

# 2012 Spring Schedule


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

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

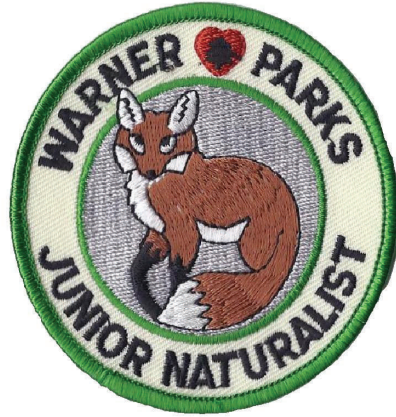
**Mailing Address:**  
Warner Park Nature Center  
7311 Highway 100  
Nashville, TN 37221  
**Phone:** 615-352-6299  
**Fax:** 615-880-2282  
**Email:** wpnc@nashville.gov  
**Web:** nashville.gov/parks/nature/wpnc

**Warner Park Headquarters:**  
615-370-8051

**Friends of Warner Parks:**  
615-370-8053  
www.friendsofwarnerparks.com

 Requests for ADA accommodation should be directed to the Nature Center at (615) 352-6299.

## 2012 Junior Naturalist: MAMMAL MANIA!



Warner Park boasts 31 species of mammals, from the smallest, the short-tailed shrew, to the largest, the white-tailed deer. Many of our mammals are seldom seen: bobcat, foxes, and skunks may only leave behind tracks, scat, or other signs. Deer are seen on any given day from the hiking trails or paved roads. Chipmunks and moles create tunnels in the soft soil of spring, hunting for shelter and food. Also in spring, Eastern cottontail rabbits explore the garden fence at the Nature Center, attempting to outwit staff and have lunch in the organic garden.

Our favorite mammals are children between ages 6-12. These young omnivores can participate in our Junior Naturalist program. Pick up a brochure, complete the activities inside based on your age, and show off your work to a Naturalist. New exhibits in the Nature Center have been designed and updated to help you answer questions and learn more about mammals! You can also attend programs, including the Junior Naturalist kick-off on April 3, to help you get started. Call the Nature Center at 352-6299 with questions and to sign up for programs!

# MARCH

**Teacher Workshop:**  
*Growing Up WILD*

Friday, March 2  
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Age level: Adults  
Call to register



*Growing Up WILD* is an early childhood education curriculum guide that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature, inviting them to explore the natural world. Developed specifically for teachers of children ages 3-7, the guide features 27 hands-on activities that encourage outdoor exploration.  
Leaders: Kim Bailey and Rachel Koch

"Unless Someone Like YOU Cares a Whole Awful Lot..."

Saturday, March 3  
10-11:30 a.m. Age level: All ages  
Registration opens February 17



"I am the Lorax and I speak for the trees!" Come celebrate the TREES and the means by which we honor, respect, and (most importantly) ensure their future. Join us for lots of tree-hugging fun that is certain to include a reading of Dr. Seuss' beloved classic, The Lorax.  
Leader: Rachel Koch

**Organic Gardening**



Friday, March 9  
9-10:30 a.m. Age level: Adults, 13+  
Call to register

The spring garden goes in the first week of March. We will see what's planted and talk about what's next on the garden agenda.  
Leader: Deb Beazley



**Nature Storytime**

Friday, March 9  
10:30-11 a.m. Age level: Pre-K  
Registration opens February 23










Come to the Nature Center for storytime under our giant beech tree!  
Leaders: Nature Center Volunteers






**Spring Hiking in the Hill Forest**



Friday, March 9  
1-3 p.m. Age level: 8 years and up  
Registration opens February 23

Now is your chance to experience the beauty of Nashville's very own old growth forest ecosystem: the Hill Forest State Natural Area.  
Leaders: Paul Fowler and Warner Parks Volunteers

<b>Cemeteries of Warner Parks</b> 	Saturday, March 10 8:30 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Registration opens February 24	Take a walk back in time visiting the cemeteries of the Parks. Take a step into the future to see what park staff and volunteers are doing to preserve these historical treasures. Leader: Heather Gallagher
<b>Volunteer Trail Day</b>	Saturday, March 10 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Get outside and get dirty. Lend a helping hand and join the crew as we work to restore and maintain our trails. We will be hiking to problem spots along the trail and with your help, working to make them better. Leader: Paul Fowler
<b>Startin' a Garden</b>	Saturday, March 10 1:30-2:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens February 24	Sunlight, soil, seeds, and water! Learn what makes a garden great and how to start your own. Leader: Vera Vollbrecht
<b>It's Almost Spring! Bird Walk</b> 	Friday, March 16 8-10 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	If you're a beginner birder, you won't want to miss this walk as we search for year-round and winter residents, and early spring migrants. If we're lucky, we may hear a Louisiana Waterthrush singing along the creek bank. Leaders: Diana McLusky and Kathy Shaw
<b>Become a SKYWARN Weather Spotter!</b> 	Saturday, March 17 9-11 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	SKYWARN is the National Weather Service (NWS) program of trained volunteer weather spotters. SKYWARN spotters coordinate with local emergency management officials and send reports of weather based phenomena to the NWS. Participants will receive official SKYWARN training and become NWS weather spotters. Leader: Tom Johnstone, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist
<b>Are You Ready for Hummingbirds?</b> 	Tuesday, March 20 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Make the sugar water and get those feeders ready — ruby-throated hummingbirds will be returning soon! Learn what you need to know for the spring migration of our smallest bird. Presenters: Sandy Bivens and Heather Gallagher
<b>Spring Wildflower Walk</b> 	Thursday, March 22 9 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Enjoy a walk in the woods among masses of gorgeous flowers; a spring time must! Leader: Deb Beazley
<b>Caterpillar Fun!</b> 	Friday, March 23 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.	Age level: 3-5 years Registration opens March 8	Come join the fun as we celebrate every child's favorite little critter: caterpillars! Leader: Kim Bailey
<b>Spring Wildflower Walk</b> 	Saturday, March 24 9 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Enjoy a walk in the woods among masses of gorgeous flowers; a spring time must! Leader: Heather Gallagher
<b>Life in a Rotting Log</b>	Saturday, March 24 10-11:30	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 9	Join us as we hike in search of fallen trees and rotting logs and learn about the life within. Leader: Kim Bailey
<b>Spring Wildflower Walk</b> 	Friday, March 30 9 a.m.-noon	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Enjoy a walk in the woods among masses of gorgeous flowers; a spring time must! Leader: Deb Beazley
<b>Friday Night Campfire</b> 	Friday, March 30 7-8:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 15	There's fun for the whole family at the campfire! We'll share stories, songs and celebrate spring. Leaders: Melissa Donahue and Vera Vollbrecht

<b>Spring Wildflower Walk</b>	Saturday, March 31 9 a.m.-noon		Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Enjoy a walk in the woods among masses of gorgeous flowers; a spring time must! Leader: Deb Beazley
<b>Family Forest Flowers</b>	Saturday, March 31 1-2 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 16	Toothwort, violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and other spring wildflowers will welcome you to the woods. Leader: Heather Gallagher	
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Jr. Naturalist Kickoff: MAMMAL MANIA!</b>	Tuesday, April 3 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: 6-12 years Registration opens March 20 for all spring break programs	Do you notice deer rubbings, mole tunnels, and raccoon prints when you hike? Are you an expert on tracks and scat of coyote? If so, you will love this years' program highlighting the foxes, bats, coyotes, bobcats, shrews, and voles that live in Warner Park. Leaders: Heather Gallagher and Nature Center Staff
	<b>Model Aviation for Mammals</b>	Wednesday, April 4 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: 6-12 years Registration opens March 20	You have seen their planes in the sky, now come meet the Edwin Warner Park model aviators and see these airplanes do their acrobatics. We will also learn about the aerodynamics of mammals during this fun-filled flying event. Leaders: Edwin Warner Model Aviators and Warner Parks
	<b>Spring Fever Fun</b>	Thursday, April 5 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: 6-12 years Registration opens March 20	If you have spring fever, being outdoors is the cure! Wear clothes to get wet and muddy while building forts, making mud creations and exploring the creek. Leaders: Nature Center Staff and Volunteers
<b>Mammal Design Contest</b>	Friday, April 6 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: 6-12 years Registration opens March 20	Mammals have all kinds of amazing adaptations to survive in the world. During this program you will have the opportunity to wow the crowd with a mammal of your own design. Leaders: Nature Center Staff	
<b>Animal Egg Hunt</b>	Saturday, April 7 10-11:30 a.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 23	Bring your baskets-we will fill them with reptile, bird and amphibian eggs (not <i>real</i> ones, of course!) Leader: Heather Gallagher	
<b>Nature Storytime</b>	Friday, April 13 10:30-11 a.m.	Age level: Pre-K Registration opens March 29	Come to the Nature Center for storytime under our giant beech tree! Leaders: Nature Center Volunteers	
<b>Family Movie Night: "Lady and the Tramp"</b>	Friday, April 13 6-8 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens March 29	Bring your sleeping bags, wear your PJ's, and join us as we celebrate one of our favorite mammals: dogs! (And don't forget the Siamese cats...) Bring the family and enjoy this timeless classic. Leader: Nature Center Staff	
<b>"Trashy" Scavenger Hunt</b>	Saturday, April 14 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Age level: All ages Call to register	We need some spring cleaning help! We'll give you everything needed to get the Park all cleaned up and ready for spring. Bring some friends and stop by the Nature Center to learn more about this fun service opportunity. Leader: Paul Fowler	
<b>Navigating with Map &amp; Compass</b>	Saturday, April 14 1-2 p.m.	Age level: 8-14 years Registration opens March 30	Discover our Map & Compass course in Edwin Warner Park. Participants will learn the basics skills of land navigation and how to use a compass. Leader: Lisa King	
<b>Spring Bird Walk</b>	Friday April 20 8-10 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	Anything goes this time of year! Join us as we search for birds at the peak of bird migration. We welcome birders of all experience levels. Leaders: Ethel Kawamura and Kathy Shaw	
<b>Feelin' Froggy</b>	Friday, April 20 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.	Age level: 3-5 years Registration opens April 5	Explore the pond, read a book, and catch a tadpole, all while learning about our native amphibians. Leader: Heather Gallagher	

<b>Kite Kreations</b>	Saturday, April 21 10-11:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens April 6	Would you like to make and fly your own kite? In this family program you will observe the crafting of a box kite then create, build and fly your own kite! Leaders: Melissa Donahue and Jed Hanserd	
<b>Kite Kreations for Scouts</b>	Saturday, April 21 1-2:30 p.m.	Age level: Registered scouts Registration opens April 6	Would you like to make and fly your own kite? In this program, open only to Scouts, you will observe the crafting of a box kite then create, build and fly your own kite! Leaders: Melissa Donahue and Jed Hanserd	
<b>Spring Bird Banding Day</b>	Thursday, April 26 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Call to register	Spring means migration and welcome returns of our fine feathered friends. Visit the Nature Center to observe bird banding in action, learn about our resident birds, neo-tropical migrant visitors, and 30+ years of bird research in Warner Parks. Banders: Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, and Susan Bradfield	
<b>Habitat, Habitat!</b>	Friday, April 27 10 a.m.-noon	Age level: 6-12 years Registration opens April 12	All animals need food, water, shelter, air, and space to survive, but each animal is suited to live in a special arrangement of resources. Compare the field, forest, creek, and pond to discover the unique habitats here in Warner Parks and which animals live where. Leader: Vera Vollbrecht	
<b>Celebrate Bluebirds!</b>	Saturday, April 28 10-11:30 a.m.	Age level: All ages Registration opens April 13	Warner Parks has the oldest Eastern Bluebird nesting box program in the U.S. Join the naturalist to learn about and observe this beautiful bird in the open meadows of the Parks. Leader: Vera Vollbrecht	
<b>Spring Star Party</b>	Saturday, April 28 7:30-9:30 p.m.	Age level: All ages Call to register	Enjoy a night under the dark sky viewing stars, planets and more through telescopes. Leaders: Heather Gallagher, Kris McCall of Sudekum Planetarium, and Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society	
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Spring Bird Walk</b>	Friday May 4 8-10 a.m.	Age level: Adults, 13+ Call to register	The forest and fields will be ringing with song as we look for migrating and breeding birds. Migration is winding up, so don't miss this opportunity to join in the fun. We welcome birders of all experience levels. Leaders: Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, Susan Bradfield, and Sandy Bivens
	<b>Nature Storytime</b>	Friday, May 4 10:30-11 a.m.	Age level: Pre-K Registration opens April 19	Come to the Nature Center for storytime under our giant beech tree! Leaders: Nature Center Volunteers
<b>Full Moon Pickin' Party</b>	Friday, May 4 7-11 p.m.	Age level: All ages Call 370-8053 for information	Come to the first of six toe tappin' happenin's at the Warner Park Equestrian Center. Head to the barn for great bluegrass sounds, delicious food & drink, and FUN for the entire family – under the full moon. For information, tickets or to volunteer, call 370-8053 or visit <a href="http://www.friendsofwarnerparks.com">www.friendsofwarnerparks.com</a> . Leaders: Maggie Odle, Paul Fowler, FOWP and Volunteers	
<b>Yoga in Nature Retreat</b>	Saturday, May 5 to Sunday, May 6 8 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday	Age level: Adults Call for information and to register \$100 participation fee	Anyone with any level of yoga experience may enjoy this rejuvenating day in the woods, with optional hiking, two yoga sessions, catered lunch and dinner, and time for relaxation/meditation. There is an additional option to camp overnight and enjoy a light breakfast Sunday morning. Leader and Yoga Instructor: Robin Haynes	

**Bluebirds in My Backyard**

Saturday, May 5  
9-10 a.m.

Age level: All Ages  
Call to register

Nathan Lewis, age 10, will present a PowerPoint program about his experience monitoring and maintaining 15 Eastern Bluebird nest boxes. During 2010 and 2011, Nathan collected data for all of these boxes, which fledged 141 birds! This program is part of the TN Bluebird Trails spring meeting.

Leader: Nathan Lewis



**A Rotten Place**

Tuesday, May 8  
10 a.m.-noon

Ages: 6-12 years  
Registration opens  
April 24

What's so great about an old rotting log? It is the cuddliest of quarters for cute (and quirky) creatures! Join us for exploration and stories as we study the various microhabitats in our Park.

Leaders: Rachel Koch and Melissa Donahue



**Volunteer Spirit**

Saturday, May 12  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Age level: Adults  
Call to register

Catch the volunteer spirit! Spend a day giving back to the Parks that you love by lending a helping hand as we work on projects to restore and preserve this great natural area.

Leader: Paul Fowler

**Stay FOUND in the Woods!**

Saturday, May 12  
10-11 a.m.

Age level: All ages  
Registration opens  
April 27

Families are encouraged to attend this program about summer safety, basic family hiking and camping, and staying found in the woods.

Leader: Vera Vollbrecht

**Marvelous Mushrooms**

Friday, May 18  
9-11 a.m.

Age level: Adults, 13+  
Call to register

We will explore a damp shady hollow and discover the weird world of mushrooms.

Leader: Deb Beazley

**Wiggly Worms**

Friday, May 18  
10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.

Age Level: 3-5 years  
Registration opens  
May 3

The way they wiggle makes us giggle. Come to learn more about wiggly, wonderful worms.

Leaders: Melissa Donahue and Rachel Koch

**Mushrooms in May**

Saturday,  
May 19  
10-11:30 a.m.



Age level: All ages  
Registration opens  
May 4

In the cool dark hollows of Warner Park, mushrooms seem to appear like magic. Spend some time discovering this mysterious fungus.

Leader: Melissa Donahue

**Get LOST in Percy Warner**

Saturday, May 26  
10 a.m.-noon

Age level: All ages  
Registration opens  
May 11

Join the naturalist to explore the closed road in Percy Warner Park.

Leader: Heather Gallagher



GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE WARNER PARKS THIS SPRING!

**SAVE THE DATE:  
2012 CHILDREN'S PICNIC!!**

The Friends of Warner Parks 12th Annual Children's Picnic will be held on **June 9, 2012** from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Nature Center. Please be sure to mark your calendar for this wonderful event!



**Shelby Bottoms NATURE PLAY is Open!**



A brand new outdoor play space is open for climbing, building, digging, and exploring at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. For more information and directions call (615) 862-8539.