



Loblolly Times

Newsletter of



The Friends of Bowie Nature Park

April, 2022

Friends Plant Swap April 30 at 9 am Sharp



Photos from previous Friends of Bowie Plant Swaps.

Gardeners all over Fairview look forward to the Friends of Bowie Park's annual plant swap. If this is you, mark your calendar and prepare your extra plants. The plant swap will be this **Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Bowie Park Nature Center.** Set up begins at 8:30, and the swap will start at 9:00 sharp. Please, no early trading.

Whether you have seeds, bulbs, cuttings, or whole plants to share, all are welcome. All types of plants are included as well, whether indoor or outdoor plants, food crops or ornamentals. Please include a note card with basic care instructions. Plastic pots of various sizes are available for free to all participants while supplies last.

Get there early for this event. The whistle blows at 9 am to start trading. It will all be over in about 15-20 minutes, so don't be late.

And while you're there for the plant swap, stay for the Arbor Day celebration (next article)!

Arbor Day Celebration April 30, from 9 am-Noon



Scenes from past Arbor Day celebrations

Fairview's Arbor Day will be in **front of the Bowie Park Nature Center on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 am to noon.** It is sponsored by the City of Fairview's Parks and Landscaping Board.

This year's celebration will include a tree scavenger hunt with prizes for kids, a craft for kids, and tree giveaways and information from the Tennessee State Department of Forestry (TDF) for all ages. There will be 100 persimmon trees, 100 shagbark hickory trees, and 100 shellbark hickory trees to give away, all from the TDF.

Fairview is an official Tree City USA, a distinction awarded by the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation. To qualify for this honor, cities need to meet certain requirements, including having a tree ordinance, a tree board (such as the Parks and Landscaping Board), and an annual Arbor Day celebration. This is Fairview's fourth year as a Tree City.

This event is free and open to the public. Come for the Friends' plant swap at 9am, and stay for the City of Fairview's Arbor Day Celebration.

the **BIG PAYBACK** May 4-5, 2022



This year's Big Payback will focus on items needed for the playground area and picnic shelters.

The Big Payback is back! This year's Big Payback is from **6:00 PM on May 4 until 6:00 PM on May 5**. We are hoping to raise enough money to buy some picnic tables for use around the new playground and for the park's picnic shelters. The picnic tables will be coated steel, similar to the ones in the picnic area next to Lake Van. They are low maintenance, and sturdy enough to move around for events such as Nature Fest. Funds from the Big Payback may also be used to pay for items needed for the new playground that can't be anticipated prior to construction.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) hosts The Big Payback each year. Through this event, the CFMT encourages citizens to give back to nonprofit organizations such as the Friends of Bowie Nature Park. **To participate, go to TheBigPayback.org/FBNP** between 6 pm on May 4 and 6 pm on May 5 to make an online donation. The minimum donation is \$10.

Your donation could go further than you think when you give through The Big Payback. To build excitement for the event, The CFMT has prize money available in various categories. Last year, the Friends earned \$7,500 in prize money that went toward the Treehouse Playground. We are hoping to earn some prize money this year as well.

One prize we won last year was for the most unique donors for a small nonprofit organization. That is based on separate email addresses. So, we are encouraging donors to "spread out" their donations among family members. For example, if your family planned to donate \$50, and you have 5 family members

with different email addresses, it could help us win a prize if each family member donated \$10 for a total of \$50.

Other prizes are for the most money raised during a particular hour of the drive. We will get the word out to our supporters as to which hours we would like to focus on.

Garden Crew 2022 Up and Running



The Garden Crew meets every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. This will shift to 8 am in warmer months.

Gardening is the Friends' longest-running service project. The Friends of Bowie Park Garden Crew maintains the flower gardens in front of the Nature Center and in front of the restroom buildings. The Crew focuses on native flowering plants, and supplements with a few annuals to add color throughout the growing season. If you would like to help with the gardening, you can either email Kathy at kftbnp@gmail.com or just show up on Tuesday mornings (weather permitting) at 9am in front of the Nature Center. No experience is necessary. Learn about native wildflowers, learn how a rain garden works, and just have fun gardening with a group of dedicated dirt diggers. When the days get hotter, the Crew typically changes their meeting time to 8am. If the weather is iffy, Kathy will let everyone know if the group is meeting.

News Briefs

Groves Property update: On March 21st, there was a hearing in Williamson County Chancery Court about a development on the Groves property, which shares a long border with the back of Bowie Nature Park. In May of 2021, the Fairview Board of

Commissioners (BOC) approved a plan to build 169 houses on the land, which is uphill and upstream from the park. A local nonprofit called The Loblolly Pine Alliance (“Alliance”) filed a legal action asking the court to reverse the BOC’s decision to approve the plan on the grounds that the plan was approved without the required stormwater runoff calculations.

Judge Michael Binkley ruled in favor of the Alliance, that the BOC’s actions were unlawful in that they approved the development without considering a licensed engineer’s estimations of stormwater runoff, which is required by the City of Fairview’s zoning regulations.

The court’s action sends the plan back to the BOC for another vote so commissioners can make the decision in light of the storm water estimates. There will be a public hearing on the Groves Property plan before the May 5th BOC meeting, after which the the BOC will vote again either to approve or not to approve this development plan.

The stormwater calculations, which were submitted by the developer to the BOC in January of 2022, show that at two points along the border with Bowie Park, twice as much rainwater will flow from the development into the park post- development as compared with pre-development conditions during a 25 year storm event. At another spot along the common border, more than three times the stormwater volume is expected to flow into the park during a 25 year storm after the development is complete. These differences need to be mitigated down to zero to comply with state law. Here is a link to a copy of the storm water calculations.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sEKAFsBKRS14wjbFiLFqYzR-0PzJ9zR/view?usp=sharing>

Tennessee Lookout has published a very informative article about Fairview’s storm water issue that highlights the case of the Groves property. Here is a link to that article.

<https://tennesseelookout.com/2022/04/21/12212/>

Playground update: Playground equipment continues to be delivered. Site work has begun. Trees and a section of sidewalk have been removed to make room for the zip line. Another section of sidewalk, the one that used to lead to the entrance of the old playground, has been removed because it was too steep to be ADA compliant. It will be replaced by a ramp that is less steep and easier to navigate for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

Fairview Parks and Landscaping Board: This is the citizen’s advisory board that deals with all of Fairview’s parks including Bowie, as well as the tree ordinance and Fairview’s Tree City status. They recently decided to have their regular meetings at the Triangle School in Fairview’s History Village. The public is welcome at their meetings. This is your golden opportunity to visit the historic Triangle School, which has been beautifully restored. They meet on the first Monday of each month.

The board is looking to fill an empty seat. If you are interested, please go to <https://www.fairview-tn.org/city/boards-commissions/> for an application. All board members must be residents of the City of Fairview.

Calendar Announcements

Fairview Parks and Landscaping Meeting: This board advises the BOC about all park related issues, plus the tree ordinance and Tree City USA status. They meet on the **first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Triangle School in Fairview's History Village**. The next meeting is **May 2**. The public is welcome.

The Big Payback: This has been our biggest annual fundraiser. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, this is an online fundraiser. This year's Big Payback will be from **Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 pm - Thursday, May 5 at 6:00 pm**.

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, usually on the first and third Thursdays of each month at **7:00 pm**. The next meeting is **May 5**. Meeting agendas can be accessed 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.

Fairview Planning Commission: The Fairview City Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Its next meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 10, from 7-9 p.m. at Fairview City Hall**. There are often workshops beginning at 5:45 before the 7:00 meeting. The workshops are where the members of the commission discuss proposed development plans and other issues to be voted on later at the meeting. The Citizen Comment rules are the same as for the BOC meetings, above. The City is looking for one more planning commission member. If you are a resident of the City of Fairview, you can apply by downloading the application form at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/city/boards-commissions/> and click on "PC Application." You can download meeting agendas at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/meeting-agenda-posts/>

Plant Swap and Arbor Day Celebration: Sponsored by the Friends and the Parks and Landscaping Board. **April 30 in Bowie Nature Park**. Plant swap is from **9 am to 9:15 (setup starts at 8:30)** and the Arbor Day celebration is from **9 am to noon**. Both events are free and open to the public.

Movies in the Park: The City of Fairview is sponsoring a series of movies in **Bowie Nature Park** this coming summer. Dates are **June 4, June 11, and June 25**. Times and movies TBA.

Treehouse Playground Grand Opening: **July 2, 2022** in **Bowie Nature Park**.
Time TBA.

Annual Independence Day Celebration: **July 3, 2022** at **City Hall**. There will be fireworks, live music, and food trucks. Details will be forthcoming.

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.