

2025 FIELD EXCURSIONS

SUNDAY MARCH 23, 2025

Participants are invited to join one morning OR afternoon Field Excursion on Sunday, March 23. Field Excursions have limited capacity, and spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Be sure to register early!



MORNING EXCURSIONS (10 A.M. TO NOON)

GRASSLAND AND WETLAND RESTORATION IN SHELBY BOTTOMS

Visit two areas of interest pertaining to native plants: the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center campus to learn about TN Smart Yards, grassland and wetlands restoration efforts, and the Cornelia Fort Airpark Trailhead which boasts over 100 acres of open fields and wetlands, currently undergoing restoration projects with local partnerships.

Leaders: Hazel Miller and Perri Haga, Naturalists, Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

METRO PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUS TURNED TO POLLINATOR HAVEN

Join the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) at Stratford STEM Magnet High School to discover how we transform turf grass into diverse pollinator gardens and ecology labs that enrich STEM education. During this field trip, you will explore various gardens at the school, learn about native wildflowers, and learn how TEC maintains our gardens in early spring. Please wear gardening attire, closed-toe shoes, and long pants.

Leaders: Bryn Beauchamp & Dr Monika G Pretz from Tennessee Environmental Council

FORESTS, MEADOWS, AND GARDEN BEDS: NATIVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN WARNER PARKS

This visit to Warner Parks showcases three ongoing native ecosystem restoration projects – a native meadow/grassland area, bird research forest site encompassing large-scale invasive plant removal, and residential-scale native wildlife landscaping beds – and learn how the strong public-private partnership between Metro Parks and Friends of Warner Parks make them possible.

Leaders: Vera Roberts, Terry Cook, and Laura Cook

SHOWCASING LOCAL TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

See what two neighbors working together have accomplished by implementing Tennessee Smart Yards principles in their yards during this two-fer garden tour. Fran and Maria will share their journey from removing invasives, through making and correcting plant choice errors, to becoming certified as Tennessee Smart Yards. Visit these urban yards and experience a work in progress as they transition from traditional landscaping to yards that contribute to the environment. On the tour you will see water saving techniques, soil building methods, and what it can look like to work with nature.

Leaders: Maria TeSelle and Fran Zinder

AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS (1 TO 3 P.M.)

HOA MEADOW REGENERATION PROJECT- FRANKLIN, TN

Visit a habitat regeneration of 1.5 acre mowed monoculture HOA common ground into a meadow with native wildflowers and grasses. Project included installation of a community garden for residents.

John Kell - The Habitat Connection

PORTLAND PARK POLLINATOR PATCH

Visit this grass-roots volunteer project created by Second Sunday Gardeners, which features a 1000 square-foot native Pollinator Patch; an Urban Herb Share border with 30 culinary and medicinal herbs; an Orchard (apple, pear, quince, pawpaw), and a Food Forest with young hardwoods and new serviceberry trees, elderberry and aronia shrubs above native perennials and annuals.

Leaders: Maureen May and Joanna Brichetto

COUCHVILLE GLADE STATE NATURAL AREA

Cedar glades are characterized by thin soil and exposed rock surrounded by eastern redcedar trees. These unusual, desert-like openings are mostly found in the central basin of Middle Tennessee. During this hike we will explore one of best examples of cedar glade habitat: Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area. This 140-acre site boasts many rare species, including Tennessee coneflower, Nashville breadroot, Tennessee milkvetch, limestone fameflower, and Gattinger's prairie clover.

Leaders: Jason Allen and Leslie Ann Allen

LIVING ON THE EDGE: EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF BEAMAN PARK

Explore the creek bottom and ridge top ecosystems at Beaman searching for Hepatica, Trout Lilies, Trilliums and more. Wear clothes and shoes for primitive trail hiking.

Leader: Heather Gallagher, Manager, Beaman Park Nature Center

