

# LOBLOLLY TIMES



Newsletter of Friends of the Bowie Nature Park, Inc.

March, 2024

## First Bowie Day Camp: Spring Break Camp



"I like learning about nature, and that's why I wanted to come here." So said the youngest participant in the first Bowie Park day camp of 2024, from March 11-14. Children aged 7-11 spent their spring break exploring Little Turnbull Creek, making s'mores on the Dome, identifying local bird species, and of course, playing on the playground. They looked at feathers through a microscope and helped feed the turtles that live in Bowie Nature Center.

The theme of the camp was "Art in Nature." Day campers made two crafts per day, from painting bird houses to tie dyeing t-shirts. Most of the crafts and activities, and even eating lunch, were all done outdoors in the spirit of "No child left indoors."

"It was a great warm-up," said program director Bre Bailey. This camp was 4 days long and included 5 campers. Camps planned for this summer will have more campers and will last 5 days.



## Calendar of Events (continued next page)

**City of Fairview Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting:** 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm in City Hall. Next meeting is **March 21. Workshop begins at 6:00.**

**Garden Crew Organizational Meeting:** Tuesday, March 26 at 10 am in Bowie Park Nature Center. If you can't make the meeting and are interested in helping with the garden crew, email [connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com](mailto:connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com)

**Parks & Landscaping Board meeting:** 1st Monday of the month. Next meeting is **April 1 at 7 pm at the Triangle School** in Fairview Historical Village.

**Planning Commission meeting:** Normally second Tuesday of the month. Changed due to Spring Break. Next meeting is **Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm at City Hall. Workshop at 6.**

**Friends Member Meeting:** 2nd Saturday of the month at 9 am. Next meeting is **April 13, 9:00 am, Bowie Park Nature Center.**

**Town Hall Meeting:** The public can ask city officials questions and have them answered. 5th Thursday of any month that has a 5th Thursday. Next one will be **May 30th at 7 pm at City Hall.**

### Friends Board of Directors

- ◆ Mark Schenkel, President
- ◆ Sherry Wright, Vice President
- ◆ Eileen Brogan, Secretary
- ◆ Meredith Keyser, Treasurer
- ◆ Jordan Felts, Board Member
- ◆ Joe Grable, Board Member



[www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/](http://www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/)



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## Meet the Park Staff: Breanna Bailey, Program Director



In October, 2023, Bre Bailey landed the job of her dreams. “As soon as I moved to Fairview from Texas five years ago, I realized that we had something so special that sets Fairview apart from other cities, and I simply wanted to become a part of it.”

Bre’s educational background focused on biology and psychology. She graduated from MTSU, where she was active in ecology and biology clubs, and helped conduct research on the American Goldfinch and Spring Peeper frogs. “I hope to combine my knowledge of Tennessee flora and fauna with programming skills to create programs that spark an interest in nature and conservation,” she said.

Bre’s job is to plan and conduct programming for Fairview’s park system, which includes Bowie Nature Park, Veteran’s Memorial Park and Historical Village. She works closely with parks director Keith Paisley and naturalist Zena Wileman. So far they have conducted several weekend public programs, some homeschool activities, school field trips, and the first of a series of day camps. In some cases they update plans from programs conducted years ago, but there are challenges with accessing digital files when computers have been replaced. Many plans need to be constructed from scratch.

A big priority for Bre is to bring back day camps, which have been on hold since before the pandemic. She led the first one over spring break. It was smaller than any of the 4 summer day camps the staff is designing, and they hope to learn from it to inform future plans.

Bre believes the most challenging part of her job will be learning state educational standards to form the basis of field trips and day camps. She intends to work with educators and volunteers to help with this. Currently, schools contact the park staff and specify which topics to cover, and the staff tailors a program to fit their needs. They are working on a field trip guide to publish for teachers in the future.

Bre is excited to work with volunteers such as Friends of Bowie Park. We can help by volunteering for programs, writing grants, and fundraising.

### More Community Events

**Arts and Crafts Fair** May 11th, 9 am—4 pm, at Bowie Park.

**Summer Movie Series** June 8th, 15th, July 3rd at Bowie Park.

**Back-to-School Bash** July 27th at City Hall.

**Nature Fest** September 21st at Bowie Park.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you have time to donate, please let us know by emailing [connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com](mailto:connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com)

**Webmaster needed.** If you have computer skills you are willing to share, the Friends of Bowie Park needs someone to oversee our website. Our current webmaster has taken care of our site for over a decade and is ready to retire.

**Garden Crew.** During the growing season, the Garden Crew meets on Tuesday mornings and on Tuesday evenings for those who are otherwise occupied in the morning. We care for the flower beds in front of the Nature Center and the restroom building.

**Parks and Landscaping Board Representative.** The P&L Board is an advisory board for the City of Fairview dealing with the parks system. Friends of Bowie Park has a representative on this board, Kathy Tarolli. She is stepping down after many years of service, and we need someone to represent us going forward. The representative needs to be a member of the Friends and a resident of the City of Fairview.

### Reminder

Membership dues for Friends of Bowie Nature Park are due at this time. Dues are still only \$10 per person per year, and can be paid through Pay Pal by going to [www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/copy-of-membership-by-check](http://www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/copy-of-membership-by-check)

## Volunteers Clean Trail in the Rain

After the Friends' March 9 membership meeting, 9 human volunteers and a dog took to the trails with bags and litter grabbers in a drizzling rain. The portion of the trail near the Walmart parking lot was the focus of the group, and 18 hands made short work of it.



## Plant Swap Coming Soon. Save your plants.

Now is the time to start saving plant material for the Friends of Bowie Park plant swap.

Spring has sprung in middle Tennessee, driving us outdoors and into our yards and gardens. As you wake up your plants, be sure to set aside your extras to trade with fellow gardeners.



The Friends' annual plant swap will be on Saturday, April 27 beginning at 9:00 am sharp. Gardeners from all over the Fairview area will converge on Bowie Nature Park to trade their extra plants. Plants for trade may include fruits and vegetables or ornamentals, trees and shrubs or herbs and flowering plants, indoor or outdoor plants, potted plants, cuttings, seeds, or bulbs— anything a gardener might want to grow. Do whatever you need to do to keep your seed or bulb or seedling or cutting viable, and write a few basic instructions for its care and feeding (e.g., plant in full sun, requires lots of water, etc).

The plant swap will be held in conjunction with the City's Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration, also on April 27.

## Friends of Bowie Garden Crew Meeting 3/26 @ 10 am



For the past 15+ years, Friends of Bowie Park has maintained flower beds in front of Bowie Nature Center and in front of the restroom building. The Garden Crew meets weekly to weed, water, transplant and nurture ornamental and pollinator habitat plants. The group focuses on natives, while supplementing with annual flowers to keep the gardens colorful from early spring through late fall.

We will hold a planning/informational meeting on Tuesday, March 26 at 10:00 am in Bowie Nature Center for current and prospective Garden

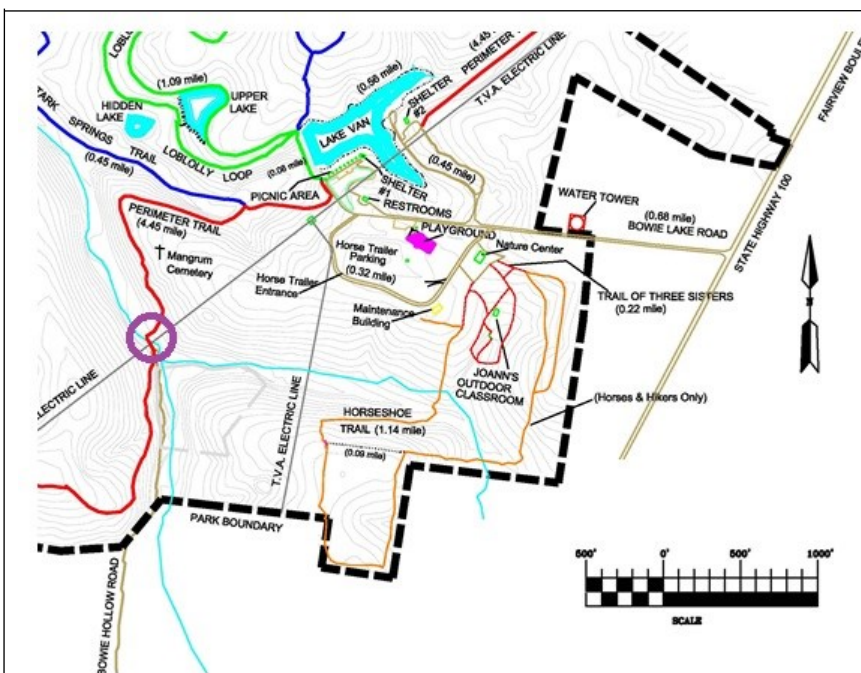
Crew members. No gardening experience is necessary to join the Garden Crew. This year we will have an evening Garden Crew for people who are otherwise occupied on Tuesday mornings. If you are interested in the Garden Crew and are not able to attend the March 26 meeting, email [connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com](mailto:connect@friendsofbowienaturepark.com) and put "Garden Crew" in the subject box.

## Construction Begins Near Bowie

Two construction sites adjacent to Bowie Nature Park are currently active. The City Center site has a main entrance on Highway 100. Part of its southern boundary forms part of Bowie Park's northern boundary. The Groves parcel connects to the City Center site, and is also adjacent to Bowie Park's northern boundary. The City Center is planned to be a multi-use development with retail and office space as well as multi-unit housing and single-family housing. The plan for the Groves parcel includes 160+ single-family homes on lots ranging from 1/4 acre to 1/2 acre. Pre-construction clearing has begun. Both sites are currently being accessed mainly through the City Center entrance on Highway 100.



Groves construction site as seen from the perimeter trail in Bowie Park



The purple circle above shows the site of the missing bridge on the perimeter trail.

## Perimeter Trail Bridge Update

The perimeter trail in Bowie Nature Park has a creek crossing that requires hikers to either turn around or wade the creek. It needs a foot bridge. All five commissioners have voted to move forward on designing and constructing the bridge, but progress on this project has stalled. Why? For both safety and environmental reasons, the City is required to have a certified engineer design the bridge. Certified engineers are in short supply these days, and are reluctant to take on such a small project. The City plans to bundle this project with several others that also require the expertise of an engineer. Because of deadlines on the other projects, we are hopeful that the engineering on this bridge will happen this summer.