Three prominent Nashvillians shared in the vision that produced the Warner Parks. The first of these, Colonel Luke Lea, deeded the initial 868 acres of land to the city of Nashville in 1927. His father-in-law, Percy Warner, was then Chairman of the Park Board and had a vision for the preservation of a natural area park for the city in the spirit of the great national parks. Following Percy Warner’s unexpected death later that same year, Lea successfully petitioned the board to name the new park after his father-in-law. Lea’s contributions were also recognized by the naming of Luke Lea Heights, one of the highest points in the park. Edwin Warner was named to the Park Board following his brother Percy’s death and subsequently became Chairman. Edwin Warner was the driving force behind the expansion and development of the parks, including personally providing the funding for the purchase of a significant portion of the land west of Percy Warner Park and across Old Hickory Boulevard. In 1937 the Park Board designated all of that land as Edwin Warner Park. Now over 3,000 acres in size, the Warner Parks are located in the Nashville Basin, defined by the hills, ridges and valleys that are remnants of the surrounding Highland Rim. The rock is primarily limestone and many moss covered outcroppings may be found throughout the parks. Most of the land here is covered by rich, deciduous forest, characterized by oak-hickory and beech-maple forest types. The parks are a protected sanctuary for native flora and fauna; approximately one hundred tree and shrub species, over four hundred wildflowers, and two hundred fungi have been identified. Visitors can enjoy listening and looking for close to two hundred species of birds, thirty different mammals, and about forty different types of reptiles and amphibians. This urban forest is a unique treasure in Nashville because it provides a peaceful refuge for relaxation, reflection, wildlife viewing, hiking, bicycling, running and many other responsible recreational pursuits. It also serves as a place to encourage appreciation and respect for the natural world.
Edwin Warner Park

The Burch Reserve

In 2004, continuing the legacy of Luke Lea and brothers Percy and Edwin Warner, Friends of Warner Parks embraced an opportunity to acquire additional property to become park land. In partnership with Metro Parks and thanks to the generosity of the Lucius E. Burch III family and others, this extraordinary initiative significantly contributed to the ultimate addition of nearly 500 scenic acres to Edwin Warner Park. This land will provide protected natural habitats, undisturbed vistas and recreation opportunities for generations to come.

The Burch Reserve is a unique and fragile natural area that has special regulation in place to protect it for generations to come. For this reason the Burch Reserve is open from Dawn to Dusk, and Dogs and Trail Running are prohibited.

VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Warner Parks contain earthen trails, paved multi-use trails, roads, horse trails, and mountain bike trails. Please show courtesy to other trail users and follow the rules of your trail type.

- Do not remove plants or disturb wildlife
- Pack out trash
- Stay on designated trails – shortcuts cause damage
- Keep pets on a leash not exceeding six feet
- Keep to the right, pass on the left
- Give audible signal when passing
- Cyclists may yield to pedestrians
- Pedestrians are prohibited on horse and mountain bike trails

PROHIBITED

- Drugs and Alcohol
- Hunting

SAFETY

- Enjoy the Park with a friend
- Leave valuables at home
- Take car keys with you

EMERGENCY

- In case of emergency: 911
- Metro Police: 615-862-8600

PARK HOURS: Dawn - 11 p.m

DEDICATION:

The Warner Parks Map redesign is dedicated in honor of Tandy B. Nicholson, Jr. so that more people may experience wonder and tranquility in nature, just as he did. Thank you to the generous donations from his family and friends for making this possible.

RETURN - REUSE - RECYCLE

Help conserve trail maps! Please consider returning your gently used map to the Nature Center front desk or trailhead box for others to use.