February is the time for owls. This nighttime walk will focus on the etiquette one must use when owling. During this walk, Tom will attempt to call to the Eastern Screech Owls for a response. Depending on the assumed distance, he will try to draw one in for viewing, but no guarantees. The group is not permitted to bring flashlights or headlamps. The trail at Sunnyside is wide and flat and Tom will provide red lights for the limited walking that will be done for the program.



Scan here to register for any program online.

Birding

Bird Walk for the New Year

Date: Friday, January 3

Time 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: Sourland Mountain Preserve

Age: Adult

Cost: \$12

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Now that the new year has started, join us for a bird walk around our Sourland Mountain Preserve. Sourlands is on the first prominent ridge going north in New Jersey. For those that keep a year list, this can be a great way to start your new list. We will hike the loop through the woods and view the marsh within the preserve. Trail conditions can be rough; about 1 ½ miles of slightly moderate hiking required. Please dress for weather conditions.



Teacher Workshop: Project WET with Climate Change

Thursday, January 30, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space

Ages: Adults | This program is specifically designed for educational professionals only.

Cost: \$44

Guest Instructor: Pat Heaney, Assistant Director of Education at The Watershed Institute

Project WET (WATER EDUCATION TODAY) is dedicated to solving critical environmental challenges by teaching the world about water. This workshop is designed for formal and non-formal educators of all ages. All participants will receive The Foundations of Water Education educator guide. Packed with 12 meticulously curated activities, this guide empowers educators to seamlessly integrate essential water literacy concepts into their curriculum. Unlock the keys to comprehensive water education through engaging lessons that explore the intricate components of our water ecosystems. From understanding the water cycle to delving into watershed dynamics, each activity is crafted to captivate young minds and foster a deeper appreciation for our planet's most precious resource. The final part of our day will focus on climate change education. Educators will receive the Climate, Water and Resilience guide to help educators teach middle and high school students about climate and climate change using interactive, objective, science-based activities that students will enjoy. The program will be presented by award-winning educator Pat Heaney, Assistant Director of Education at The Watershed Institute. Bring your own lunch as food is not available on site. We will go outdoors for some activities (weather permitting), so dress appropriately.

Webinars

Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation's nature webinars offer a window into the region's diverse and stunning natural landscapes. These webinars provide a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of local flora and fauna, ecological conservation, and sustainable practices.

Extinct Birds of New Jersey

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Ages: 12 through Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

New Jersey is one of the country's top states to bird and has a species list that has just hit 500 species. But when one examines this list, one will see that some of these species can no longer be viewed in the state because they have gone extinct. Who are these species and what are their stories? Join us for a discussion on the extinct birds of our state.

Owls of Hunterdon

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Ages: 8 through Adults

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Great Horned Owls are already into their breeding season. This is the time that we can hear the owls calling at night. Join us as we introduce the owls that can be found in Hunterdon County and the state. Along with facts about each of the owls, you will hear the calls of each species and learn the fundamentals of how to find them.



Basketry

Basketry, with its deep historical roots in cultures worldwide, offers an enriching and timeless experience for individuals of all backgrounds. Through hands-on learning, participants can appreciate the therapeutic and creative aspects of basketry, connecting with tradition while fostering a sense of accomplishment and personal fulfillment.

Green Lantern

Friday, January 3, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space
Ages: 13 to adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: \$23 per project
Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator
Skill Level: Beginner

This unique basket base technique helps the basket maker change a square basket base into a round basket. This is a good opportunity for a beginner to try their hands at making a basket. Dimensions approximate 7"x7"x7".



Checkers Oriole Basket

Saturday, January 25, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space
Ages: 13 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: \$34 per project
Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator
Skill Level: Beginner



This basket is shaped like a Baltimore Oriole's nest; it is larger on the bottom and comes into a smaller diameter at the top. Height including the handle is 8". Bring a bag lunch and drink for a 30-minute lunch break.

UFO: Un-Finished Objects

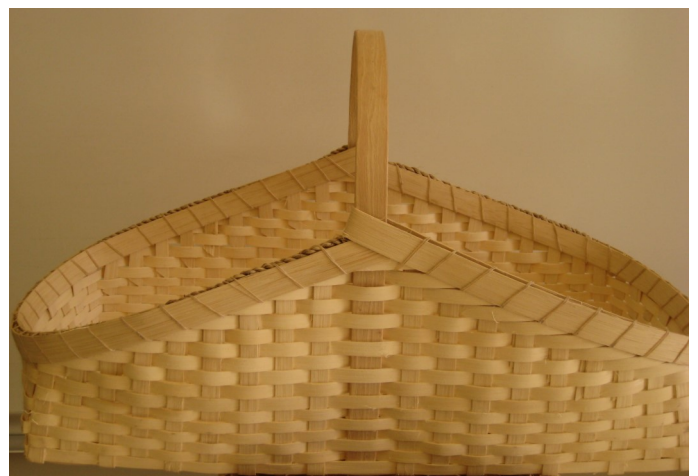
Thursday, January 23, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space
Ages: Adults
Cost: Free but pre-registration required
Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Do you have a craft project, such as but not limited to a basket that is not finished? Join us for some open weave time. Bring a bag lunch and drink for a 30-minute lunch break.

Small Hearth Basket

Thursday, February 20, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space
Ages: Adult
Cost: \$36
Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator
Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced

This is a small version of a hearth basket. It measures approximately 12" long x 6" deep x 12" in handle height. This basket is 2" high on the ends and steps up to 8" on the handle that is in the middle of the sides. Bring a bag lunch and drink for a 30-minute lunch break.



Crafts

Making crafts offers creative outlets for both children and adults, promoting self-expression, problem-solving, and stress relief. Making crafts provides a sense of achievement and the chance to bond with others through collaborative projects. Whether for artistic exploration or relaxation, crafting offers a fulfilling and engaging experience.

Crafting Together

Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Route 12 Complex, Building #1, Assembly Space

Ages: 8 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$12 per project

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Enjoy an opportunity to spend some creative bonding time with your child. Join us for organized craft time.

Child/adult teams can work together making one project or for the older children both adult and child can make their own project.

December 21: Simple Basket with beads

January 11: Beaded Frog

February 8: Tree of Life Pendant



Nature Inspired Crafts

Evergreen Walk & Craft

Wreath: Friday, December 6

Swag: Saturday, December 7

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Arboretum Gardens

Ages: 5 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$15 per project

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Warm up with a winter nature walk around the Arboretum! Do you know the difference between pines, spruces, and hemlocks? Can you find five different shades of green? What's the difference between a conifer and an evergreen? Let's find out the answers to these questions while exploring your local park. Bring your own clippers and a tote bag, or borrow ours, to collect some greens during the walk. We will then assemble your project to use in your holiday decorating. Families may work together on one project or pay per person to each create their own. This is a fully outdoor program, so dress for the weather. Participants may take supplies home if it is too cold to craft outside.

Nature Created Holiday Candles

Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Ages: 8 through Adult

Location: Echo Hill South Activity Center

Cost: \$12 per person

Instructor: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist

Join us for a winter walk and craft in our park to discover the sights and scents of the season. As we explore, we'll gather crisp natural aromas to preserve in homemade candles—perfect gifts for the holidays. We'll also learn about the diverse array of evergreens that thrive here. While conifers are an ancient group of trees, are all conifers evergreen? And are all cones actually pinecones? Come create and delve into the fascinating world of these remarkable trees that adorn so many homes during this time of year.



Walks and Hikes

Adult Walks and Hikes

Senior Strolls

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Liz Braidwood-Fulmer, Recreation Program Coordinator

Join our Senior Strolls, specially designed for those aged 55 and above, and experience the sheer delight of walking together. Our walks not only promote a healthier and more active lifestyle but also offer the chance to form meaningful connections with peers, making each walk an enjoyable and socially enriching experience.

December 4: Charlestown Reserve

January 8: Hoffman Park

February 5: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Tree ID Walks with Dennis Skillman

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Guest Instructor: Dennis Skillman

Retired arborist and NJ-certified tree expert Dennis Skillman has agreed to share his passion for trees with us. Dennis has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and worked many years in the tree business. Join us as Dennis points out various trees and shrubs and shares helpful tips on how you can learn to identify them. He may share a few stories about the many miles of day-hiking and extended overnight backpacking trips throughout the United States. Please consider bringing trekking poles if you have them.

December 10: Round Mountain, North Section

January 21: Cushetunk Mountain Preserve

February 11: South Branch Reservation - Stanton Station Section

Adult Recreation Walks

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Indulge in the tranquility of local parks and uncover their natural beauty on our walks. As you meander through these serene landscapes, our knowledgeable staff will sprinkle in fascinating tidbits of historical insight, enhancing your appreciation for both the environment and the past. These walks are moderate difficulty with varying elevation, and some technical terrain. Please wear appropriate footwear.

December 18: Round Mountain, North Section

January 15: Laport Reserve

February 19: Miquin Woods



Family Walks and Hikes

One-Way Hikes

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$12

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Many of the County Parks have trail stems that do not avail themselves to circular hiking routes. However, these stems offer a chance to explore some of the lesser known corners of the parks. Join us for a series of one-way hikes through these less traveled paths. Hikes will be moderately difficult and can require wet foot crossing, walking through knee high vegetation, crossing uneven stone fields, as well as slopes. Enrollment will be limited since a shuttle will be used to transport the group from our gathering point to the starting point of our hike. Each hike will be 2 to 3 miles, time is a general estimate, and we may finish before the stated time. Please dress appropriately for weather and ground conditions, bring a snack, and at least a quart of water.

Tuesday, December 17: Point Mountain

Monday, January 13: Wescott Preserve

Monday, February 10: Musconetcong Gorge



HOPE 2 Walks

Saturdays, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

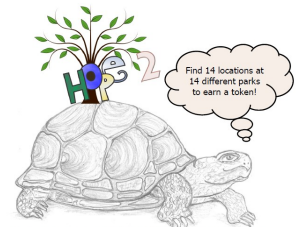
Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Liz Braidwood

-Fulmer, Recreation
Program Coordinator

HOPE 2
Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration



People of all ages can explore nature together. HOPE stands for Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration. Join us for a guided walk to one of our scavenger hunt destinations at 14 different Hunterdon County Parks and earn the token! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. This program is guided by the HOPE 2 booklet. Learn more about the HOPE program on Page 16.

December 21: Hunterdon County Arboretum

January 11: Charlestown Reserve

February 8: Clover Hill Preserve

Kids' Hikes for Fun

Sundays, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist

This winter, let your kids embark on an unforgettable outdoor adventure! Our winter Hikes for Fun are designed to combine fun, education, and exercise in the great outdoors. With engaging activities, your young explorers will discover the beauty and excitement of winter like never before.

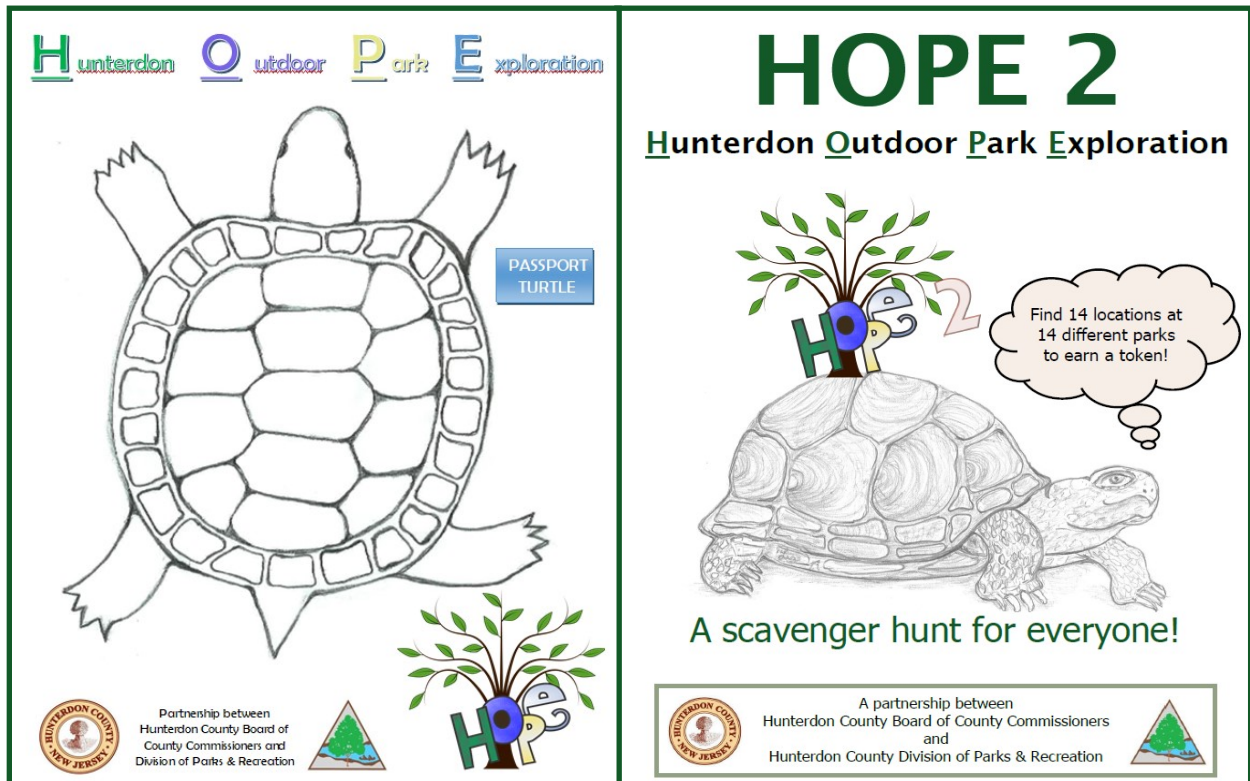
January 5: South Branch Reservation: Pine Hill

February 16: Musconetcong Gorge

March 2: Laport Reserve

H.O.P.E

Hunterdon Outdoor Parks Exploration



We are excited to announce the launch of the next installment **HOPE: Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration**, a self-guided, interactive, and educational scavenger hunt experience that invites participants to follow a guide booklet through a variety of parks in Hunterdon County. You can earn a token with completion of either booklet. Be sure to post your progress online with #HunterdonOutdoorParksExploration. You can pick up your copy of HOPE or HOPE 2 at the Hunterdon County Arboretum or find it online at: co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation.

STORYWALK® at the Hunterdon County Arboretum

This is your invitation to experience our StoryWalk®. Enjoy nature and get some fresh air while reading the storybook *The Golden Acorn*, by Katy Hudson. StoryWalk® is a fun journey reading the pages of our favorite books while walking along the Wizard Trail in the Gardens at the Hunterdon County Arboretum. The StoryWalk® is open, for your enjoyment, from dawn to dusk.

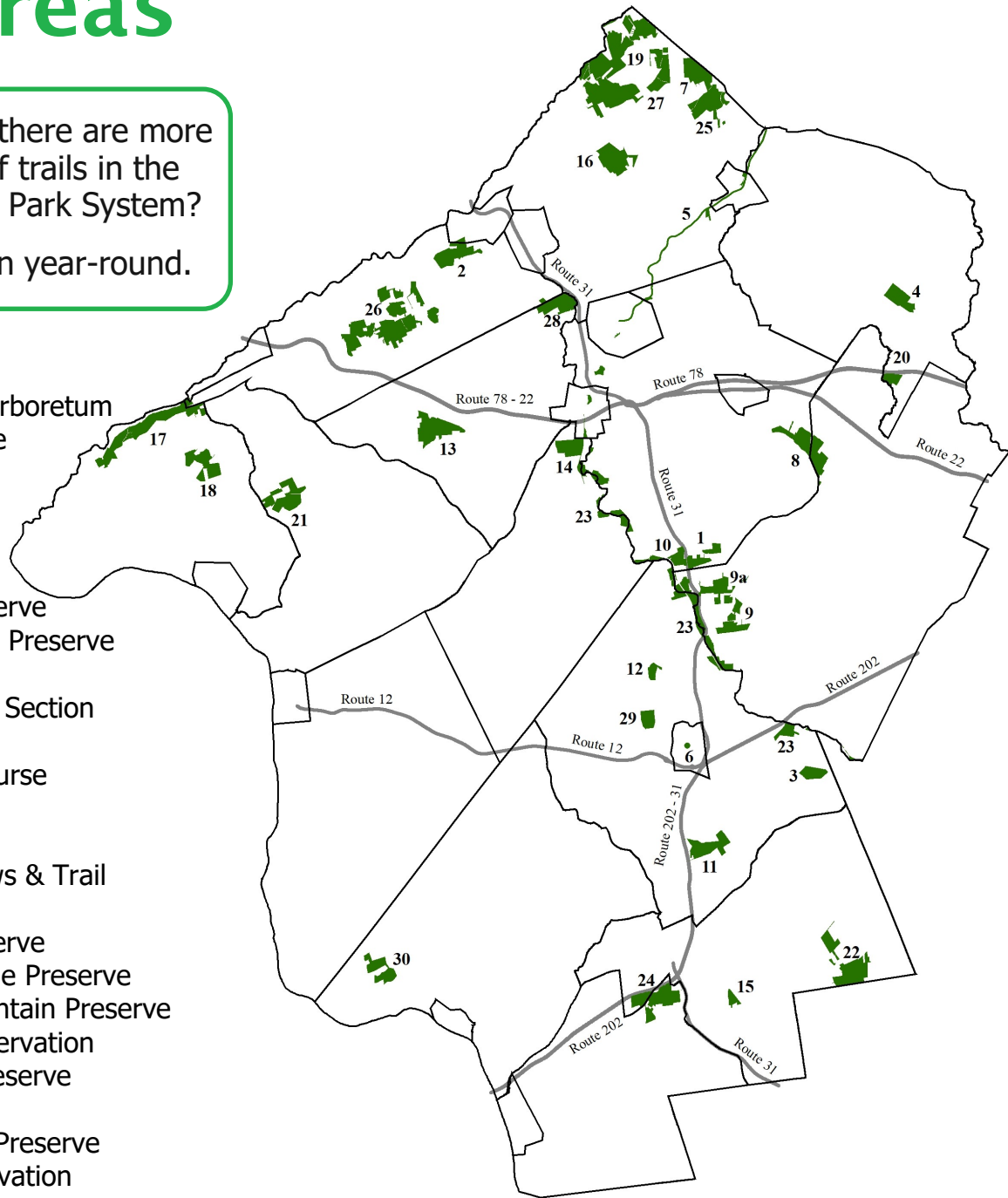
Our StoryWalk® was created by a partnership between Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation and the Hunterdon County Library. Funding is provided by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library and Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation.

StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Anne Ferguson.

Hunterdon County Park Areas

Did you know that there are more than 140 miles of trails in the Hunterdon County Park System?
Our trails are open year-round.

1. Hunterdon County Arboretum
2. Charlestown Reserve
3. Clover Hill Park
4. Cold Brook Reserve
5. Columbia Trail
6. Court Street Park
7. Crystal Springs Preserve
8. Cushetunk Mountain Preserve
9. Deer Path Park
 - 9a. Round Mountain Section
10. Echo Hill Park
11. Heron Glen Golf Course
12. Hilltop Reserve
13. Hoffman Park
14. Landsdown Meadows & Trail
15. Laport Reserve
16. Miquin Woods Preserve
17. Musconetcong Gorge Preserve
18. Musconetcong Mountain Preserve
19. Point Mountain Reservation
20. Rockaway Creek Preserve
21. Schick Reserve
22. Sourland Mountain Preserve
23. South Branch Reservation
24. South County Park
25. Teetertown Preserve
26. Tower Hill—Jugtown Complex
27. Turkey Top Preserve
28. Union Furnace Preserve
29. Uplands Reserve
30. Wescott Preserve



Trail Maps are available. Most park areas with hiking or nature trails have a brochure available. Contact the Park Office or check the website for the brochure and map.

Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: 1020 Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Phone: (908) 782-1158

Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation

Like "Hunterdon County Parks" on Facebook

Follow us on Instagram @hunterdonparksandrec

Mission Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

Modification Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation welcomes all individuals to participate and enjoy our parks, facilities, and recreational programs. Reasonable modifications, individual adaptations, and support will be provided for persons of all abilities, to encourage everyone to benefit equally from their choice of leisure activities.

Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service. Each request will be assessed individually.

Reservable Facilities

Arboretum: Two Gazebos

Deer Path Park: Two Pavilions, Gazebo, & Softball Field

Court Street Park: Gazebo/Bandstand

Echo Hill Park: Main Lodge & Group Campsite

Teetertown Preserve: Group & Public Campsites

To reserve a facility, contact the park office.

For information on each park, visit our website.



Scan here to learn more about the reservable facilities.

Visitor Services Staff



Back row, left to right:

Tom Sheppard: tsheppard@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Patrick Eckard: peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Front row, left to right:

Debra Reed: dreed@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Laura Bush: lkroon@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Liz Braidwood-Fulmer: lfulmer@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Affiliated Organizations

Arc of Hunterdon County archunterdon.org

Hunterdon Flutterwheels Square Dance Club
hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
hunterdonhikingclub.org

NJ Beekeepers Association nwnjba.com



Heron Glen has quickly positioned itself as one of New Jersey's finest public golf facilities.

From junior camps to leagues, we offer programs for every golfer out there. For your family outing or an afternoon spent with friends, we invite you to see why so many refer to Heron Glen as the course they call home. Our facility offers a beautiful 18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, and putting green. For more information, please visit our website at www.heronglen.com or call at (908) 806-6804. 110 US Highway 202/Route 31, Ringoes, NJ 08551



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION



Combined Program Registration and Medical Record

Physician(s) Name and Number _____

List all known allergies _____

Describe allergic reaction(s) and how it is managed _____

Medical issues _____

Current medications _____

(Parks staff do not administer non-emergency medication)

Health Insurance Provider _____ Policy number _____

Please describe any other relevant conditions or information that we should know _____

RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS

As consideration for being allowed to participate in the event(s) described below I agree:

1. I hereby assume all of the risks of participating, viewing and/or volunteering in this event. I realize that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities organizing or conducting this event and hereby release them of all possible liability. I certify I am at least 18 years old, or this is signed by my legal guardian or Parent. I promise not to sue and agree to pay all court costs and all attorney fees that result from my action, civil or otherwise.
2. I certify that I am physically fit with no known physical or mental impairment and have prepared for participation in the event(s). I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the event(s), in which I may participate and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said events. I certify that I am not under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or other drug that may impair my understanding or judgment and that I will not at any time during the event(s) participate while under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or drug. I certify that I have fully adequate insurance to cover all medical claims, and any other equipment and any damage or liability I may ultimately be found responsible for, during all travel to the point of my entry into this event.
3. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) Waive, Release and Discharge from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter accrue to me during the event or during my traveling to and from this event, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: County of Hunterdon, and their respective boards and commissions, officers, agents, officials, employees, volunteers, contractors and representatives, the employees, organizers, sponsors, representatives, agents, volunteers and (B) indemnify and Hold Harmless the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of any of my actions during this event. Accordingly, I do hereby release and discharge the above from all claims, demands, and causes of action of every kind whatsoever for any death, damages and /or injuries which may result from my participation in this event. This shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.
4. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment, which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident and or illnesses during the event(s). I agree to pay for any and all costs related to medical response, treatment and transport on my behalf.
5. Photo Release: I authorize and acknowledge that I or my child may be photographed and/or videotaped for educational and publicity purposes (Website, Facebook, Instagram, Brochures, etc). Photos and videos will not include names or personal information about any individual unless permission is granted. **Initial:** _____

I hereby certify that I have read both pages of this Waiver, Release and Assignment of Claims in its entirety.

My signature below indicates that I fully understand it and agree to its contents.

Full Signature: _____ If a minor Parents signature _____

(Signature indicates agreement to terms and conditions)

Printed name: _____ **Date:** _____