Field Trip Options in the Central Pennsylvania Region

Wildwood Park
100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.wildwoodlake.org/
Wildlife abounds at this fabulous park in the heart of the city. This gem of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation system is home to the Olewine Nature Center, a three-mile loop trail, two boardwalk trails, and a portion of the Capital Area Greenbelt. It’s a perfect spot for birdwatching, enjoying a nature walk, or wandering through the nature center. Check out the year-round schedule of programs led by their top-notch staff of naturalists. Enjoy!

Five Senses Garden
North Harrisburg Street/PA 441 (between Mall Road and Pelton Avenue), Harrisburg
caga.org/the-trail/garden/
Tucked into three acres along the Capital Area Greenbelt, this magical place is just a hop, skip and a jump from just about anywhere in Harrisburg. Located just behind the Harrisburg Mall on North Harrisburg Street/PA-441 (between Mall Road and Pelton Avenue), this place is a must to experience this summer. With walking paths that take you on a journey that is both calming for the soul and invigorating to the senses, this is the best kept secret in Harrisburg.

Trout Run Nature Preserve
2200-2256 Stumpstown Rd, Mechanicsburg
www.appalachianaudubon.org/hDocs/TroutRunSummary.pdf
Trout Run Nature Preserve is a 21.4 acre spring-fed wetland and upland ecosystem in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, protected and owned by the Appalachian Audubon Society. It is home to many different kinds of birds, plants and wildlife - a green oasis in an increasingly developed area. The wetland has been classified as an "exceptional value" site, due to the confirmed nesting years ago of a threatened Pennsylvania bird species - the sedge wren, and the sightings of two other "species of concern" in PA, the Least Bittern and the Dickcissel.
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
1700 Hawk Mountain Rd., Kempton, PA 19529
www.hawkmountain.org/
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is located along the Kittatinny Ridge. It features an 8-mile trail system, multiple scenic overlooks, a Native Plant Garden, educational programs, a nature center and gift shop. It is a must-visit for raptor-viewing, especially in October when they are at peak migration. Most trails are considered rugged and include some scrambling. An Accessible Trail is located near the South Lookout ensuring access for all.

Waggoner’s Gap Hawkwatch
PA-74 & Waggoners Gap Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013
pa.audubon.org/conservation/waggoners-gap-hawkwatch
This 125-acre hawk watching rock outcrop is situated on the Kittatinny Ridge, also known as Blue Mountain. Waggoner’s Gap has one of the largest concentrations of raptors in the U.S., with 15,000 to 20,000 raptors passing through every year. It is one of the best sites along the Kittatinny Ridge, in the East to see Golden Eagles, and in PA to watch the fall hawk migration.

Chestnut Grove Natural Area
43 Chestnut Grove Rd, Conestoga, PA 17516
www.lcswma.org/waste-gives-back/public-recreation/
The 170-acre Chestnut Grove Natural Area was established in 2015 by the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority. It is home to wetlands, grasslands, wildflower meadows, and 4.5 miles of hiking trails.

Conejohela Flats
via Shank’s Mare Outfitters
2092 Long Level Road Wrightsville, PA 17368
https://www.shanksmare.com/index.htm
The Conejohela Flats is a series of brushy islands and mud flats in the Lake Clarke area of the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County. The mud flats are a result of the Safe Harbor Dam upriver, one of three dams along this portion of the river. The area is a birding paradise with a wide range of shore birds, songbirds, raptors, and more. A small park is easily accessible with public parking. This is also a put-in for kayaks and canoes.