



Loblolly Times

Newsletter of

The Friends of Bowie Nature Park



September, 2022

Childhood in Motion: Treehouse Playground Opens

July 2nd was the soft opening of the new Treehouse Playground.





Three years after the original Treehouse Playground was removed because of safety concerns, the second generation Treehouse Playground is now open. It appears to be at least as popular as the original. The playground parking lot fills up after school on most days.

Still to come: 1) The fencing, including the personalized pickets with names of supporters who donated \$50 each; 2) Sidewalk work around the playground and to make the entrance ADA compliant—the old entrance was too steep, so the new one will need to be re-routed to make it less so; 3) The entrance signage and donor wall to honor companies, families, and individuals who contributed \$500 or more to the playground project.

The City is required by state law to put any job that costs over \$10,000 out to bid. That includes the fencing and sidewalk work. The bids were posted, and were due to be turned in to the City by September 8. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) will decide among the bidders at an official BOC meeting. The next BOC meeting is scheduled for September 15 at 7:00 pm at City Hall. As of this writing these items are not on the agenda for September 15. Agendas are posted at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/boc-agendas/> .

Once the vendors are chosen, contracts will be signed and the work can begin. The donor wall does not need to be put out to bid, but a design needs to be settled on and a company chosen to do the work. When these items are in place, the commissioners are committed to holding a Grand Opening celebration.

Other playground related information:

An **adult/toddler swing** is part of the Treehouse Playground plan, but was not installed before the soft opening on July 2nd. This is because it is missing a part and the part has not come in yet.

The **ADA chair for the zip line** was removed because a bolt broke. It will be re-hung after the bolt is replaced.

Trash, rocks and sticks on the playground are not only unsightly but can actually damage the rubberized paths. Please put trash in the trash can next to the parking lot, and keep sticks and rocks outside the playground border.

Mulch is for safety, not digging! Adults please supervise your children and do not let them dig in the mulch. A hole in the mulch will not cushion a child's fall like the full 6" layer of mulch that was blown in by the playground company. Plus, some children have actually started to pull up the rubberized path material. We all need to take care of this playground so it will last for many years.

City Posts Program Director Position

The City has posted the position of Parks Program Director to be in charge of programming for all of Fairview's parks, Bowie Nature Park, Veteran's Park, and the Historical Village. The job description and application are available at

<https://www.fairview-tn.org/2022/07/job-opportunity-park-programs-coordinator/>

As of this writing, several people have applied, but the job has still not been filled.

A program director is needed to direct school field trips, summer day camps, public programming, and to coordinate volunteer work.

POP-C Updates

The City's Parks Operational Plan Committee (POP-C), headed by Commissioner Rod Dawson, has been collecting information from the community as to what types of services they want from their park system. The next step is for the City to hire a professional park planner, and the POP-C's roll will change to that of an advisory committee to the professional planner. Dawson said the City is looking for a representative from each of the major groups that support the existing parks: the Friends of Bowie Park to give input on Bowie Park, the American Legion to give input on Veteran's Park, and the Historical Society to give input on Fairview's Historical Village. Any **current Friends member** who is also a **Fairview City resident** who is willing to serve as the Friends' representative on this committee, please contact Mark Schenkel at schenkel@hotmail.com.

On the agenda for the September 15th BOC meeting will be presentations by two vendors who are vying for the privilege of developing a master plan for Fairview's Parks System. Anyone interested in Fairview's parks is encouraged to attend the BOC meeting on September 15 at 7:00 at City Hall.

Arts and Crafts Fair set for October 8



Scene from the Fairview Arts and Crafts Fair of 2021

Fairview's Arts and Crafts Fair is set for October 8th in Bowie Nature Park. The Friends will have a nature craft booth for children. Anyone interested in volunteering for the booth please email Eileen at eileen.brogan@comcast.net or call 615-799-9666.

Calendar Announcements

Friends of Bowie Park Garden Crew: The Garden Crew meets **Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am** in front of the **Bowie Park Nature Center**, weather permitting. No experience necessary. Bring gloves, trowel, clippers and a bucket if you have them. For more information email ktfbnp@gmail.com

Fairview Parks and Landscaping Meeting: This board advises the BOC about all park related issues, plus Tree City USA status. They usually meet on the **first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Triangle School in Fairview's Historical Village**. Because the first Monday in September was Labor Day, the P&L Board will instead meet the following Monday, **September 12**. The public is welcome.

Fairview Board of Commissioners Meeting: The Fairview Board of Commissioners (BOC) is ultimately in charge of Bowie Nature Park. They meet at Fairview City Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month at **7:00 pm**. The next meeting is **September 15**. Meeting agendas are at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/meeting-agenda-posts/> or at City Hall just before the meeting. To make a comment during

Citizen Comments, you have to sign up before the meeting starts, and comments are limited to the first 5 people to sign up, and must be under 3 minutes in length. If there is a workshop, it will begin before the BOC meeting. Check the agenda for time. Workshops are where the commissioners discuss issues but do not vote on them.

Fairview Planning Commission: The Fairview City Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Its next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 13, from 7-9 p.m. at Fairview City Hall**. There are often workshops beginning sometime before the meeting, where the commission discusses proposed development plans and other issues to be voted on later at the meeting. Check the meeting agenda. Citizen Comment rules are the same as for the BOC meetings, above. You can find agendas at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/meeting-agenda-posts/>

Movie in the Park: **September 17th at 8:00 pm in Bowie Park**. The movie is Lego. Concession stand proceeds support the Shop with a Cop program.

Fairview Titans Breast Cancer 5K: **Begins at 8:00 am in Bowie Nature Park.**

Fairview Arts and Crafts Fair: The City is sponsoring the second annual arts and crafts fair **Saturday, October 8, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Bowie Nature Park**. Set up is from 7:00-8:30.

Friends of Bowie Park Monthly Meeting: The Friends organization meets monthly on the second Saturday of the month at **9:00 am in the Bowie Nature Center**. However, the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 8 has been canceled. That is the day of the Fairview Crafts Fair, and the Friends are participating, so that event may take the place of the meeting. The next meeting will be **Saturday, November 12**.

Other Events: The following events are listed on the City of Fairview's Facebook page as a pinned post with no details at this point. As these dates draw closer go to <https://www.facebook.com/FairviewTNgov> for more details.

Pork in the Park: November 5th

Star Party in Bowie Park: November 5th

Holiday Wonders at Bowie Park: November 25th - December 31st

Tree Lighting Event (to include vendors) at City Hall: December 3rd

Christmas Parade: December 10th

The mission of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park is to preserve, protect, promote and enhance Bowie Nature Park for use by the general public as a nature reserve and park. To become a member of the Friends or to make a donation, please visit our website at <http://www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/> .

To unsubscribe, please email eileen.brogan@comcast.net with your request.