

OCTOBER

MONTHLY MOSAIC



Berkshire Natural
Resources Council

FALL FOLIAGE REACHES ITS PEAK

Berkshire County forests blaze with red maples, golden beeches, and russet oaks, drawing visitors from across the world.

BLACK BEARS FORAGING

Bears spend October in hyperphagia--natural, intense feeding period--eating up to 20,000 calories a day to prepare for winter. You may notice dug-up logs, turned-over rocks, or tracks near orchards and oak stands.

LATE BLOOMER: WITCH HAZEL

Just as most flowers fade, witch hazel bursts into yellow, ribbon-like blooms that can last into November.

WOOLLY BEAR CATERpillARS ON THE MOVE

These fuzzy caterpillars often cross trails and roads in October, searching for winter shelter.

EXPLORE

Visit **Hoosac Range** in North Adams or **Mahanna Cobble** in Pittsfield for sweeping views of Berkshire hillsides.

FUN FACT

Bears can gain 3–4 pounds a day this time of year! Follow along with “Fat Bear Week” on www.explore.org

EXPLORE

Look for witch hazel along forest edges and stream beds in places like **Housatonic Flats** in Great Barrington and **Old Mill Trail** in Hinsdale/Dalton

FUN FACT

Folklore says the width of the rust-colored band predicts winter's harshness—but really, it reflects the caterpillar's age and growth

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