



# Bells Bend Outdoor Center

4187 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37218

(615) 862-4187

[bellsbend@nashville.gov](mailto:bellsbend@nashville.gov)

## Outdoor Center Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 12-4pm  
Saturday: 9am-4pm  
and by appointment

Bells Bend Park is open 7 days a  
week from dawn until dusk.



## Winter 2024-25 Program Schedule

*Pre-registration is required for most programs, so please call (615) 862-4187 or email [bellsbend@nashville.gov](mailto:bellsbend@nashville.gov) to make sure there is a spot available to you.*

### December

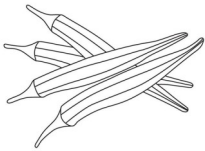
#### Storytime & Activity



Wednesday, Dec. 4th  
10:00-11:30A.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Kick off this festive season with a reading of *The Tree That's Meant to Be* by Yuval Zommer. It is a tale of love and warmth in the heart of a cold snowy forest. After there will also be an opportunity to make your own ornament to take home with you!  
Leader: Krista Allen

#### Okra Ornaments



Saturday, Dec. 7th  
10:00A.M.-12:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

This summer we saved and dried some of our okra pods from the demonstration garden that were too big and woody to eat. Come and help us recycle them into beautiful ornaments to hang in your home! You can make a Santa, a snowman, an angel, or anything your creative mind can dream up! Supplies limited.  
Leaders: Krista Allen & Cheryl Medley

#### Friends of Bells Bend Park Meeting



Saturday, Dec. 7th  
1:00P.M.  
Age Level: All ages  
Call to register

Have you every wanted to make an impact on Bells Bend Park? Well now is your chance! The Friends of Bells Bend Park will be having their winter meeting in the classroom of the outdoor center. Everyone is welcome to join, and if you're interested in membership we can get you set up!  
Leader: Sharon Work, Friends of Bells Bend Park - President

#### Winter Nature Hike



Wednesday, Dec. 11th  
9:00-11:00A.M.  
Age level: 8+  
Call to register

Enjoy the brisk air and take in the beauty of Bells Bend in the wintertime on a longer hike around the Dove Farm Loop Trail. We will explore the park and look for the various plants and animals that stand out this time of year. Meet at the Poplar Creek Trailhead.  
Leader: Krista Allen & Christie Wiser

#### NTOS Christmas Bird Count



Saturday, Dec. 14th  
Times vary  
Email Cyndi Routledge  
to register

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society annual Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 14th. If you wish to participate, please contact coordinator, Cyndi Routledge, at [routledges@bellsouth.net](mailto:routledges@bellsouth.net).

**For more information check out [NashvilleBirds.org](http://NashvilleBirds.org)**



For assistance or accommodation, please contact the Bells Bend Outdoor Center, 615-862-4187.

**Please call to register, 615-862-4187.**

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## Moonlight Hike



Tuesday, Dec. 17th  
5:30-7:30P.M.  
Age level: 8+  
Call to register

On December 17th the moon will shine bright and you can bask in the night views of Bells Bend Park on a ~2.5 mile hike. If you have never experienced our park at night this is the perfect opportunity to enjoy this amazing perspective. Make sure to bundle up!  
Leader: Krista Allen & Christie Wisner

## School's Out S'mores



Friday, Dec. 20th  
2:00-4:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Celebrate the start of winter break cozy by the fire! Join us to toast marshmallows, and enjoy the warmth of holiday cheer as we gather together. It's the perfect way to kick off the winter season, relax, and make sweet memories with friends  
Leader: Krista Allen & Christie Wisner

## Solstice Storytime



Saturday, Dec. 21st  
10:00-11:00A.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

In this seasonal treasure, Newbery Medalist Susan Cooper's beloved poem *The Shortest Day*, heralds the winter solstice, illuminated by Caldecott Honoree Carson Ellis's strikingly resonant illustrations. We'll read the short poem and do a fun craft! Spots are limited.  
Leader: Krista Allen

## Winter Solstice Wassail



Saturday, Dec. 21st  
1:00-3:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Come out and visit Bells Bend on the shortest day of the year! Say farewell to the sun by a fire and s'mores on the back porch, and then stop by the outdoor center to warm up with a hot cup of Wassail!  
Leader: Krista Allen

## Winter Solstice Artisan Market

Saturday, Dec. 21st 1:00-3:00P.M.



Join us for this merry little open house that highlights some local artisan offerings. We will also have a fun craft led by artist Jodie Mowrey, warm drinks, and a cozy fire!  
Leader: Christie Wisner & artist, Jodie Mowrey

## Nearly New Year Nature Hike



Saturday, Dec. 28th  
10:00A.M.-12:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Join us for a nature hike through our beautiful fields when it's nearly 2025! Guided by a naturalist, embrace the serenity of nature as we welcome the approaching new year under the open sky.  
Leader: Cheryl Medley

Bells Bend Outdoor Center will be **CLOSED** Dec. 24th, 25th, 31st, Jan. 1st, 21st, and Feb. 18th in observation of the holidays.  
Bells Bend Park will be open dawn to dusk.



**For Safety and Security Needs Contact:**

Non life-threatening emergencies: 615-862-8600 Life-threatening Emergencies: 911

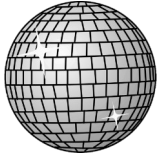


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## January

### Disco Hike



Friday, January 3rd  
2:00-3:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Boogie on over to Bells Bend Outdoor Center to meet up for an educational (and groovy-themed) “Disco”very hike!  
Leader: Christie Wiser

### Climbing Day



Saturday, January 4th  
Drop in 1:00-3:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Whether a beginner or a pro, this is the program for you! Come check out Bells Bend’s indoor climbing wall with our auto belay system and outdoor boulder. We’ll have the crash pads set up and ready to go! Shoes, chalk, etc. not provided. We will have harnesses available for use on the indoor wall.  
Leader: Krista Allen

## Historic Water Colors with Lennie Fottrell

Saturday, Jan. 11th  
10:00A.M-3:00P.M. Age: 13+



In the 1800s and earlier, artists like John James Audubon used watercolors to document flora and fauna, as early photography lacked the detail needed for scientific illustration. Watercolors, portable and quick-drying, were favored for natural history studies well into the 20th century. Made from natural materials like minerals and plants, some pigments even originated from alchemical experiments or ancient dyes, and the study of these pigments draws from geology, botany, and chemistry.

This presentation showcases rock and mineral specimens used in traditional pigments, including toxic ones now discontinued. Lennie will demonstrate how to make watercolor paint from powdered pigments, using historical additives to adjust flow and adherence, and offer a hands-on opportunity to mix pigments. While not a formal paint-making class, this demonstration offers a foundational experience in creating watercolor paints, connecting modern artists to historical practices.  
Leader: Lennie Fottrell

### Trees of Winter



Friday, January 17th  
9:00-10:00A.M.  
Age level: 13+  
Call to register

Enjoy the winter woods while learning about tree identification based on bark, seeds, twigs, and other characteristics.  
Leader: LinnAnn Welch

### Birds of Winter



Saturday, January 18th  
7:00-10:00A.M.  
Age level: 18+  
Call to register

We will discover the winter bird residents at Bells Bend and discussion of adaptations for cooler weather and the difference of the population from other seasons.  
Leader: Lise Brown

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## February

### Ice Cream for Breakfast Day



Saturday, Feb. 1st  
10:00-11:00A.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Join us for this fun informal holiday celebrated on the first Saturday in February. We will have some ice-cream on hand to join in the fun!  
Leader: Christie Wiser

### Woodcock Watch



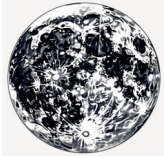
Saturday, Feb. 1st  
Tuesday, Feb. 4th  
Friday, Feb. 14th  
Thursday Feb. 20th  
Wednesday, Feb. 26th  
5:30-7:30P.M.  
Age level: 13+  
Call to register

One of Mother Nature's most spectacular courtships takes place in late winter. Woodcocks are best known for their unique flight displays and courtship rituals of the males during breeding season. Join park naturalists for an interesting and informative evening of woodcock watching.

### This program is weather dependent.

Leaders: Krista Allen, LinnAnn Welch, Christie Wiser, and Lise Brown

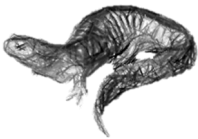
### Full Moon Hike



Wednesday Feb. 12th  
5:30-7:30P.M.  
Age level: 8+  
Call to register

On February 12th the "Snow Moon" will be shining bright and lighting up the fields of Bells Bend! We will hear the Timberdoodles peent and enjoy the night views of the park. If weather permits we can try to spot some of the prominent winter constellations. Make sure to bundle up!  
Leader: Krista Allen

### Streamside Salamanders



Saturday, Feb. 15th  
10:00A.M.-1:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

The Streamside Salamander (*Ambystoma barbouri*), is a state listed endangered species in Tennessee. Habitat conservation is vital to the successful recovery of this vulnerable stream-breeding species. Come learn all about these amazing creatures from expert David Withers through a presentation and hike.  
Leader: David Withers, TDEC Zoologist

### Seedy Situation



Saturday, Feb. 15th  
1:00-3:00P.M.  
Age level: All ages  
Call to register

Growing season is just around the corner and we want to share some free seeds with you! If you have any spare seeds you want to bring to share, feel free.  
Leader: Christie Wiser

### Winter Book Club



Saturday, Feb. 22nd  
10:00-11:00A.M.  
Age level: 18+  
Call to register

Our winter book is *The Essential Mack Prichard: Writings of a Conservation Hero*, edited by Mary Patten Priestley. This compelling collection captures the passion and eloquence of Mack Prichard, celebrated as the "Conservation Conscience of Tennessee." Through his essays, Prichard salutes those who champion preservation, critiques those who fall short, and inspires with his unyielding dedication to protecting natural and cultural treasures. Read this book independently over the season, then join us for an discussion as we explore the legacy of this conservation hero.  
Leaders: LinnAnn Welch & Krista Allen

**Please call to register: 615-862-4187**

Check out programs at other Metro Parks Nature Centers, too.

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