

Dear Amazing Volunteer,

Welcome to the Bowie Nature Park family. We are excited to have you working alongside us. Whether you are new or have been with us for a long time already, your support and hard work is a necessary part of what we do here at Bowie Park. If you want to help with trails, special events, animals, or education, there is a place for you here. Our goal is to help our visitors learn more about the natural world, both locally and globally, and develop a desire to conserve it.

In your hands is our volunteer guide. This handbook will help you understand all you need to know about being a volunteer with us. This will be your tool to knowing your role as a volunteer, the different ways you can help, and important policies and procedures. You can always reach out to the staff if you have any questions or concerns, and we will always be here to help you as you help us. Thank you for joining us and we look forward to working with you for as long as you choose to stay with us.

Sincerely,

The Fairview Parks System Staff

Mission & Vision

Park Mission Statement – To develop Bowie Nature Park so that it furthers Dr. Evangeline Bowie’s wishes through education, preservation, and conservation.

Education Staff Mission Statement – The staff is dedicated to inspiring environmental stewardship in the community. By offering hands-on educational programs for all ages, we hope to encourage current and future generations to explore, respect, and protect the natural world.

Park Vision Statement – To give all visitors the chance to make a connection to the natural world by immersing themselves in our unique ecosystem.

Education Staff Vision Statement – To create environmental stewards by providing one-of-a-kind educational opportunities.

Core Values

The staff at Bowie Nature Park hold these core values:

Respect – Offer an environment that enables visitors to feel a connection to Bowie Nature Park and that creates a desire to respect all living things because of that connection.

Protect – Uphold the natural ecosystem of Bowie Nature Park.

Educate – Help visitors learn about and become acquainted with the Park and its ecosystem, various habitats, wildlife, and the affect human interaction has on the land.

Explore – Lead and assist visitors in exploration of the Park’s ecosystem.

Escape – Give visitors a place of rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation to escape the stress of day-to-day life.



Volunteer Options

Nature Center Volunteers – Bowie Nature Center volunteers may help with front desk duties including answering the phones, minor program preparation, and assisting visitors.

Weekly Animal Care Volunteers – Animal Care volunteers may help feed and care for the education animals in the Nature Center. This may include cleaning the cages, changing water in the aquatic tanks, or giving the animals enrichment activities.

Education Volunteers – Education volunteers may help lead educational programs such as field trips, outreach programs, and homeschool programming.

Special Events Volunteers – Volunteers are needed to help with special events at Bowie Nature Park such as Nature Fest. These volunteers will handle anything from prep work, parking, greetings, handing out prizes, etc.

Monthly Trail Warriors – Trail Warriors is a program designed by the staff at the Nature Center to help with trail maintenance. This can be anything from fixing drainage problems, removing exotic and invasive plants, to resurfacing trails. Volunteers should be able to do physical labor, but there are many different projects for different abilities.

Weekly Summer Camp Volunteers – The Nature Center hosts several summer camps at Bowie Nature Park. Volunteers help keep the camp day flowing smoothly, get materials ready for activities, and may set up and clean up each day. Camp registration may be discounted in exchange for your help.

Volunteer Naturalists – Volunteer Naturalists may lead hikes, showcase pelts or skulls, or customize any program that they would like to implement.

Park System Volunteers – Bowie Nature Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Historical Village are all included in the Fairview Parks System. Volunteers are crucial in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of each park, from clean-up days to landscaping opportunities. Organizations are welcome to join as well.



Registration

Each volunteer must submit a Volunteer Application and will be subject to a background check. Volunteer Applications and logbooks are available at the Bowie Nature Center front desk. A staff member must initial volunteer logbooks to record hours. Volunteer dates may be set in advance or may be assigned at the applicant's availability. To subscribe to the Bowie Volunteer Newsletter and upcoming opportunities, please email the Parks Program Coordinator Breanna Bailey at bbailey@fairview-tn.org with your name and email address.

If you are unable to attend an approved volunteer activity, please notify Nature Center staff as soon as possible so that other accommodations can be made in advance.



Bowie Nature Center
Office: 615-799-5544

7211 Bowie Lake Rd. Fairview, TN. 37062

Recognition

Rank	Hours	Recognition
Platinum	0 – 25	Name listed on monthly Fairview Parks System Newsletter
Silver	25 – 50	Volunteer T-Shirt
Gold	50 +	Yearly Banquet hosted by Parks System & Award Plaque

All volunteers will be named on the following month's Fairview Parks System Newsletter. In addition, we will name Volunteer of the Month as determined by activity level, punctuality, and stewardship of the Fairview Parks System.

What the Volunteer Can Expect from the Fairview Parks System

- A meaningful volunteer experience surrounded by the beauty of our parks.
- Be reimbursed for all volunteer work-related expenses for the organization.
- Develop skills with regular performance reviews and evaluations.
- Earn volunteer hours and recognition.
- Get guidance and support in your volunteer role.
- Learn about the Fairview Parks System organization and volunteer policies.

What the Fairview Parks System Expects from the Volunteer

- Be reliable, responsible, and a good steward of Bowie Nature Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Historical Village.
- Be willing to learn and participate in orientation, training programs, and meetings.
- Communicate any issues or concerns which are likely to affect your volunteer duties.
- Comply with the policies and procedures of the organization.
- Do your duties as assigned and directed.

We hope to work with you soon!