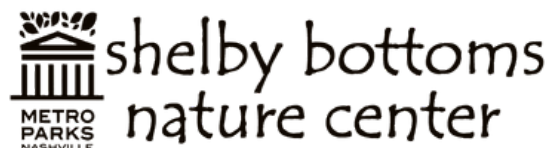




Fall Programs 2026



1900 Davidson Street
Nashville, TN 37206
(615) 862-8539

shelbybottoms@nashville.gov
sbnc.nashville.gov

Don't miss this year's Chestnut Group art show, *The Colors of Shelby*! Find details in the program entry.

October 22-25



ART SHOW & SALE

PRESENTED BY



Shelby Bottoms Nature Center
Tues/Thurs/Sat: 9 am - 4 pm
Wed/Fri: 12 - 4 pm

Shelby Bottoms Greenway and Trails
Open dawn to dusk, 365 days a year!

On Repeat

Contact the Nature Center for ADA accommodations



Afternoon Tea



1st Friday of the month
2 - 3 pm
No Registration Required

Close out the week and enjoy the fall with a selection of hot and iced teas from High Garden Tea, featuring the Shelby Bottoms Blend.
Leader: SBNC Staff



Early Bird Coffee Social

1st Saturday of the month
9 am - 12 pm
No Registration Required

Enjoy Shelby Bottoms with a hot cup of our "For the Birds" Bird Friendly® certified coffee. Stay and learn about the connection between bird habitat, coffee, and native wildflowers, or take a cup to go into the park.
Leader: SBNC Staff



Move with Nature



1st Saturday of the month
7:30 - 8:30 am
Ages 13+
Registration Required

Mindful movement in nature is a great way to "zone-in" to the world around us. After warming up together while discussing seasonal features of the park, we will independently run, walk, or wheel a self-paced 30 minutes along the Greenway, then meet back at the trailhead to cool down, reflect, and share observations. Registered participants will be notified of our meeting location each month.
Leader: Perry Haga

Nature Storytime



1st Wednesday of the month
10 - 10:30 am
All Ages
No Registration Required

Join us as we read nature-themed books and celebrate the park.

Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers

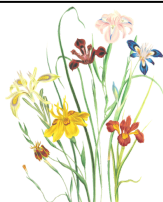
Early Morning Bird Hike

2nd Saturday of the month
7:30 - 9:30 am
Ages 15+
Registration Required

Join us on a guided bird hike at one of the park's trailheads. Binoculars are available to borrow, and all levels of experience are welcome. Registered participants will be notified of the meeting location each month.
Leader: Lena Friedman

To register, email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call (615) 862-8539

September

Superbloom at Sunset	Thursday, September 3 6:30 - 7:30 pm All Ages Registration Required	Shelby Bottoms' famous "superbloom" is a season of stunning views throughout the park! Let's take an evening stroll to admire the different plants of the meadow, identify what may be blooming, and appreciate the beauty of our park. Leader: Perry Haga	
Ask a Master Gardener	Saturday, September 5 10 am - 12 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Drop in with your questions and curiosity! Members from the University of Tennessee Extension, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be available at a table to share their knowledge. Leader: Master Gardeners of Davidson County	
I'm Blooming in the Meadow	Saturday, September 5 10 - 11:30 am Ages 12+ Registration Required	Join us for a hike to the meadows near the Nature Center to visit both established areas and newly expanded habitats we have enhanced with support from community members and local conservation groups. We will discuss various species, soils, and methods, including volunteers planting hundreds of various native plant plugs. Leader: John Michael Cassidy	
The Nature Center will be CLOSED Tuesday 9/8 for Labor Day (observed)			
Writing in the Wild 	Friday, September 11 10 - 11 am Ages 18+ No Registration Required	Join us for this casual writing group, with nature-themed prompts provided at each gathering to inspire. Bring your favorite writing tools and connect with others in the community. If you arrive early, we recommend enjoying a solo walk along the 1 mile Greenway loop to spark creativity and inspiration. Those interested in getting feedback on works-in-progress can stick around for workshopping time until noon. Leader: Volunteer Kelsey D. Mahaffey	
Sparkleheart Sound Bath & Karst Studio Pop-up	Saturday, September 12 10 - 11 am All Ages No Registration Required	Join mother/daughter band Sparkleheart for a family-friendly sound bath experience, including a kids' art pop-up from Karst Studio and movement with Dancing Bones. Grown ups relax and enjoy the soothing sounds of crystal bowls, gongs, and more while kids enjoy the activities. Bring a mat or blanket if you want. Leader: Sparkleheart Sound Baths & Karst Studio	
Autumn Porch Jam 	Saturday, September 12 1 - 3 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Bring your voices and instruments for some good old-fashioned back porch pickin'. All levels are welcome, including listeners, players, and singers. We'll move to the classroom if it's too hot or rainy. Leader: Volunteer Amanda Healan & Friends	
Friday Night Bats	Friday, September 18 8 - 9 pm All Ages Registration Required	Nothing says the start of fall like bats! Join us at the Cornelia Fort Airpark trailhead in Shelby Bottoms for this bat-themed night hike to learn all about our flying friends. Leader: Hazel Miller	
Jr. Naturalist: Blooms and Bugs	Saturday, September 19 10 - 11:30 am Ages 6+ Registration Required	The flowers are blooming and the bees are buzzing! Join us as we take a close look at the insects and flowers in the park, record our observations, and see how the two interact with each other. Leader: Lena Friedman	
Re-Think the Alley: Let's Make Something Beautiful	Saturday, September 19 1:30 - 2:30 pm Ages 12+ Registration Required	Let's turn East Nashville's alleyways into vibrant native wildflower corridors! Join East Nashvillian, native gardener, and director of The shortmeadow37206 Project Jim Hawk for a casual presentation and discussion on creating critical pollinator pathways that deter littering, improve community well-being, and transform forgotten spaces right behind our homes and businesses into thriving local ecosystems. Leader: Jim Hawk (The shortmeadow37206 Project)	

To register, email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call (615) 862-8539

Relaxing Sound Bath	Saturday, September 19 4 - 5 pm Ages 13+	Join certified sound bath facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more.
To register, visit rebrand.ly/SBNCsound		Leader: Volunteer John Paul (Sunblink Sounds)
Nature Play and Hike	Wednesday, September 23 10 - 11 am All Ages Registration Required	We will start off with a short exploratory hike near campus, then we will circle back to play with newfound inspiration in Nature Play. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Evening Bird Walk	Wednesday, September 23 5:30 - 7 pm Ages 14+ Registration Required	With sunset at 6:42 pm, we will visit a few habitats with ample sunlight and look for crepuscular species at dusk like the Common Nighthawk. Leader: John Michael Cassidy
Nature Center Puppet Show	Thursday, September 24 10 - 10:30 am All Ages No Registration Required	Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show. Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
4-H Wildlife Explorers Club	Saturday, September 26 9:30 - 11:30 am Grades 4-12 No Registration Required	Are you a young person curious about the wildlife around you? Join us for activities that may include games, community projects, guest speakers, and participating in community science. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to get a little dirty! Leader: 4-H Volunteers (UT-TSU Extension)
Fall Migration Bird Walk	Tuesday, September 29 5:30 - 7 pm Ages 12+ Registration Required	Fall is an excellent time to go birding at Shelby Bottoms. Join us as we look for migrating warblers and the arriving wintering birds around the park! Leader: Patrick Oakes



October

Autumn Seed Hike



Friday, October 2
2 - 3 pm
All Ages
Registration Required

Fall is an excellent time for collecting seeds from summer flowers and grasses. Join us on this easy walk through our forests and meadows while we collect seeds to build our park seedbank and for giving away during winter.

Leader: Hazel Miller

Stop Mowing! Convert Your Turf to Habitat

Saturday, October 3
10 - 11:30 am
Ages 18+
Registration Required

Ivan Chester from Habitat Landscapes gives his perspective on why mowing and leaf blowing are wasteful and harmful to the ecosystem--instead, enjoy butterflies and hummingbirds on a beautiful meadow full of native wildflowers!

Leader: Ivan Chester ([Habitat Landscapes](#))

Star Party at the Nature Center

Saturday, October 3
6 - 9 pm
All Ages
No Registration Required

Members of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society will set up telescopes and all ages are invited to enjoy the views of the night sky. You don't need to be a member or own a telescope, just come out and enjoy the night.

Leader: Astronomers of [BSAS](#)

Writing in the Wild



Friday, October 9
10 - 11 am
Ages 18+
No Registration Required

Join us for this casual writing group, with nature-themed prompts provided at each gathering to inspire. Bring your favorite writing tools and connect with others in the community. If you arrive early, we recommend enjoying a solo walk along the 1 mile Greenway loop to spark creativity and inspiration. Those interested in getting feedback on works-in-progress can stick around for workshopping time until noon.

Leader: Volunteer [Kelsey D. Mahaffey](#)

To register, email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call (615) 862-8539

MNPS Fall Break at the Nature Center

Community Square Dance	Friday, October 9 5 - 6 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Let's kick off MNPS Fall Break together! We'll be dancing next to the Nature Center and then heading over to Fridays By The River to support our pals Friends of Shelby. Tiny dancers, big kids, and adults are all welcome. We'll have a caller and a live band. Leader: Volunteers Amanda Healan & Brent Fernandez	
Ask a Master Gardener	Saturday, October 10 10 am - 12 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Drop in with your questions and curiosity! Members from the University of Tennessee Extension, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be available at a table to share their knowledge. Leader: <u>Master Gardeners of Davidson County</u>	
Makerspace: Biomimicry	Saturday, October 10 1 - 3 pm Ages 6+ No Registration Required	Many amazing innovations have been modeled after animals and nature in a process called biomimicry. Stop in to take on some engineering challenges, create nature-inspired inventions of your own, and test them out in our pop-up makerspace. Leader: SBNC Staff	
Fairy Forest 	Tuesday, October 13 10 - 11 am All Ages Registration Required	What tiny creatures might call Shelby Bottoms their home? Could gnomes or fairies be hidden in the forest? Join us as we explore around the Nature Center and build homes for our fairy friends! Leader: Perry Haga	
Family Hike and Snack	Wednesday, October 14 10 - 11:30 am All Ages Registration Required	Join us for a hike to some of our favorite places near the Nature Center. After, we will snack (provided) together at the Nature Play pavilion. Leader: John Michael Cassidy	
Dinosaurs in the Park Open 10/15-10/16 during Nature Center hours	All Ages No Registration Required	We will have fossil casts of dinosaur skulls and actual fossils, including local fossils. Hear about our dinosaur digs in Montana. Bring your fossils and rocks for us to identify. Leader: Alan Brown (<u>Earth Experience</u>)	
Nature Center Puppet Show	Thursday, October 15 10 - 10:30 am All Ages No Registration Required	Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show. Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers	
Knot Tying 101 	Thursday, October 15 1 - 3 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Knot tying is an incredibly useful skill that can be used in many everyday situations! Drop by to practice knots you may already know and learn a few new ones. Build confidence, learn or practice skills, and have fun while learning the ropes--literally! Leader: Krista Allen (<u>Outdoor Nashville</u>)	
Flatwater Paddle  Email outdoorrec@nashville.gov or call/text 615-642-9745 to register	Saturday, October 17 9 am - 12:30 pm Ages 14+ \$25/participant	Perfect for beginners looking for a fun challenge, this guided paddling adventure is a great way to explore Percy Priest Lake while building confidence on the water. Registered participants will be notified of the exact meeting location based on water levels and conditions. All gear and instruction are provided. Leader: Krista Allen (<u>Outdoor Nashville</u>)	
Sparkleheart Sound Bath & Karst Studio Pop-up	Saturday, October 17 10 - 11 am All Ages No Registration Required	Join mother/daughter band Sparkleheart for a family-friendly sound bath experience, including a kids' art pop-up from Karst Studio and movement with Dancing Bones. Grown ups relax while kids enjoy the activities. Bring a mat or blanket if you want. Leader: <u>Sparkleheart Sound Baths & Karst Studio</u>	
Jr. Naturalist: Fall Fungi	Saturday, October 17 2 - 3 pm Ages 6 - 13 Registration Required	Come learn all about the fungus kingdom and what makes it unique! We'll go for a mushroom hike, break out the microscopes, and delve into the mycological world. What makes a mushroom a mushroom? Let's find out! Leader: Hazel Miller	

To register, email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call (615) 862-8539

Relaxing Sound Bath

Saturday, October 17
4 - 5 pm Ages 13+

To register, visit rebrand.ly/SBNCsound

Join certified sound bath facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more.

Leader: Volunteer John Paul (Sunblink Sounds)

ART SHOW & SALE "The Colors of Shelby"



Oct 22-24 9 am - 4 pm
Oct 25 12 - 4 pm

Benefiting the Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms! The Chestnut Group, Friends of Shelby Park & Bottoms, and the Nature Center will collaborate on the Colors of Shelby art sale. This partnership and its proceeds improve our local nature spaces.



Shelby Bottoms Ghostbusters



Saturday, October 24
8 - 9 pm
Ages 12+
Registration Required

Come and join us for a SpOoOoOoOky evening! Learn about the history and folklore of Shelby Bottoms and the surrounding area. What events have happened that might attract spectral attention? Come find out with a naturalist's spin on ghost hunting!
Leader: Hazel Miller & Volunteer Naturalist Briana Wilson

4-H Wildlife Explorers Club

Saturday, October 31
9:30 - 11:30 am
Grades 4-12
No Registration Required

Are you a young person curious about the wildlife around you? Join us for activities that may include games, community projects, guest speakers, and participating in community science. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to get a little dirty!
Leader: 4-H Volunteers ([UT-TSU Extension](#))

November

Nashville Neighbors for Native Plants Co-Op Pick-Up

Sunday, November 1
Cornelia Fort Airpark at
Shelby Bottoms

Create pollinator pathways across town one yard at a time! Support native pollinators and wildlife with Nashville Neighbors for Native Plants by participating in this fall plant pick-up at the Cornelia Fort Airpark Trailhead.



Learn more at <https://www.neighbors4nativeplants.org/>

Craft Night: Junk Journals

Friday, November 6
5 - 7:30 pm
Ages 13+
Registration Required

This season's recycled craft night is all about the art of making trash into treasure. Join us for an evening of cozy crafting--bring a friend or make a friend!

Leader: [Nashville Junk Journal Club](#) & SBNC Staff

Jr. Naturalist: Beginning Birds

Saturday, November 7
9 - 10:30 am
Ages 6+
Registration Required

Who's flying around the park, hiding in the bushes, and singing from the trees? Come learn the basics of birding as we explore the park together.

Leader: Lena Friedman

Habitats and Changes

Saturday, November 7
11 am - 12:30 pm
Ages 16+
Registration Required

With seasonal changes upon us, we will discuss current and distant changes to areas in the park influenced by humans and natural occurrences.

Leader: John Michael Cassidy

Wax Paper Fall Leaf Collecting

Saturday, November 7
1 - 3 pm
Ages 7+
Registration Required



Take some of the beautiful fall foliage home with you! We will collect a few fallen leaves around the Nature Center and seal them in wax paper. Use them for bookmarks, scrapbooks, nature journals, or anything else you can come up with!

Leader: Patrick Oakes

The Nature Center will be CLOSED Wednesday 11/11 for Veteran's Day

Writing in the Wild



Friday, November 13
10 - 11 am
Ages 18+
No Registration Required

Join us for this casual writing group, with nature-themed prompts provided at each gathering to inspire. Bring your favorite writing tools and connect with others in the community. If you arrive early, we recommend enjoying a solo walk along the 1 mile Greenway loop to spark creativity and inspiration. Those interested in getting feedback on works-in-progress can stick around for workshopping time until noon.

Leader: Volunteer [Kelsey D. Mahaffey](#)

To register, email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call (615) 862-8539

	"Leave the Leaves" Day Saturday, November 14 10 am - 2 pm All Ages No Registration Required	What do fireflies, butterflies, moths, soil, turtles, and snakes have in common? All of them rely on having an insulating and nutrient-rich blanket of leaves in the winter! Celebrate the bounty, beauty, and benefits of leaves during "Leave the Leaves" day, hosted this year at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. Come for crafts, critters, and to learn about why and how you should celebrate leaves on the ground.
	Book Club with the Master Gardeners Saturday, November 14 2:30 - 3:30 pm Ages 16+ Registration Required	All are welcome to join our book club co-hosted by the Master Gardeners! We meet once a season and read garden or outdoor-themed books. This is a great way to meet with other readers and learn all about the Master Gardener program, too! This fall's choice is <u>The Last Garden in England</u> by Julia Kelly. Leader: <u>Master Gardeners of Davidson County</u> & Hazel Miller
	Relaxing Sound Bath Saturday, November 14 4 - 5 pm Ages 13+	Join certified sound bath facilitator and professional upright bass player John Paul for a vibey sound bath in the Nature Center featuring crystal singing bowls, upright bass, chimes, ukulele and more. To register, visit rebrand.ly/SBNCsound Leader: Volunteer John Paul (<u>Sunblink Sounds</u>)
	Nature Center Puppet Show Thursday, November 19 9:30 - 10 am All Ages No Registration Required	Enjoy a feature presentation from our cast of puppets at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center! Titles and topics may be posted the week of the show. Leader: SBNC Staff & Volunteers
	Homeschool Day: Fall Changes Thursday, November 19 10 am - 2 pm Grades K - 8 Registration Required for Some Activities	Join us for a day of activities all about the fall season! Enjoy self-guided activities set up by the Nature Center that are available throughout the day and do not require registration, or sign up for a staff-guided activity session (or both!). Find additional details on guided activity sessions and sign up at https://rebrand.ly/SBNCsignups
	Cornelia Fort Bird Sit Saturday, November 21 9 - 11 am All Ages No Registration Required	November is a great time to see migrating waterfowl and wetland birds, and you don't need to go very far to find them! Join us for some sedentary birdwatching: bring a chair (and a warm blanket!) and stake out the wetland at the Cornelia Fort Airpark Trailhead in Shelby Bottoms with us. Some binoculars will be available to borrow. Leader: Perry Haga
	4-H Wildlife Explorers Club Saturday, November 21 9:30 - 11:30 am Grades 4-12 No Registration Required	Are you a young person curious about the wildlife around you? Join us for activities that may include games, community projects, guest speakers, and participating in community science. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to get a little dirty! Leader: 4-H Volunteers (<u>UT-TSU Extension</u>)
	Autumn Colors Walk Saturday, November 21 2 - 3 pm All Ages Registration Required	Join us for an afternoon walk through the park, looking at all the gorgeous fall colors and learning about the amazing plants that paint us this picture. Leader: Hazel Miller
	Makerspace: Biomimicry Saturday, November 21 1 - 3 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Many amazing innovations have been modeled after animals and nature in a process called biomimicry. Stop in to take on some engineering challenges, create nature-inspired inventions of your own, and test them out in our pop-up makerspace. Leader: SBNC Staff
	Fall Crafts Wednesday, November 25 1 - 3 pm All Ages No Registration Required	Come in for this open-house style craft program! We'll have several crafts set up in the classroom to celebrate the lovely colors of autumn before winter arrives. Leader: Hazel Miller

The Nature Center will be CLOSED 11/26 - 11/28 for Thanksgiving

To register, please email us at shelbybottoms@nashville.gov or call at (615) 862-8539