Hello Postdocs!

Looking for outdoor events, live music, food, and drink recommendations for the summer? VPA executive committee has put together some recommendations for outdoor activities in and around Nashville for Summer 2021. We know that there are so many more great places and events around Nashville and would love to see your recommendations! Head over to the Vandypostdoc Slack, locate the NashvilleRecs channel, and share places and events you enjoy with your fellow postdocs. Vandypostdoc Slack is a great way to meet other postdocs, find others with similar interests, and plan informal meetups.

As always make sure to watch for emails from VPA, check out our website for news and events, and join the VPA Slack channel. Please reach out to us with any questions you may have about being a postdoc here or getting involved with VPA.

Website: vanderbilt.edu/vpa
To join VPA slack go to: vandypostdoc.slack.com/signup

--VPA Executive Committee
Nashville Recommendations

Eat/Drink:

- Arrington Vineyards: Food truck Fridays, 5:00-9:00pm with live music; Music in the Vines on Saturdays and Sundays featuring Jazz/Bluegrass
- Elmington Park: Food trucks on most weekends depending on the weather, check StreetFoodFinder app
- 12 South Farmers’ Market & Food Trucks: Every Tuesday 4:00-7:00pm in Sevier Park, May – October
- Richland Park Farmers’ Market: Every Saturday in Richland Park, 9am-noon
- East Nashville Farmers’ Market: Every Tuesday 3:30-6:30pm on the corner of 5th and Woodland, April 6th-December 21st
- Nashville Farmers’ Market: 900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd, Market House and Gardens of Babylon open daily, Farm Sheds open Friday-Sunday
- Hunters Station: Several restaurants including Hugh-Baby’s, Vui’s Kitchen, The Grilled Cheeserie, Tacos Aurora, Citizen Market, and the Picnic Tap. Pickup and curbside, limited outdoor seating
- The Pharmacy: burgers, sausages, old-time soda fountain and large outdoor space with plenty of picnic table seating
- Von Elrod’s Beer Hall & Kitchen: German-style beer garden with large outdoor seating area
- Third and Home: Sports bar with patio overlooking the Nashville Sounds stadium
- Nicky’s Coal Fired: Artisan bagel shop by day, scratch made Italian and pizzeria by night, has airy outdoor patio

Outdoor areas and activities:

- [Mid State Sports Leagues (MSSL)](https://midstatesportsleagues.com): offers a variety of reasonably priced adult sports leagues and tournaments in the greater Nashville area
- Centennial Park: large park with walking paths, exercise trails, gardens, and a full-scale Parthenon (art museum)
- Fannie Mae Dees Park/Dragon Park: across Blakemore Avenue from Vandy
- Percy Warner Park: great for hiking, biking, or running
- Beaman Park: beautiful scenery
- Shelby Bottoms Park: great for hiking, biking, or running
- Stones River Greenway: gorgeous and peaceful location
- Radnor Lake: most trails for hiking, photography, wildlife observation only; pets, jogging, and bicycles are only allowed on the Otter Creek Road trail
- Hidden Lake: 2.1-mile trail, great scenery
- The Land Between the Lakes: 1.5-2 hours away, great spot for hiking and seeing wildlife
- Percy Priest Lake Park: campgrounds (check website for cost and locations), fishing (check website for limits), marinas (some offer boat rentals including fishing boats, ski boats, pontoon boats and jet skis; some have restaurants and entertainment options)
- Nashville Sounds single game ticket sales available on a month-by-month basis
Festivals and larger events (while these are outdoors, expect events to have large crowds):

- **Yum!East**: East Nashville food festival featuring 30+ neighborhood restaurants, 21+ only, All proceeds benefit Fannie Battle Day Home for Children, 3 different experiences happening in May & June

- **Dear Music Fest**: Celebrating arts, culture, and community; Friday June 25th at Nissan Stadium Lot R, and Saturday June 26th at Riverfront Park

- **Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th**: Brad Paisley headliner, fireworks

- **Franklin on the Fourth**: 4th of July Festival in downtown Franklin sponsored by the Franklin Lions Club, with arts, crafts, food, entertainment, and fireworks display at the Park at Harlinsdale

- **15th Annual Music City Hot Chicken Festival**: held in East Park on July 4th, all proceeds benefit the Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms

- **Music City Jerk Festival**: Nashville's Annual Jamaican and Caribbean Food Festival, July 10th at 1pm in Nashville Cumberland Park

- **Main Street Festival**: Franklin festival bringing more than 150 arts and crafters, dozen of food vendors, two live music stages, carnival and kids zone to historic downtown, July 17-18th

- **Bluegrass Along the Harpeth**: Free bluegrass music festival with food trucks, craft booths, art show, and local vendors, July 23-24 Town Square, Franklin, TN

- **Tomato Art Fest**: Free festival featuring tomato/fruit and vegetable inspired art, wacky contests, live music, vendors, food trucks and more, August 13-14 in East Nashville