

SHELBY BOTTOMS *EDUCATIONAL WETLAND*

PROJECT BRIEF:

Site:

The Shelby Bottoms Nature Center is an environmental education and recreation facility of the Nashville Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation. Located in urban East Nashville less than 4 miles from downtown, Shelby Bottoms serves as the main greenway trailhead to access nearly 1,200 acres and 5 miles of primitive trails on public land.

Shelby Bottoms Nature Park is primarily rich river bottom land as the name implies with boardwalks over streams and wetlands and great overlooks of the river. The open fields and wet areas give much diversity to the land with an abundance of wildflowers, birds, and amphibians.

The Shelby Bottoms Nature Center and its campus are the educational hub of the park. The center offers a range of free environmental educational programs, school field trips and outdoor educator training workshops. Natural and cultural history displays occupy the walls along with art and photography exhibition spaces and a library with field ID guides oriented toward children. The site includes a pollinator garden, bee hives, nature playground, and outdoor classroom. The campus is a place to learn about the larger park and its unique ecosystem.

Shelby Bottom Nature Center **Mission:**

- Provide quality environmental education and responsible recreation.
- Help protect, preserve, restore and manage the park ecosystem and natural resources.
- Raise awareness, foster respect and share enthusiasm for the natural environment.

Concept: The Shelby Bottoms Educational Wetland

The 2021 Nashville ACE-Mentor Legacy Project asks students to design an educational wetland feature that builds on existing outdoor educationally based spaces and provides an example of the ecosystem and plants found in the larger park.

A cistern and drainage swale directly adjacent to the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center conveys stormwater from the parking lot and the building roof through the project site into the Cumberland River. With guided manipulation of the grades and vegetation, students will design the wetland to function as a stormwater feature. The project should include specific design elements to increase function and access:

- An ADA accessible access route to provide intimate views of the plant material and wildlife.
- A shade structure within a stabilized gathering space for education classes.
- Site benches, bird houses
- Educational signage with information about the Bottoms.



Project Goals:

- Grow a passion and desire for outdoor spaces and the professions that shape site design.
- Increase awareness of landscape architecture's role in improving lives and everyday spaces.
- Enhance the sustainability and character of an important and high-profile environment

Team:

The Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms (FOS), is a volunteer organization that facilitates trail work and maintenance of the gardens, organizes invasive plant removal days as well as numerous other citizen science events. The FOS will be a great partner in linking the ACE Mentor Wetland designs into an actual build. ACE-Nashville, TNASLA and Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation will collaborate through a hybrid of in-person design charettes and virtual teaching methods to create a final design. Professional contractors will be utilized and hired as needed for ADA concrete access paths and grading of the site as needed.

Team Members:

Tylor Fischer – Ragan Smith - Ace Mentor Project Co-Chair and TNASLA Social Media Manager

Daniel Boutte' - Lose Design - Ace Mentor Project Co-Chair and TNASLA 2021 President

Sally Spear – Overton School Coordinator (Metro Nashville Public Schools)

Julie Berbiglia – Education Specialist (Metro Water Services)

Denise Weyer - Superintendent of Natural Resources (Metro Nashville Parks)

Jennifer Smith – Metro Nashville Public Works Horticulturist and Landscape Coordinator

Rebecca Ratz - Executive Director, Friends of Shelby Park - TNASLA 2018 President, Site Coordinator

John Michael Cassidy – Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

Marc Pearson - ACE Nashville Executive Director

Lisa Jennings - Career Discovery and Diversity ASLA Nationals

Mico Lazaro - Kiser Vogrin Design