

FEBRUARY 2026

SENECA CREEK STATE PARK

11950 Clopper Road | Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
 301-924-2127 scspnaturalist@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 25	January 26	January 27 Nature Crafts – Groundhog Day 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	January 28	January 29	January 30 Frost Bite Hike 2 p.m.	January 31 Sugar Maple Tapping Demonstration 2:30 p.m.
1	2	3 Nature Crafts – Winter Scene Paper Craft 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	4	5 Let It Snow Hike 2:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9	10 Nature Crafts – Valentine’s Day 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Reptile Feeding 12:30 p.m.	11	12 Let It Snow Hike 2:30 p.m.	13	14
15	16 School’s Out – Try a New Trail 2:30 p.m.	17 Nature Crafts – Constellations 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	18	19 Let It Snow Hike 2:30 p.m.	20	21 Miles for Maryland Challenge Hike 2 p.m.
22 Lake Frank Eagle Nest Watch Hikes 2:30 p.m.	23	24 <i>Nature Crafts Cancelled</i>	25	26 Let It Snow Hike 2:30 p.m.	27	28

Dress for the weather and activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Please call (301) 924-2127 or email scspnaturalist@gmail.com for more info.

For photos & more, visit: [Friends of Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Park](#) or [Maryland State Parks](#) Facebook page.

All events are all ages and free unless otherwise noted. Be advised some programs have applicable entrance fees.

January Programs:

Nature Crafts: Groundhog Day

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

Create your own pop-up groundhog – will he see his shadow and predict six more weeks of winter?

Frost Bite Hikes

2 p.m. at the Park Office

Bundle up and join the Frequent Hikers group for a slow-paced loop hike. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring plenty of water.

Sugar Maple Tapping Demonstration

2:30 p.m. at the Park Office

See how easy it is to tap a maple tree for sap. Learn how many different trees can produce sweet syrup. Watch the March calendar for the sap boiling demonstration – with a sweet treat for everyone!

February Programs:

Nature Crafts: Winter Scene Paper Craft

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

It is Maryland – February 2 could be a freezing winter day or a warm hint of spring. Who knows? We'll pretend we do and create our own winter scene to take home. Plus, because it's Groundhog Day, the Groundhog craft will be available again if you missed it last week.

Let It Snow Hikes

2:30 p.m. at Chickadee Picnic Area

Montgomery County received 25 inches of snow last winter; February averages 8 inches – and we love to hike in the snow! Join us as we explore snowy trails, search for animal tracks, examine insect galls, and admire the beauty of bare trees. As long as the park remains open, the hike will go on. Please dress for the weather and bring hiking poles if needed. Hikes will follow park trails and roads, covering approximately 1.5 to 3 miles round trip. A perfect opportunity to add to your *Miles for Maryland* tally.

Nature Crafts: Valentine's Day

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office

Valentine's Day is the perfect reason to show someone you care! Join us to make three-dimensional pop-up tulip cards – perfect for gifting.

Reptile Feeding

12:30 p.m. at the Park Office

Join our resident corn snake, box turtle, and diamondback terrapin for lunch! Learn some fun facts about Maryland reptiles.

Nature Crafts: Constellations

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office

Nights are getting longer, and there are plenty of stars to enjoy before bedtime. Learn about the pictures stars make in the night sky, then create your own constellation craft to hang above your bed.

School's Out – Try a New Trail

2:30 p.m. at the Trailhead at the corner of Wightman and Brink Roads, Great Seneca Stream Valley Park

[Click here to find the meeting location on Google Maps](#)

Join a volunteer ranger to explore a relatively new trail in Montgomery County Parks. The Goshen Branch Trail branches off the Seneca Greenway Trail and follows Goshen Branch for approximately 1.3 miles. This out-and-back hike will total about 3 miles round trip. The upper section of the trail was part of a stream restoration project designed to create wetlands — see how it has evolved over the years. Wildlife seen in this area includes beavers, muskrats, bald eagles, and a wide variety of woodpeckers. Please note that there are no restrooms at this location. Parking is available along the wide shoulders of Wightman Road just before the three-way stop sign.

Lake Frank Eagle Nest Watch Hike

2:30 p.m. at Meadowside Nature Center

5100 Meadowside Lane Rockville, MD

[Click here to find the meeting location on Google Maps](#)

Join us for a scenic 2.5-mile round-trip hike through this beautiful Montgomery County park, home to an active bald eagle nest. Along the way, we may spot eagles and observe a nearby beaver lodge.

Wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring water, and consider binoculars for a closer view of wildlife. Please note that restroom facilities are limited to port-a-johns at this location.

Miles for Maryland Challenge Hike

2 p.m. at Quail Ridge Picnic Area

Join us for a monthly guided hike series to explore Seneca Creek State Park while building toward your *2026 Miles for Maryland Trail Challenge* goals! Each hike explores park trails at a relaxed pace suitable for all ages. Hike distances will be adjusted to group interest and ability, ranging from 2 - 5 miles. Please bring plenty of drinking water and dress for the weather.

Programs subject to change or cancellation

Please check our website for up-to-date program info