Spring Schedule 2022

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER

7311 Highway 100
Nashville, Tennessee 37221
615-862-8555
615-880-2282 (fax)
wpnc@nashville.gov
wpnc.nashville.gov

Warner Park Nature Center is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Percy and Edwin Warner Parks are open 7 days a week from sunrise to 11 p.m.

METRO PARKS NASHVILLE

FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS

Contact the Nature Center for ADA accommodations

Spring is in the Air

Can you sense it? Winter's grip is slowly easing and the first signs of spring are wisping through the trees. The birds are flitting around excitedly, lush green shoots are beginning to push their way above the dormant ground, and salamanders are rippling the surface of the ponds.

With the awakening of all living things in the park, we too are preparing a multitude of fun activities and educational opportunities for all ages.

Choose from a plethora of events including workshops and webinars, spring break programs, wildflower walks, bird hikes, and on your own activities. We are certain there is something for you!

All of the details can be found inside. Remember to register by emailing WPNC@Nashville.gov or calling the Warner Park Nature Center at 615-862-8555.

We look forward to seeing you soon as we celebrate the new season!

Explore with a Naturalist on Saturdays

Drop by the Nature Center between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each Saturday to explore nature with a Naturalist! This outdoor exploration will focus on discovery, observation, and connecting with nature. The themes will be chosen the week prior.

March 5	April 2	May 7
March 12	April 9	May 14
March 19	April 16	May 21
March 26	April 23	May 28

March

Weed Wrangle	Saturday, March 5 9 a.m.-noon	Age level: 18+ (13+ with an adult) Registration information at the website listed below:	Protect native species and combat the spread of invasive plants. Learn how these plants threaten native ecosystems and get your hands dirty working to restore the natural integrity of our woods. Leader: Paul Fowler
FYI Naturalist Webinar: Bluebirds, an American Success Story	Tuesday, March 8 6 p.m. (on Zoom)	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens February 22	In the mid-20th century bluebird populations plummeted by up to 90%, but one simple idea has helped bluebirds thrive again. Learn how you can be a part of this truly American success story! Beautiful photos will tell the bluebird's story from egg to adult. Presenter: Don Hazel, TN Bluebird Society
Early Spring Wildflower Walk	Friday, March 11 10-11:30 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens February 25	Search for early spring wildflowers on this saunter along the trail. Spring Beauty, Toothwort, Dutchman's Breeches, and Trillium are just a few of the flowers we may discover. Leader: Vera Roberts
Winter's End Evening Hike and Picnic	Friday, March 11 5:30-7 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens February 24	Pack up a picnic dinner and join us on a family-friendly hike, where our destination will be a hidden campfire on the hill. What wonderful evening creatures will we see or hear as we snack on s'mores? Leaders: Rachel Anderson and Jessa Tremblay

www.warnerparks.org/events-to-attend/upcoming-events

Register for events by emailing WPNC@Nashville.gov or calling 615-862-8555.

Free Programs during Metro School's Spring Break

The Nature Center is ready to celebrate spring with you! Registration is required for some programs.

Secrets Under the Surface	Tuesday, March 15 Drop by between 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: All ages Registration not required	Take a peek underground. Will we find bats and bugs, caves and caverns, fantastic formations, or ancient art? Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers
Explore Vaughn's Gap Cave	Tuesday, March 15 1-4 p.m.	Age level: 12+ Registration opens March 1	Take a tour of Warner Parks' only cave to learn more about the secret world underground. Leader: Christine Walkey, SE Cave Conservancy, Inc., Paul Fowler, and Nature Center Staff
The 2022 Spring Nature Olympics	Wednesday, March 16 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 3	Families, get ready to compete in the Spring Nature Olympics! Fort building, knot tying, fire starting, and the animal obstacle course are just some of the events you'll discover. Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers
Searching for Wee Folk on St. Paddy's Day	Thursday, March 17 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 4	Don your green on St. Patrick's Day to search for Wee Folk in the forest. Look for the smallest of things in nature: inspect mosses, lichens, mushrooms, and wildflowers. Maybe we'll find a leprechaun or even a fairy! Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers
Let's Build a Kite	Friday, March 18 10-noon	Age level: All ages Registration not required	The winds of March invite you to design and construct a kite. After your kite is complete, fly your kite with others in the field! If you have a favorite kite at home, please bring it along. Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers
Spring StoryWalk® Reveal	Tuesday, March 22 On your own during park hours	Age level: All ages No registration required	It's time to reveal our new StoryWalk® book! Discover which story we have chosen for spring. This is an "on your own" stroll along a short trail loop behind the Nature Center. Coordinator: Jessa Tremblay
Wildflower Walk 	Friday, March 25 10-11:30 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens March 11	Beauty awaits us around every corner as we amble through the forest and hollows of Warner Park. Saunter along to discover the splendor of these ephemeral visitors. Leader: Melissa Donahue
FYI Naturalist Workshop: You Can Build a Rain Garden	Saturday, March 26 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens March 12	This free workshop will instruct you in the basics of plant selection and design and includes a hands-on rain garden construction project onsite. Learn why and how rain gardens benefit water quality and conservation in our community. Presenter: Hayley Henderson, Cumberland River Compact Outreach & Education Program Coordinator.

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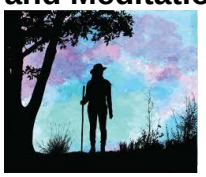
FYI Naturalist Webinar: Beneficial Insects for Landscape and Garden	Tuesday, March 29 6 p.m. (on Zoom)	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration is open	Learn to attract beneficial insects to your garden for natural and effective garden pest control. Discover which flowering plants can be added to your garden as "companions" to both attract beneficial insects and provide them with food nectar. Carol Taylor will share her master gardening expertise during this virtual program. Presenter: Carol Taylor, President of Master Gardeners of Davidson County
New Moon Hike and Meditation 	Wednesday, March 30 6:30-8 p.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens March 15	As the sky dims from sunset to twilight to the darkness of the new moon's sky, we will make our way along the trails stopping for a mid-hike meditation led by a certified mindfulness and meditation teacher. Enjoy the peaceful and restorative sights and sounds of nature. Leaders: Rachel Koch and Ben Glover
April			
Early Spring Migrants at Beech Woods	Friday, April 1 7:30-9:30 a.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 17	We will search the beautiful Beechwoods area for early migrating birds. Leaders: Kim Bailey and Amy Pardo, BIRD Program Volunteers
Fooling Around with Flowers	Friday, April 1 5-6 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 17	Don't be fooled by their funny names like False Rue Anemone and Dutchman's Breeches. Spring wildflowers are no joke! Let's saunter around and see who is in bloom this April fools' day. Leader: Nature Center staff and Volunteers
Starting Your Sustainable Garden	Friday, April 8 1-2:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 25	Learn tips and tricks on reducing waste and making sustainable choices in the garden. From starting seeds to keeping your crops watered, learn how to live off the land sustainably. Leader: Jessa Tremblay
FYI Naturalist Webinar: Amphibians and Reptiles of Tennessee	Wednesday, April 13 6 p.m. (on Zoom)	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration is open	Learn about the herpetological richness of our state from a retired wildlife biologist from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Gain the ability to identify species of salamanders, frogs, toads, lizards, turtles and snakes. Habitat requirements and conservation issues effecting many species will also be discussed. Presenter: Pandy Upchurch
FYI Naturalist Workshop: Bats of Tennessee	Tuesday, April 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens April 5	This workshop will begin in the classroom where a guest biologist who studies rare, threatened, and endangered species will discuss bats found in Tennessee and share ways to identify some of the common species in the field. After sunset, we will go outside and watch for flying bats while using acoustic detectors to try to identify them on the wing. Presenter: Sara Samoray

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Earth Day with the Birds at Burch Reserve	Friday, April 22 7:30-10 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens April 8	Celebrate Earth Day with spring migrating birds at the Burch Reserve Leader: Graham Gerdeman, BIRD Program Volunteer
Ask a Master Gardener	Saturday, April 23 Drop by anytime between 1 and 3 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration not required For additional information please visit https://www.mgofdc.org/gardening-resources	Visit the back porch near the Pollinator Gardens with your questions and curiosity. Members from the University of Tennessee Extension, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be available to share their knowledge. Whether it's about plant care, insects, or plant identification in your yard, the Master Gardeners will be happy to help you. This is also a great way to get information about seasonal issues that may impact your growing conditions.
A Morning Walk with the Birds	Friday, April 29 8:30-10:30 a.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens April 15	Walk with us through beautiful Deep Well as we search for resident, summer, and migrating birds. Leader: Sandy Bivens, BIRD Program
City Nature Challenge Jump Start Bio-Blitz	Friday, April 29 1-3 p.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration not required	The City Nature Challenge is back! Will you be the first to document a wildflower? Will you find a colorful mushroom? Will you find a species that has never been recorded? Get a jumpstart on all the fun and learn how to document biodiversity in Warner Parks. Leader: Melissa Donahue
6th Annual City Nature Challenge	Saturday, April 30 8 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration not Required	Get your competitive juices flowing and your curiosity going! Compete with cities around the world vying to document the greatest number of species in their cities during this four-day contest. Work with local biologists and naturalists as your team leads the charge in finding nature in the park. Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers

Spring Nature Fest

Saturday, April 30 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Age level: All ages Registration not required

What do indigo buntings, yellow-buckeye flowers and red admiral butterflies have in common? They all start appearing in spring! Share the excitement of the season during this fun festival at Warner Park Nature Center. Observe bird banding research; learn easy steps to create a pollinator-friendly garden and take home your first seeds to get it started; take part in the city-nature challenge as we search for spring arrivals like butterflies. A complete schedule of activities, speakers, hikes and more will be available soon!

Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers

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May

FYI Naturalist Webinar: Native Bees of Tennessee	Tuesday, May 3 6 p.m. (on Zoom) 	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration is open	We will begin by talking about pollinators in general and why proper pollination is so important. Then we'll focus on some native Tennessee plants, their pollinators, and the five families of native bees of Tennessee. Lastly, we will discuss resources and how you can become involved with citizen science for bees. Presenter: Rita Venable, author of the field guide Butterflies of Tennessee
Birds of the Harpeth River Greenway	Saturday, May 7 7-9 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens April 23	Join us as we explore the Greenway area. This river corridor offers an abundant mix of resident, breeding, and migrating birds. Leaders: Chris Sloan and Graham Gerdeman, BIRD Program Volunteers
Creek Walk	Thursday, May 12 3:30-4:30pm	Age level: All Ages Registration opens April 28	Embrace your sense of adventure with an afternoon creek walk. We'll peep under rocks, climb over logs, and scoot around sandbars as we explore this unique habitat. Leader: Melissa Donahue
Ask a Master Gardener	Saturday, May 14 Drop by anytime between 1 and 3 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration not required For additional information please visit https://www.mgofdc.org/gardening-resources	Visit the back porch near the Pollinator Gardens with your questions and curiosity. Members from the University of Tennessee Extension, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be available to share their knowledge. Whether it's about plant care, insects, or plant identification in your yard, the Master Gardeners will be happy to help you. This is also a great way to get information about seasonal issues that may impact your growing conditions.
Hike the Mossy Ridge 	Tuesday, May 17 9 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens May 3	Hike one of Nashville's most beloved trails. The Mossy Ridge is consistently rated one of the best trails in the area and has even been listed as one of the 7 Best Hikes in the US. Observe the scenic views, towering hardwoods, and rolling hills. From plants, to animals, and fungi, there are endless things to find and observe along this stunning 4½ mile trail. Leader: Jessa Tremblay and Rachel Koch
FYI Naturalist Workshop: Learn the Language of Birds	Friday, May 20 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens May 5	Birding by ear is an absolute joy in the springtime when you discover the language of birds. During this in-depth workshop we will learn and practice techniques to help distinguish the songs and calls of local and migratory birds like indigo buntings, rose-breasted grosbeaks, summer tanagers, wood thrushes and warblers. Leaders: Susan Bradfield and Rachel Anderson

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Full Moon Pickin' Party Friday & Saturday, May 20 & 21 6-10 p.m. 		Age level: All ages For tickets & information visit: www.warnerparks.org Coordinated by Friends of Warner Parks	This unique, bluegrass music series is one of Nashville's most popular outdoor events, attracting families, friends, and dog lovers from all over to hear local musicians play together under the full moon, in one of Nashville's most picturesque settings: Percy Warner Park Equestrian Center. Join us for a night of traditional bluegrass music and dinner from local food trucks.
Sunset Serenade in Indian Springs	Saturday, May 21 6:30-8 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens May 7	Evening song is one of the best times to learn to identify songs and calls. Join us for a walk before sunset, followed by a potluck snack while enjoying songs of thrushes, tanagers, flycatchers and other neotropical songsters. Leader: Susan Bradfield, BIRD Program Volunteer

The Nature Center will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 31.

Recap of Special Events:

MNPS Spring Break Programs, March 15 – 18
Spring StoryWalk® Reveal, March 22
Spring Nature Fest and Annual City Nature Challenge, Saturday, April 30
Full Moon Pickin' Parties, Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21

Recap of Find Your Inner Naturalist Programs:

FYI Naturalist Workshops, Adults 13+:
- 3/26 You Can Build a Rain Garden, 10 a.m- 2 p.m.
- 4/19 Bats of Tennessee, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- 5/20 Learn the Language of Birds, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

FYI Naturalist Webinars (Zoom), 6 p.m., Adults 13+
- 3/8 Bluebirds, an American Success Story
- 3/29 Beneficial Insects for Landscape and Garden
- 4/13 Amphibians and Reptiles of Tennessee
- 5/3 Native Bees of Tennessee

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