

Warner Park Nature Center

2025 Annual Report



Our Mission

To provide quality environmental education and responsible recreation
To help protect, preserve, restore, and manage the park ecosystem and its natural resources
To raise awareness, foster respect, and share enthusiasm for the natural environment

Our Values

Ensure Nature Endures
Practice Kindness and Vulnerability
Pursue Equity Intentionally
Embrace the Unexpected
Follow Curiosity and Inspire Connection with Nature



Environmental Field Labs & School Programs

Throughout the year, school groups attend on-your-own field trips and high school students participate in AP Environmental Science field labs.

973

Student encounters through naturalist-led field trips and labs

468

Students served through 38 on-your-own field trips

863

Students served during in-person field labs

3

Professional development opportunities provided for K-12 local educators



Public Engagement & Special Events

237

Public
Programs

6,564

Program
Attendees

Throughout the year, the Nature Center offered a diverse range of public programs designed to engage visitors of all ages. By providing accessible, high-quality experiences for individuals and families, the Nature Center continued to serve as a welcoming community resource that inspires curiosity, environmental stewardship, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



Pot Your Own Native Plant



Hill Forest Hike



Cards & Cardinals



Hummingbird Celebration

839

ATTENDEES



Leave the Leaves Day

244

ATTENDEES



Winter Solstice Celebration

670

ATTENDEES

Summer Naturalist Camps

Youth ages 5-10 years immersed themselves in nature during week-long naturalists camps, where they explored creeks and rivers, built forts and fairy houses in the woods, played in the mud, caught insects in the field and followed their curiosity every day!

10
Camp Sessions

125
Campers

3,902
Hours spent exploring
creeks, rivers, fields, &
forests



From Our Community



"This is the most fun I've had in my entire life!"

Naturalist camper during river exploration



"I had so much fun applying what we learned in class outside in nature!"

Page student after attending the Water Quality field lab



"Can I come to PEN Pals next year?"

PEN Pals camper



"This is the best day ever!"
Nature Discovery Program youth



"Thank you for a wonderful celebration. We were so impressed with the variety of activities, the number of cool crafts for kids (and adults), and the professionalism of entire staff. You all always do such a lovely job with your programs, and this was no exception. Thank you for all the work you put into tonight!"

Family at Winter Solstice Celebration

Nature Discovery Program

In 2025, the Nature Discovery Program provided **157** programs for **2,102** Community Center youth through summer day camps, fall evening campfires, and after-school programs throughout the year!



Nature Detectives Club
71
Programs
1,071
Youth

Pollinator Garden Programs
21
Programs
289
Youth



PEN Pals Summer Camps
25
Community
Centers
199
Youth

Fall Campfires & Night Hikes
6
Community
Centers
52
Youth

Pollinator Gardens Project

With support from Friends of Warner Parks and Centennial Park Conservancy, native pollinator gardens were established at Hartman, Antioch, and Looby community centers.

Sites were prepped in fall, planted in spring, and thriving by late summer! Additional gardens are planned for 2026.



Antioch Garden Before



Antioch Garden After

Community Science Projects

Staff and volunteers regularly collect valuable community science data, monitoring wildlife populations, and supporting park education and conservation efforts.

Tennessee Amphibian Monitoring Program

6

Species
Documented



Monarch Tagging, Rearing, & OE Parasite Sampling

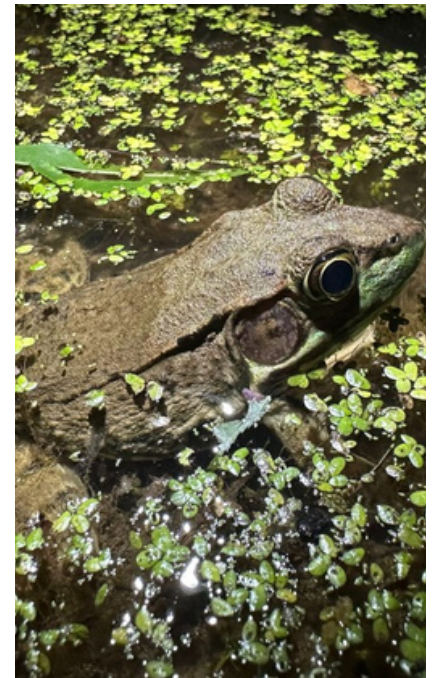
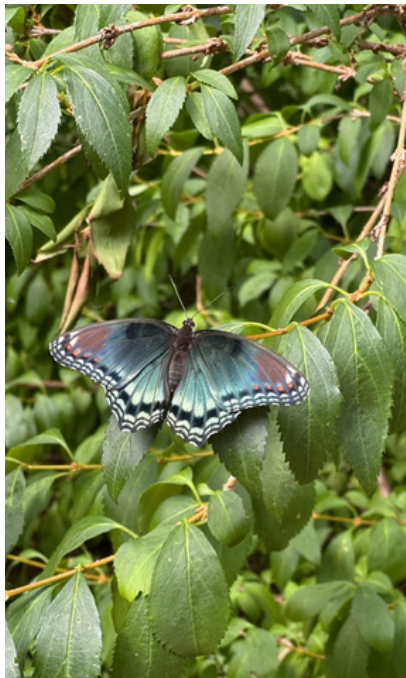
28

Monarchs
Tagged

Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project

274

Larvae
Documented



North American Butterfly Association

1,268

Individual
Butterflies Seen

BIRD Program

1,708

Songbirds
Captured

145

Hummingbirds
Captured

19

Radio-Tagged
Birds

225

Bluebirds
Banded

90

Years of
Bluebird Banding

44

Years of
Bird Banding

The Warner Parks B.I.R.D. Program contributes to our understanding of the long-term health and viability of bird populations while fostering respect and stewardship for birds, their habitats, and nature.



2025 Theme: *Native Plants*

Expanded Conservation efforts included:

Organized and oversaw first prescribed burn (Long Hollow) in Warner Parks as park of parkwide meadow restoration initiative

Provided 11 native plant public education programs, including the first annual Leave the Leaves Day, for over 300 people

Continued stewarding BIRD Research ecosystem restoration area through invasive plant removal and planting native trees and perennials

Expanded demonstration native plant landscaping throughout the nature center campus, including transitioning organic garden to 75% natives, native seed collection, and propagation of over a dozen species of natives in the nature center's greenhouse

In partnership with Friends of Warner Parks, WPNC initiated, organized and hosted the first Nashville Native Plant Symposium: Growing Knowledge, Cultivating Change, bringing together over 150 individuals to network and share ideas about fostering ecological health through native plants.



Nature Center Volunteers

Volunteer Categories	# of Hours	# of Volunteers
Community Science	183	18
Environmental Education	58	8
Events	200	120
Gardens & Landscaping	238	23
Visitor Services	798	13
Nature Discovery Program	340	41
BIRD Program	3500	104

Eagle Scout Projects

Ben Bondenheimer
BIRD Research Area Fence

Quincy Topping
StoryWalk Trail Installation

Oliver Johnston
BIRD Research Area Fence

Bryan Bass
BIRD Research Area Fence

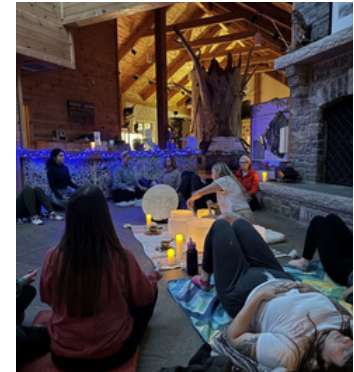
WPNC thrives thanks to the incredible support of volunteers, helping with nearly every aspect of our operations - staffing the front desk, feeding birds, maintaining the grounds and gardens, supporting BIRD projects, leading and assisting with field trips, supporting special events, gathering Community Science data, and taking on special projects!



Nature Center Partners

A special thanks to our partners

Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society
Belmont University
Centennial Art Center
Garden Club of Nashville
Habitat Landscapes
Harmony Wildlife
Harpeth-Cumberland Audubon Society
Harpeth Hall
Harpeth River Conservancy
Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
James Lawson High School
Kidsville
Lipscomb University
Master Gardeners of Davidson County
Metro Parks Community Centers
Metro Parks Outdoor Recreation
Nashville Astronomy Club
Nashville Collage Collective
Second Sunday Gardeners
Swan Conservation Trust
Templeton Academy
The Chestnut Group
The Habitat Connection
TN Environmental Council
TN Naturalist Program
TN State Parks
University School of Nashville
Wild Ones of Middle TN
Xerces Society
Zen Tiger Healing



By the Numbers

7,602

Environmental Education program participants including field trips and labs, outreach, facility use, nature discovery program, research encounters and projects

5,317

Volunteer hours by 327 volunteers assisting with programs, events, bird feeding, gardening, library visitation, data entry, research projects, and front desk support

24,140

Visitor Service Engagement including impromptu, roving, on-your-own visits, and nature play use

24,246

Walk-in visitors during 240 days open

6,654

Public program participants including events and camps

25,490

Virtual program and social media views of webinars, educational videos, Instagram & Facebook posts, and Nuthatch Notes blog

64,731

Total Participants directly served through 2,130 Warner Park Nature Center programs and events

All 2025 successes only possible because of the ongoing support provided by Friends of Warner Parks



FRIENDS
OF WARNER PARKS