

Lancaster County Parks Department

Summer 2026 Program Listing



Have you created an account with our online registration system? You can register for programs online and manage the entire family's schedules in one spot – go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> to sign up now!

Blue Moon Hike

Sunday, May 31

9:00—10:00 PM

All Ages

Env. Center Parking Lot

May 31st, 2026 will be a once-in-a-blue moon opportunity to take a hike with Senior Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez under the second full moon of the month. Experience the sights and sounds of the pond, the woods, and the creek at night, all while enjoying the glow of the blue moon. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, May 29. \$2.00 per person.

Build a Salad with Wild Edibles

Friday, June 5

6:00—7:30 PM

All Ages

Env. Center Classroom

Join Naturalist Ann Strauss to learn about the edible wild plants that grow in Lancaster County Central Park. The program will start indoors with a basic education of wild edibles followed by foraging to collect enough wild plants to make a salad and tea. Participants are welcome to bring additional food to supplement the wild food. Please bring a chair. Participants will need to sign a liability waiver. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, June 4. \$5.00 per person.

Bats Around Us

Wednesday, June 10

8:00—9:00 PM

All Ages

Env. Center Auditorium

Pennsylvania is home to nine native bat species, all of which are insectivores. These mammals hibernate in caves or mines or migrate South. Bat populations have been plummeting due to white-nose syndrome and they need our help. Join Naturalist Katie Kruza for a lesson on Bats and to spend some time outside to observe the locals. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, June 9. \$2.00 per person.

Morning Hike

Saturday, June 13

9:00—10:00 AM

All Ages

Env. Center Forebay

Come out for a Summer morning hike with naturalist Fisher Zban. Learn about and enjoy the birds' songs, rushing waters, flourishing greenery, and all else the park's trails offer. All ages welcome. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, June 12. \$2 per person.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for all programs.

Unless otherwise noted children must be accompanied by a registered adult and children 3 and under are free, but need to be registered.

To register online, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/LancasterCountyParks> .

To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Sizzling Summer Campfire**Sunday, June 21****8:00—9:30 PM****All Ages****Campsite 3**

Ring in the Summer Solstice with a sizzling fire as the sun sets on the longest day. Listen for owls and frogs and count fireflies during the first campfire of the summer. Please bring a chair. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, June 19. \$3.00 per person.

Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area Hike**Saturday, June 27****2:00—3:30 PM****All Ages****244 Wesley Rd.**

Theodore Parker III Natural Area is a beautiful Lancaster County park, located outside of Quarryville, PA. The central feature of the park is Stewart Run, a pristine wooded creek that tumbles down the ravine and bubbles over boulders. The program will include a hike along the trail adjacent to Stewart Run followed by time in the creek exploring creek wildlife. Join Naturalist Ann Strauss in appreciating the beauty of Theodore Parker III Natural Area and its cool waters. Shoes must be worn in the creek, no flip flops. Please meet at 244 Wesley Rd, Quarryville, PA 17566 – Lower gravel lot. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, June 26. \$3.00 per person.

Finding a Queen (Ant)**Sunday, June 28****1:00—2:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Forebay**

Learn about the fascinating world of ants with Naturalist Arianna Sindelar, then go searching for a queen. We will talk about the best time to find a queen ant and look up-close at any other ants we find. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, June 26. \$2.00 per person.

Full Moon Walk: Strawberry Moon**Monday, June 29****9:00—10:00 PM****All Ages****580 E. Farm View Dr.**

Take a walk with Senior Park Naturalist Lisa J. Sanchez under the full strawberry moon. The full moon will shine its light on the garden plot area and on the meadow as we walk to see and smell the things that grow this time of the year. Please meet at 580 E. Farm View Dr. Lancaster, PA 17602 (park in the gravel lot at the intersection of Farm View Dr and City View Dr.) Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, June 26. \$2.00 per person.

Night of Fireflies**Wednesday, July 1****8:30—9:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Parking Lot**

Fireflies in Pennsylvania are an incredible experience that people look forward to seeing every year in the Summer. There is nothing quite like being out in the open, surrounded by thousands of these beetles putting on the show of their lifetime. Join Naturalist Katie Kruza to learn a little bit more about these insects, what it takes to catch them, and head out into the park to experience it for yourself. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday June 30. \$2.00 per person.

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Sounds of Summer Scavenger Hunt/Bingo**Tuesday, July 7****7:00—8:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Forebay**

Join Naturalist Karen Waltemyer for a scavenger hunt using just sounds! Can you line up the sounds you hear in nature to make BINGO? What sounds will you hear as you venture into the woods and see the sun sink in the sky? Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, July 6. \$2.00 per person.

The Great Snail Race**Friday, July 10****6:30—7:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Forebay**

Come one, come all to the great snail race! Learn about the often-underappreciated snails with Naturalist Arianna Sindelar, then go on a short hike to find your snail champion. We will let the snails compete in a friendly and harmless snail race before letting them go back to their natural habitats. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, July 9. \$2.00 per person.

Bee Cob Houses**Saturday, July 11****2:30—3:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Classroom**

Join Naturalist Fisher Zban in mixing cob (a versatile building material made of clay, sand, and straw) to form mobile mini habitats for native bees! Everyone will leave with their own cob bricks to place where native pollinators can find attractive nesting and overwintering spots. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, July 10. \$4 per person.

Kindness and Pet Rocks**Sunday, July 12****2:00—3:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Classroom**

Kindness and pet rocks are fun and creative activities where we paint rocks with positive messages, uplifting words, nature scenes or animals. The goal is to spread kindness and joy throughout the community. After painting, the rocks are placed in public spaces for others to find. It's a simple way to brighten someone's day and share a smile. Participants will be able to make both rocks to share and ones to keep for themselves. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday July 10. \$3.00 per person.

Bottle Rockets**Saturday, July 18****2:30—4:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Classroom**

Come transform a 2-liter soda bottle into a flying rocket! Naturalist Ann Strauss will teach you to create rockets that we will launch from a bicycle-pump-powered launcher. Younger children require assistance from an adult to create their rocket. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, July 17. \$4.00 per person.

Reading Nature's Signs**Sunday, July 26****2:00—3:30 PM****Ages 8 and Up****Env. Center Forebay**

Reading the signs in nature can show you clues about the environment most people miss. Signs in nature can show you what animals are present, how healthy the water and air might be, and even how to navigate in certain directions. Participants will hike and look for these clues and learn a way to read the woods to make going outside even more exciting! Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, July 24. \$3.00 per person.

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To register by phone, call 717-295-2055.

Full Moon Walk: The Thunder Moon**Wednesday, July 29****9:00—10:00 PM****All Ages****580 E. Farm View Dr.**

The July thunder moon will guide us as we walk through the meadow to listen to all the nighttime sounds. Park Naturalist Fisher Zban will make some sounds to get the wild animals to talk back to us. This should be a great time to see the fireflies light up the sky. Please meet at 580 E. Farm View Dr. Lancaster, PA 17602 (park in the gravel lot at the intersection of Farm View Dr and City View Dr.) Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, July 28. \$2.00 per person.

Nature Hike**Saturday, August 1****6:30—7:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Parking Lot**

Escape the heat of a summer day by taking an evening hike with Naturalist Arianna Sindelar. We will go out and hike the Scout Trail to look for emerging insects, call for owls, and enjoy nature. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, July 31. \$2.00 per person.

Sink or Float in Mill Creek**Thursday, August 6****6:00—7:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Classroom**

There is nothing quite as successful as hands-on learning. With that in mind, Naturalist Ann Strauss will introduce the ideas of sinking, floating, density and what affects each. The group will hit the trail to collect test items that will 'sink' or 'float' in Mill Creek. As a final treat, we can all take some time to cool down with a wade in the creek. Please wear sturdy closed toe shoes for wading in the creek. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Wednesday, August 5. \$3.00 per person.

Mud Pots**Saturday, August 8****1:00—2:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Forebay**

Who doesn't like messing around in the mud in the hot Summer? Come with Naturalist Fisher Zban for a perfect excuse to use some mud by the creek to sculpt anything you'd like: a pinch pot, a little gnome, a fairy house, leaf prints, or whatever else you can imagine! Flex your creative muscles while learning some of the basics of clay sculpture and forming. All experience levels and ages are welcome, but don't forget to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, August 7. \$3 per person.

Toddler Tuesday: Bugs**Tuesday, August 11****10:00—10:45 AM****Up to Age 3****Env. Center Auditorium**

A hands-on program for our littlest ones, experience nature with Naturalist Arianna Sindelar through crafts, sensory activities, and so much more. This week we will look for bugs outside and look at mealworms up-close with a hand lens. This program is geared for toddlers up to age 3. Children over age 3 are welcome if accompanying younger siblings. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Monday, April 10. \$3.00 per child aged 12 months to 3 and \$1.00 per adult- infants are free.

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Stream Stomp 'n' Critter Catch**Saturday, August 15****11:00—12:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Parking Lot**

Cool off in Mill Creek while exploring the stream and the creatures that live there. Naturalist Ann Strauss will bring nets for catching critters and tubs we can use to study them. Learn the lifecycle of a mayfly, how to tell a male crayfish from a female, and more. Please wear secure closed toe shoes for wading in the creek. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, August 14. \$2.00 per person.

Forever Flowers**Sunday, August 16****1:00—2:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Classroom****Sunday, August 30**

Hold on to a last bit of summer with a press flower workshop. In this two-part program, we'll select and press flowers in session one (August 16), then mount them on paper suitable for framing in session two (August 30). Participants need to attend both classes but only register for the Aug 16th date. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, August 14. \$6.00 per person.

River Glass Windchimes**Saturday, August 22****10:00—11:00 AM****Ages 8 and Up****Env. Center Classroom**

The Conestoga River runs right through Lancaster County and into the Susquehanna. Along the way glass products find their way into the water way and become smoothed overtime making a "sea glass" of sorts. Join us in learning a little bit about our local water ways and watersheds while giving new life to waste in making a glass windchime. When completed, take it home and hang it somewhere that will catch your eye! Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, August 21. \$4.00 per person.

End of Summer Spider and Insect Hunt**Sunday, August 23****2:00—3:00 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Auditorium**

Come out to the edge of the woods at Central Park to see what insects and spiders can be found! Interesting catches will be looked at closely then released back into the wild where they were found. Check out interesting specimens including North America's largest moth! Learn all about these cool little critters that really make the whole world work! Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Friday, August 21. \$2 per person.

Monarchs: Masters of Migration**Wednesday, August 26****6:30—7:30 PM****All Ages****Env. Center Auditorium**

Monarch butterflies weigh less than a paper clip and travel thousands of miles from Canada to Mexico each year. This feat takes multiple generations and Monarchs across the county are at a GREAT risk for extinction. Sit in on a presentation with Naturalist Katie Kruza to learn about this magnificent insect and interact with and collect live monarch caterpillars and butterflies. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Tuesday, August 25. \$2.00 per person.

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The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Friday, August 28

2:00—3:00 PM

All Ages

Env. Center Classroom

Learn about the magical transformation of caterpillar to butterfly through Eric Carl’s beloved book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” followed by a hunt with nets and containers in hand, ready to find real caterpillars munching their way through leaves. If possible, we will also observe caterpillars, chrysalises, and butterflies up close in a butterfly enclosure here at the Environmental Center. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, August 27. \$2.00 per person.

Full Moon Walk: The Sturgeon Moon

Friday, August 28

8:00—9:00 PM

All Ages

548 Golf Rd.

Take a walk under the full sturgeon moon along the creek and the native wildflower meadow. Park Naturalist Ann Strauss will lead everyone safely on this adventure while teaching you about what is being heard and seen. Meet at 548 Golf Rd. Lancaster, PA 17602. Register online or call (717) 295-2055 to register and prepay by noon on Thursday, August 27. \$2.00 per person.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

If Park staff cancels a program, a full credit/refund will be provided. Should the customer withdraw from the program fifteen (15) or more calendar days prior to the scheduled program, a full credit/refund less a 10% processing fee, will be provided. Should the customer withdraw from the program eight (8) - fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled program, a 50% credit/refund will be issued. No fee(s) will be credited/refunded if the customer withdraws from the program seven (7) or less days before the scheduled program. ***All refunds less than \$10 will be credited to the customer's account - no check or credit card refunds will be issued for refunds less than \$10***

Smile! You may be captured by our camera!

We occasionally take photos of participants in our programs for promotional purposes.

By participating, you are granting the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation and its agents the right to use and publish images of you or your minor child. If you prefer not to be photographed, please notify the instructor.

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