



**WARNER PARK  
NATURE CENTER**  
2020 Annual Report



# 2020 **An Unprecedented Year**

*of challenges, opportunities and accomplishments*



## The Place, The Programs, The People

Warner Park Nature Center staff have experienced many challenges - from floods, lightning strikes, budget cuts, vandalism and more - but nothing preceded the COVID-19 pandemic to assist us in navigating 2020.

Despite a 7-week stay at home order, re-opening (and closing) with new safety protocols and constantly shifting program procedures, the naturalists, support staff, interns and volunteers remained engaged throughout the year. This amazing group never lost their passion and enthusiasm for our mission and continued to provide high quality educational programming and outstanding visitor services while maintaining the natural and physical features of the nature center campus.

And through it all, we learned the Nature Center and Warner Parks were essential places of respite and restoration for so many visitors. We celebrate the creativity and energy of our staff as we share the successes of this year.

# The Place

Warner Parks and the Nature Center campus saw unprecedented use in 2020, providing a much-needed sanctuary and respite for visitors.

Several improvements and additions were successfully completed on site, and the facilities and grounds were well maintained all year.



Completed renovation of the Milbrey Warner Waller Library and dedicated the **Sandy Bivens BIRD Education Center**.

Installed the **improved native landscaping and water feature** and dedicated the Sandy Bivens BIRD Garden.

Installed and activated **the MOTUS receiver station**, the first dual-frequency station in Tennessee.

Added **cedar swings and adirondack chairs** for informal gatherings, reflection and family time.

Eagle Scouts completed 6 projects including a **Decomposer Education Station, two Invasive Plant Removal sessions, a dozen new Barricades and a Golf Cart Storage Shed**.

Re-opened **the Learning Center museum** to the public following safety protocols.

Enhanced and maintained the **organic garden, fern & wildflower gardens, teaching ponds, bird blind, storywalk trail and nature play areas** for visitors to enjoy year-round on their own.





# The Programs

Educational programs are at the center of our mission, and the year began with a robust calendar of public events, school field trips and summer enrichment activities.

While these plans were thwarted by the pandemic, the Nature Center team worked every day to engage patrons through social media posts, virtual programs and events, and structuring safe, in-person experiences.

Find Your Inner Naturalist (FYI) adult learning series provided 9 engaging presentations led in-person and virtually by regional experts.

Special events went virtual and engaged thousands of patrons with livestream and post-recorded videos during the Spring City Nature Challenge, TN Star Party and Hummingbird Celebration.

School field trips and labs reached 525 students through in-person explorations (Jan-Mar) and engaged 1,500 through 20 online videos and curriculum (Aug-Dec)

Family and youth programs reached more than 5,000 patrons through safe, in-person hikes, on-your-own iSpy and exploration kit activities, monthly Nature Club meetings and 8 virtual nature webinars.

Community Center youth engaged in after-school (Jan-Mar) and weekend (Sept-Dec) family nature explorations.

More than 160,000 patrons engaged through social and digital media content including the e-newsletter, new Nuthatch Notes blog and 34 educational YouTube videos.



# The People

Successes were transformed from challenges because of the passionate people who showed up every day to support the nature center and its mission.

WPNC's dedicated staff, volunteers, interns and partners were the glue that preserved and sustained the place and programs throughout 2020.



## 2020 Warner Park Nature Center Staff

Vera Roberts, Nature Center Manager (FT)

Heather Gallagher, Naturalist III (FT)

Rachel Anderson, Naturalist III (FT)

Laura Cook, BIRD Program Coordinator (FT)

Sandy Bivens, Bird Education & Research Coordinator (PT)

Kim Bailey, Naturalist II (PT)

Melissa Donahue, Naturalist II (PT)

Rebecca Dandekar, Naturalist I (PT)

Will Chamberlain, Naturalist I (PT)

Betty Krogman, Urban Naturalist (PT)

Kassie White, Visitor Services Specialist (PT)

Jed Hanserd, Custodian (FT)

## 2020 Seasonal Staff and Interns

Chris Hussey, SWEAT Team Crew Leader

Joe Bailey, SWEAT Team Member

Daniel Bojic, SWEAT Team Member

Eleanore Law, SWEAT Team Member

Kristie Okimoto, SWEAT Team Member

Perri Haga, BIRD Intern (Lipscomb University)

Samantha Oliveras-Mejia, Summer Intern (Haverford College)

Bekah Caldwell, Fall Intern

Eleanor Koch, Fall Intern

Eleanore Law, Seasonal Naturalist

Black=Metro Funded Blue=FOWP Funded Green=other source

**And 1,227 Volunteers provided  
4,957 hours of their time!**



# B.I.R.D.

16 Research Projects

50 Volunteers

2,983 Visitors engaged during 53 banding sessions

# Programs

2,034 Field Trip Participants

9,925 Program Participants

5,543 Virtual Participants



## The Stats

# Visitors

202 Days open serving 21,414 visitors

1,679 Total programs serving 40,143 participants

# Social Media

6900 Facebook, Instagram and Twitter followers

10 new Nuthatch Notes Blog posts

166,600 media views

# Partners & Supporters



Warner Park Nature Center  
7311 Hwy 100 Nashville, TN 37221  
[wpnc.nashville.gov](http://wpnc.nashville.gov)



Atticus Trust  
Autozone Dome/Pink Palace Museum  
Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Assoc.  
Belmont University Biology Dept.  
Bays Mountain Park  
Ben Armistead  
Boy Scouts – Middle TN Council  
Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Society  
Cumberland River Compact  
Dyer Observatory  
Encore Construction  
Fred Moore  
Garden Club of Nashville  
Graham Gerdeman  
GroWild Native Plant Nursery  
Hodgson-Douglas Landscape Architects  
Invasive Plant Control, Inc.  
Lipscomb University Biology Dept.  
Metro-Nashville Public Schools  
The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee  
North American Butterfly Association  
Nashville Emerald Ash Borer Working Group  
Nashville Food Waste Initiative/ELI  
Nashville Public Library – Bellevue Branch  
Nashville Public Works  
Radnor-2-River  
Socket Nashville – Metro General Services  
Susan O'Neill  
Southeastern Avian Research  
Tara Armistead Landscape Architect  
Tennessee Tech, Cookeville  
Tennessee Ornithological Society, Nashville Chapter  
The Wood Thrush Shop  
Turnip Green Creative Reuse  
University School of Nashville  
Urban Green Lab  
Vanderbilt University Biology Dept.  
Vanderbilt University Spanish Dept.:  
Maria Paz Pentaine & Victoria A. Burrus