



# May 2014 Schedule of Programs and Activities

The following programs and activities are offered at our four Metro Parks Nature and Outdoor Centers. Almost all are free of charge, but advance registration may be required. Please call the center offering the specific program for more detailed information.

Beaman Park Nature Center	Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	Warner Park Nature Center
5911 Old Hickory Blvd. Ashland City, TN 37015 <b>(615) 862-8580</b> Tues-Fri, 12:00-4:00pm Sat, 9:00am-4:00pm	4187 Old Hickory Blvd. Nashville, TN 37218 <b>(615) 862-4187</b> Tues-Fri, 12:00-4:00pm Sat, 9:00am-4:00pm	1900 Davidson St. Nashville, TN 37206 <b>(615) 862-8539</b> Tues/Thurs/Sat, 9:00am-4:00pm Wed/Fri, 12:00-4:00pm	7311 Highway 100 Nashville, TN 37221 <b>(615) 352-6299</b> Tues-Sat, 9:00am-4:00pm
<b>Spring Bird Hike</b>	Friday, May 2 8-10 a.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age Level: Adults To register call: (615) 352-6299	Bring your binoculars and take a hike in the woods, fields, and forests of Warner Parks. We'll look for spring migrants, Tennessee's permanent residents, and other birds.  Leaders: Rachel Anderson and Ethel Kawamura
<b>Spring Has Sprung! Family Hike</b>	Friday, May 2 4-6 p.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: 6 & up Registration opens April 17 To register call: (615) 352-6299	Take a hike to explore all that spring has to offer—flowers, trees, birds and more! We'll enjoy a late afternoon through forest, field, and along the creek.  Leaders: Nature Center Staff
<b>Star Party</b>	Friday, May 2 8:30-10:30 p.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 862-4187	Join members of Nashville's Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society for star-gazing. Many telescopes and other displays will be available for up-close star viewing.
<b>Organic Gardening</b>	Saturday, May 3 9-10:30 a.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: Adults To register call: (615) 352-6299	It's time to plant the summer garden! Learn all about organic gardening techniques, composting, and how to grow beautiful vegetables and flowers organically.  Leader: Deb Beazley
<b>Cumberland River Paddlefest</b>	Saturday, May 3 9:00 am-5:00 pm Old Hickory Park	All ages For more information call: (615) 862-8539	Join Metro Parks and other paddling/outdoor organizations for a fun day on Old Hickory Lake. We will be offering short paddling trips, boat demo, and basic skills clinics as well as discussing our upcoming public paddling trips around the Nashville area. Program will take place at Old Hickory Park.
<b>Tai Chi on the Deck</b>	Every Saturday 11:30am-12:30pm Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: Adults Cost: \$6 per person To register call: (615) 862-8580	Slow down, relax, and renew by practicing the ancient art of Tai Chi Qigong taught by certified instructor Jani Kendy. Sponsored by Friends of Beaman Park. NO TAI CHI JUNE 14.

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<b>“daVinci Day” at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center</b>	Saturday, May 3 12:00-3:00 pm Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	All ages No registration required	Drop by the nature center to learn more about the “Renaissance Man” known as Leonardo da Vinci. We will have some fun interactive stations set up where you can see if you have similar skills as Leonardo; Botanist, Geologist, Artist, Inventor, Musician, Cartographer, and Writer!
<b>Theresa Asher Photography Exhibit</b>	Saturday, May 3 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: All ages No registration required	Nature photographer Theresa Asher shares a selection of her beautiful photos of nature, including many from Beaman Park. Join us for a reception to open the exhibit and meet the artist.
<b>Starting Your Organic Garden</b>	Saturday, May 3 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 862-4187	Interested in growing fresh vegetables in your backyard, but not sure how to get started? Come learn how fun and easy it is to garden without harmful chemicals!  Leader: Kevin Sykes
<b>Spring Birding at Bells Bend Park</b>	Friday, May 9 7:00 a.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: 13+ To register call: (615) 862-4187	Grab your binoculars and join a TN Master Naturalist for a morning of spring migration birding. Target species will be grassland birds.  Leader: Cyndi Routledge
<b>Buzz About Bees</b>	Friday, May 9 10-11:30 a.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: 6-12 yrs Registration opens April 24 To register call: (615) 352-6299	Spring is the time the bees are buzzing. Learn about the queen bee, worker bees, and who hangs out in the drone zone. Let’s explore the lives of these mesmerizing insects.  Leader: Melissa Donahue
<b>Family Night Hike</b>	Friday, May 9 7:30-9:30 pm Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 862-8580	Being in the woods at night might seem scary, but it can also be exciting if you’re in a safe environment.  Leader: Chris Guerin
<b>Spring Bird Count</b>	Saturday, May 10 7:00 am Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: 13+ To register and for exact location call: (615) 862-8580	Each spring members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (T.O.S.) conduct a bird count. You don’t have to be an expert to lend your eyes and ears to this very worthy endeavor. Leaders: Nashville Chapter of T.O.S.
<b>Spring Bird Count</b>	Saturday, May 10 7:00 a.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: 13+ To register call: (615) 862-4187	Each spring members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (T.O.S.) conduct a bird count. You don’t have to be an expert to lend your eyes and ears to this worthy endeavor. Leaders: Nashville Chapter of T.O.S.
<b>Spring Saturdays: Investigating Insects</b>	Saturday, May 10 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: All ages Registration not required	Naturalists will be available to aide in the search for insects at the pond, in the organic garden, under a log in the forest, and on flowers in the meadow. We’ll provide collection and observation tools and field guides. Leader: Heather Gallagher

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<b>Disc Golf Family Outing</b>	Saturday, May 10 10:30-11:30 am Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	Ages 6+ years To register call: (615) 862-8539	Come learn about Disc Golf (rules, equipment, technique) and the new 18 hole course in Shelby Park, located less than a mile from SBNC. Free disc rental for participants. Leader: John Michael Cassidy (JMC)
<b>Off-Trail Hike</b>	Saturday, May 10 1:00-3:00 pm Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: 13+ To register call: (615) 862-8580	Take a hike into the less-traveled parts of the park as naturalist Jeremy Childs leads us into the back hollows, hidden gullies, and far ridges in search of old trees, moonshine stills, and scenic vistas.
<b>An Opening Reception for "Pieces of Shelby" An Exhibit by Barry Noland</b>	Opening reception: Saturday, May 10 6:00-8:00 pm  Exhibit will run for three months	All ages No registration required	Originally from Cairo, IL, Barry Noland has been a Nashvillian since 1980. He is self-trained and has been exhibiting since 2003. In 2012, this collection of alternate perspective nature photography in black & white taken at East Nashville's Shelby Park/Shelby Bottoms Greenway was selected by Arts at the Airport to be exhibited at the Nashville International Airport. This exhibit now comes to Shelby Bottoms Nature Center.
<b>Evening Bike Ride: Full Flower Moon</b>	Wed, May 14 8:00-9:30 pm Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	Ages 14+ To register call: (615) 862-8539 Free bike rental available if needed.	We will ride along the Shelby Bottoms Greenway area and look/listen for active wildlife in the moonlight.  Leader: John Michael Cassidy (JMC)
<b>Bike to Work Day</b>	Friday, May 16 Donelson, 5:30 am Inglewood, 6:45 am Ending at Public Square at 7:45 am	All ages To register and for information call: (615) 862-8539	Join us for a morning commute to Public Square and we can help with a bike rental if needed. Free Bagels and Coffee before Mayor Dean's address. Two Meet-Up Points will ride through Shelby Bottoms: Donelson, Stones River Greenway- Kohl's at 5:30am; Inglewood, Shelby Bottoms-Moss Rose Ln at 6:45am
<b>The Art of Being "Kind of" Quiet</b>	Friday, May 16 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: 3-5 years Registration opens May 1 To register call: (615) 352-6299	How different can your nature experience be when you try to be still and quiet? Let's try it out! We'll test it in the meadow and at the bird blind, but don't worry; there will be plenty of action in between! Leader: Rachel Koch
<b>Endangered Species Day: What's Happening in Our Home State</b>	Friday, May 16 6:30-8 pm Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	All ages To register call: (615) 862-8539 Refreshments will be served	Join us for an important and timely discussion of the endangered flora and fauna of Tennessee with two of our state's most respected conservation professionals; Bill Reeves, TWRA's Chief of Biodiversity, and Roger McCoy, TDEC's Director of Natural Areas.
<b>Full Moon Pickin' Party</b>	Friday, May 16 7-11 p.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: All Ages  Advance tickets may be purchased through <a href="http://NowPlayingNashville.com">NowPlayingNashville.com</a>	Join musicians and music lovers for an evening of bluegrass, delicious food and drink, and FUN for the entire family! All proceeds help to protect and preserve the Warner Parks. Coordinators: Paul Fowler and Patrice Nelson
<b>Bells Bend Night Hike</b>	Friday, May 16 7:30-9:00 p.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 862-4187	Come explore the park after dark with a naturalist. We will look for and listen to the animals of the night.  Leader: Chris Guerin

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<b>Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping</b>	Saturday, May 17 9-11 a.m. Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: Adults Registration opens May 2 To register call: (615) 352-6299	Are you curious about starting a beehive in your yard? Would you like a little more information? Join us for an introduction to residential beekeeping.  Leaders: D'ganit Eldar, Melissa Donahue
<b>Beetlemania!!</b>	Saturday, May 17 10:00-11:00 a.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: 6-12 yr. To register call: (615) 862-4187	<i>"Love, love me do. You know, I love you."</i> With 350,000 species, beetles come in all shapes and sizes (and not just the ones from Liverpool). Come explore the world of these diverse creatures. Leader: Lizzie Wright
<b>Nature Painting: Night Series</b>	Thursday, May 22 6:00-8:00 pm Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	Ages 21+ To register call: (615) 862-8539	Join us for this popular series that allows "big kids" to come to the nature center to let their creative side soar! This class will be led by our special guest, artist Courtney Johnson, as she gives us helpful tips on creating abstract landscapes. Sign up today, as this one will fill up fast!
<b>Spring Birding at Bells Bend Park</b>	Friday, May 23 7:00 a.m. Bells Bend Outdoor Center	Age level: 13+ To register call: (615) 862-4187	Grab your binoculars and join a TN Master naturalist for a morning of spring migration birding. Target species will be grassland birds. Leader: Cyndi Routledge
<b>Overnight* Meteor Watch</b>	Friday, May 23 or Saturday, May 24 Warner Park Nature Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 352-6299	Join Naturalists and local astronomers watching for meteors from Comet Linear in the northern sky at the Nature Center. <i>*Exact time and date to be announced 2 weeks before program.</i> Leaders: Heather Gallagher, Nature Center Staff
<b>Wildflower Hike</b>	Saturday, May 24 9:30-11:00 am Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: 13+ To register call: (615) 862-8580	Beaman Park contains a bounty of wildflowers. Join a naturalist as we hike along the park's trails looking for these ephemerals.  Leader: LinnAnn Welch
<b>Picking and Picnicking</b>	Saturday, May 24 12:00-2:00 pm Shelby Bottoms Nature Center	All ages To register call: (615) 862-8539	Pack your picnic basket and bring a string instrument (if you want to "pick") or just come and relax while enjoying the music! If the weather is bad, we will move the festivities indoors.
<b>Nature Hike at Beaman Park</b>	Friday, May 30 1:00-2:00 pm Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: 6-12 yr. To register call: (615) 862-8580	Join a biologist to search for insects, snakes, birds, and other cool creatures along the trails and creek.  Leader: Lizzie Wright
<b>Backpacking 101</b>	Saturday, May 31 9:00-11:00 am Beaman Park Nature Center	Age level: All ages To register call: (615) 862-8580	Learn the basics of backcountry hiking and camping, including tips on safety, gear, food, clothing, and more. Park naturalist, Jeremy Childs has made all the mistakes so you don't have to! Bring your boots for a hike after the program.

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**Canoe and Kayak  
the Duck River**

Saturday May 31st  
9:00am-3:00pm  
Metro Parks  
Outdoor Recreation  
Program

Ages: 10+  
Cost \$25  
To register, call  
Neel Deshpande at  
(615) 429-3549

Join Metro Parks Outdoor Recreation on a paddle down the Duck River, one of the most biologically diverse rivers in North America. This trip is designed to introduce participants to the sport of paddling in a safe and fun environment!  
Leader: Neel Deshpande

**Spring Saturdays:  
Learn Your Trees**

Saturday, May 31  
9:30 a.m.-  
3 p.m.  
Warner Park  
Nature Center

Age level: Adults  
Registration not  
required

Hike a tree trail (we have 3 trails with trees labeled!), check out our leaf and seed collection, and learn to identify the trees in your own yard through activities and literature at the Nature Center.  
Leader: Heather Gallagher

**Diggin' for Worms!**

Saturday, May 31  
10:00-11:00 am  
Shelby Bottoms  
Nature Center

All ages  
To register call:  
(615) 862-8539

Join our naturalists for our first SUMMER program! We'll go digging' around in the mud with shovels and sticks, and our fingers too, to find wriggling' ol' slimy worms! We'll learn a little bit about how cool they are too! Wear clothes to get dirty!  
Leaders: Sarah Gilmore, Kenny Carmichael, Kristen Hay

Metro Parks does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. For accessibility concerns, please call 615-862-8400.

**Metropolitan Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation**

P.O. Box 196340 Nashville, TN 37219

Tommy Lynch, Director

Karl Dean, Mayor

