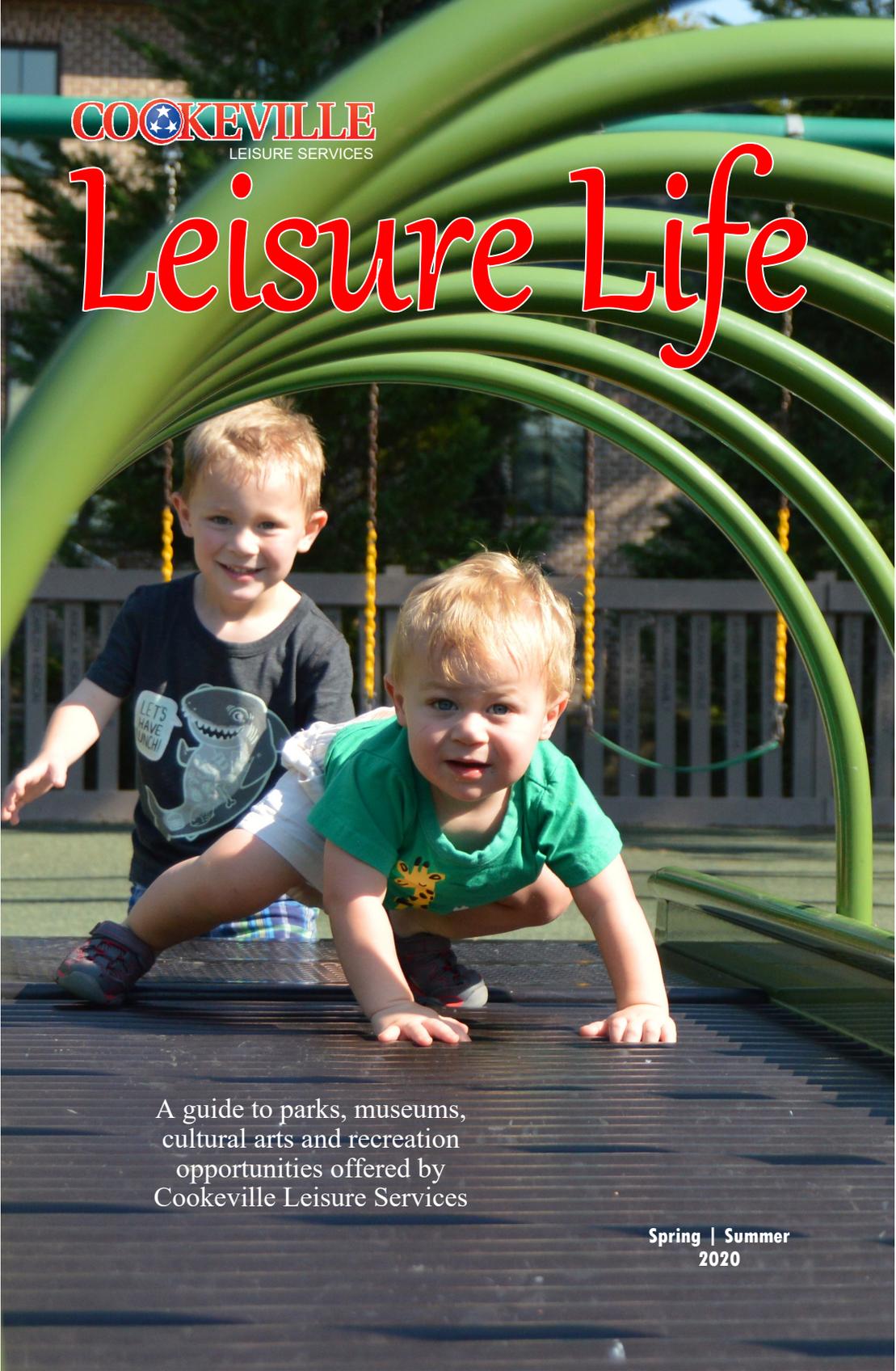


The logo for Cookeville Leisure Services features the word "COOKEVILLE" in a red, serif font with a white outline. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular emblem containing a stylized blue and white star. Below "COOKEVILLE" is the text "LEISURE SERVICES" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES

Leisure Life

A photograph of two young children at a playground. In the foreground, a toddler with blonde hair, wearing a green t-shirt and white shorts, is crawling on a dark, textured metal grate. Behind him, a slightly older child with blonde hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a shark graphic and the text "LET'S HAVE LUNCH!", is smiling. They are positioned under a large, green, curved metal structure that forms an archway. The background shows a white fence and some greenery.

A guide to parks, museums,
cultural arts and recreation
opportunities offered by
Cookeville Leisure Services

Spring | Summer
2020



Park View Skate Park



Train Tales



Cane Creek Recreation Center



Recreational Day Camp

CITY OF **COOKEVILLE** LEISURE SERVICES



Cane Creek SportsPlex



Cookeville History Museum



Storyfest In the Park



Dogapalooza

Leisure Life

On the
Cover



Nolan and Drake Huffines enjoy a visit to Dogwood Park's Heart of the City Playground.

Features

4 | Realizing a Vision
Dogwood Park expanding again

6 | Sounds of Summer
Cookeville Community Band a musical delight at Dogwood Park

12 | Employee Spotlight
Cara Sheets:
Recreation Superintendent

14 | Family Fishing
Family hooked on casting lines at Cane Creek Park
Contributed by Bailey Phonsnasinh

DIRECTOR

Rick Woods

WRITER, DESIGNER PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Davis

OFFICE MANAGER

Kristina Buttram

Leisure Life is a biannual magazine published by the City of Cookeville Department of Leisure Services and Public Facilities. This is our 12th issue. Look for the fall and winter guide in October 2020.



45 E. Broad St.
Cookeville, TN 38501
931-520-4386
www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls
ls@cookeville-tn.gov



'Find the good'

What strange times we live in. Never in my 33 years with Cookeville Leisure Services could I have imagined a scenario in which we'd close playgrounds, cancel events and suspend activities.

After all, our job is providing quality leisure, recreation and cultural arts opportunities for the citizens of Cookeville. How are those things possible during social distancing? Clearly, we've had to adapt.

Director's Take



Rick Woods

And that's exactly what we've been doing.

It began in March as the COVID-19 virus became a local threat. In an effort to minimize group interactions, we closed the Cane Creek Recreation Center, Gymnasium and SportsPlex, Cookeville Performing Arts Center, Cookeville Depot and Cookeville History Museum. In

doing so, our programs were suspended indefinitely. Fitness classes, softball, dance recitals, museum exhibits... none of them could happen without people in our facilities.

Or could they?

Our staff has done amazing things to stay connected with those we serve. If fitness is your thing, you need only visit our social media pages to find new workout videos with our instructors encouraging you as you continue working toward your goal. We're also posting craft videos for both children and adults — fun things you can do from home. While our museums have been closed, we've offered "quarantine content" through virtual exhibits, artifacts of the week, Train Tales stories and crafts, and even a video series with local performers reading scripts from past Cookeville Cemetery Walks.

We're coming up with new and exciting things almost daily, so stay tuned.

Our maintenance staff has done an outstanding job as well. Our parks are just as beautiful as ever, which has been vital during a time when people need nice places to exercise and renew their spirits — while staying at least six feet away from others, of course.

These abrupt changes to our way of life have been challenging and stressful at times. But through it all, we have striven to find the good. We hope you will do the same.

Rick Woods



A young Dogwood Park visitor enjoys a cool splash on a hot day at the interactive fountain.

Realizing a VISION

Master plan update means improvements for Dogwood Park

It's the heart of downtown Cookeville. A peaceful place with green open spaces, flowering trees, meandering walkways and a flowing fountain.

People go there to walk their dogs, to spread a picnic blanket, to read a book and to let their children play.

When you're there, you're home.

Dogwood Park.

And soon there'll be even more to love about the park that's become a community staple.

"Dogwood Park is like the diamond in the crown of Cookeville," said Laura Wolf, member of a 10-person committee tasked with updating the park's master plan following the city's recent acquisition of an additional acre of property on First Street. "It is so beautiful and such a

AT A GLANCE

- Special events facility
- Restroom facilities near playground
- Shade structures
- Park entrance signage
- Numerous pedestrian crosswalks
- More parking spaces
- Creek crossing
- Locally crafted sculptures



tremendous asset to our community.”

Cookeville has been working with Wold | HFR Design and Heibert & Ball Land Design to bring about the vision of committee members, city officials and other interested citizens who offered input during public meetings.

Connectivity was one of the top issues — that is, improving access to different areas of the park. Those proposed projects include crosswalks on Broad and First streets and Walnut and Dixie avenues; a creek crossing; and a pedestrian and vehicular connection between the Putnam County Library and Cookeville History Museum parking lots.

Additional enhancement ideas include new signage at each of the five entrances, restroom facilities near the playground, a special events facility, shade structures over seating areas in the playground and near the fountain, locally crafted sculptures and improved parking.

Cookeville Leisure Services Director Rick Woods said the next step is to gather cost estimates and set priorities. Specific parts of the plan will be implemented as designs are completed and funds become available.

“Some of the suggested enhancements, such as shade structures, can be accomplished within the next few months,” he said. “I think we will see some of the larger, more costly features added later in the process.”

One of those larger projects is the special events facility, which will likely be built on the First Street property.

Wolf said, “I believe it is important and needed. It can become a destination for weddings, business meetings, birthday parties and holiday celebrations.”

Skip Heibert of Heibert & Ball Land Design is pleased to be involved in the expansion of the park.

“Dogwood Park is a wonderful amenity that provides citizens opportunities to enjoy passive activities throughout the year,” he said. “The master plan was prepared after many meetings with stakeholders and provides a roadmap of improvements that will enhance their



A special events facility is proposed for the recently acquired property on First Street.

experience and enjoyment in the future.”

Jim Gilliam of Wold | HFR Design said, “Our firm enjoys being a part of projects that provide positive environments for people to work, play and live, and we take great pride in creating spaces that enhance a community’s quality of life.”

Woods has been a part of the shaping of Dogwood Park from its beginning in 1995, when it was just one acre with a gazebo. He’s overseen many improvements through the years, including a performance pavilion in 2002, interactive fountain in 2012 and Heart of the City Playground in 2015.

“When the initial expansion was proposed in 2007, there were many skeptics,” he said. “But once the work was complete, and the community saw what a great addition to our downtown corridor it was and witnessed the number of people enjoying it, I think most everyone agrees it was a great investment and a beautiful centerpiece for Cookeville.”

Woods expects no less for the future.

“Dogwood is truly a community park, and I look forward to continued community support and involvement as we enhance what is already great.” ■



SOUNDS *of* SUMMER

David Talbert conducts the Cookeville Community Band during a free concert at Dogwood Park.

COMMUNITY BAND A MUSICAL DELIGHT AT DOGWOOD PARK

It's a beautiful evening in Dogwood Park as people gather around the performance pavilion.

Many bring lawn chairs. Others spread blankets on the ground or take advantage of the tiered stone seating, where they await the night's entertainment — a free concert by the Cookeville Community Band.

“Our concerts are festive events with picnic dinners, children playing, friends catching up and community coming together,” conductor Carroll Gotcher said.

The concerts, held every other Monday at 7:30 p.m. during the summer starting on Memorial Day, offer something special for all who come to enjoy the woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble.

Retired teacher Marge Rios is a regular attendee.

“I grew up in a family that loved music,” she said. “My dad would take us to band concerts all the time in Virginia and Washington, D.C. I just really appreciate it.”



Cookeville Community Band members share their love of music with audiences every other Monday during summer.

The tradition has carried on through her family in Cookeville, as she has taken her children and grandchild to concerts at Dogwood Park.

“There’s just a lot of community talent, and people go to see and hear that,” she said. “And you can learn something — who wrote what and why it was written. The whole atmosphere is just fun.”

The Cookeville Community Band has been performing at Dogwood Park since 2003, having formed shortly after the completion of the performance pavilion. Some members are professional musicians, but most are amateurs. Around 65 gather during any one concert, playing flutes, oboes, bassoons, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, horns, trombones, euphoniums, tubas, string bass and percussion instruments. A vocalist is sometimes included.

“It is a volunteer group of individuals from all walks of life who wish to give back to their community through their musical offerings,” Gotcher, who plays



Many come to enjoy this woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble.

euphonium or trombone when he’s not conducting, said. “It’s a place where an 85-year-old retired Ph.D. can join together with a 14-year-old high school freshman and make music for audience members from birth to 100.”

David Talbert — Cookeville High School band director, percussionist and con-

ductor from time to time — is a member, as are some of his students.

“One of my missions as a music educator is to teach my students that music can be a life-long activity,” he said. “There are not a lot of things you can say that about.”

CHS senior Megan Jennings joined the band two years ago. She plays the flute.

“I love the Community Band,” she said. “It has given me a multitude of opportunities, friends and memories. It truly brings all sorts of people together for one purpose. We all love bringing joy to the community through music. The older folks in the band are just as lively and energetic as I am and often make me take the solos and be the lead because they’ve had so much experience.”

Talbert said it’s thrilling to perform before a live audience, especially in a venue like Dogwood Park.

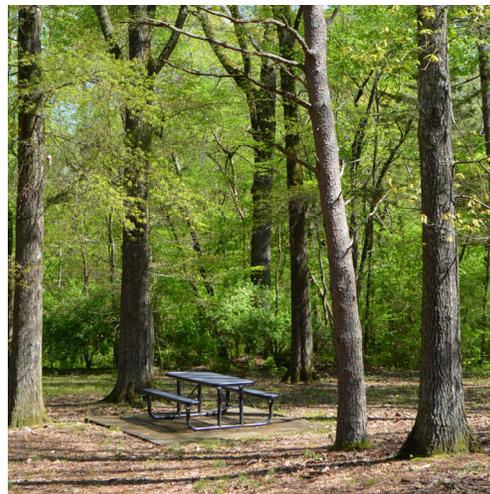
“I tell my students all the time that applause is addicting, and it is nice to know that our audiences enjoy our programming and will come to our concerts week after week,” he said.

Jennings agreed.

“Our community audience is such an inspiring group of people to perform for,” she said. “We all have fun together. Sometimes they sing and dance without a care in the world, and it makes me smile so big. Music can transform people, and I believe it does just that in our community. It brings us together.” ■



PARKS are special for everyone in many different ways. They are places for respite and restoration, where you can connect with nature, enjoy the fresh air and exercise your mind and body. Cookeville offers a great selection of parks — 10 in all. For anglers, we have Cane Creek Park (above) and City Lake Natural Area. For nature lovers, Cane Creek and City Lake are once again high on the list, as is Ensor Sink Natural Area (below left). Looking for fun playgrounds for the kids? Try Dogwood Park’s Heart of the City Playground and Cinderella Park, among many others. What about a quiet place to stroll or enjoy a picnic lunch? Try Walnut Park (below right). Your furry best friend also loves being outdoors, so take him or her to Dogwood Park (left). Enjoy!



PARKS

Cane Creek Park

201 C C Camp Road

Cookeville's largest park features a 56-acre lake for fishing and non-motorized boating, two fishing piers, paved trails, mountain bike trail, 18-hole disc golf course, pollinator fields, five playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, three picnic shelters and numerous picnic tables with charcoal grills, concession stand and boat rentals. To reserve a picnic shelter, call 520-4FUN. The park is open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. until Memorial Day and 7 a.m.-10 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Capshaw Park

560 E. Stevens St.

This park, adjacent to Capshaw Elementary School, is a natural area with three picnic tables. It's the perfect place to explore and appreciate some quiet time.

Cinderella Park

700 Cinderella Lane

Cinderella, one of Cookeville's oldest neighborhood parks, has so much — play equipment, a swing set, small picnic shelter with a charcoal grill, two picnic tables, basketball court and restroom facilities. Located at the end of Mitchell Avenue, it offers convenient access to the Tennessee Central Trail.

City Lake Natural Area

Bridgeway Drive

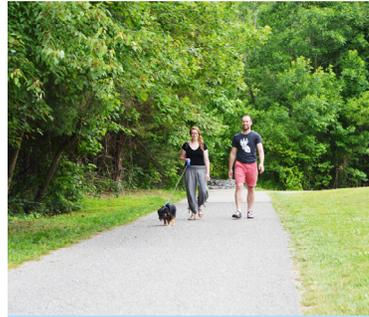
This 35-acre natural area is a favorite among fishermen, kayakers and hikers. The lake, a no-wake zone, has a boat launch and fishing pier. Picnic tables are nearby, as is a walking trail through the woods that leads to a small waterfall just over a quarter of a mile away. Cookeville's first water treatment facility was constructed on this site. To get there from downtown Cookeville, go east on Hwy. 70N, cross over I-40 at Exit 290, turn left on Poplar Grove Road and go straight onto Bridgeway Drive. Open 7 a.m. to dusk.

Dogwood Park

30 E. Broad St.

This downtown oasis, with its tranquil green space and interactive fountain that flows in spring, summer and early fall, is a great place for quiet picnics, leisurely walks and spending quality time with family and friends. The park also features a performance pavilion for concerts, plays and events, gazebo, rose garden, restrooms, and Heart of the City Playground. (Playground closes at dusk.)

City parks are open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



Cane Creek Park is a nice place to take a walk and enjoy nature.

Ensor Sink Natural Area

670 Clover Hill Road

A serene park in the heart of town, Ensor Sink features four picnic tables, walking trails, small amphitheater for lectures and educational uses, stone council ring for scout meetings and nature groups, and an informational kiosk about the city's sinkhole system. Open 7 a.m. to dusk.

Franklin Avenue Park

550 N. Franklin Ave.

This neighborhood park, at the corner of Franklin Avenue and 6th Street, features play equipment and a picnic shelter.

Park View Park

570 Scott Ave.

This park features four baseball fields, play equipment, a picnic shelter with charcoal grill and a skate park. (Skate park closes at dusk.)

Walnut Park

186 S. Walnut Ave.

Nestled behind the Cookeville Senior Citizens Center, this park has a gazebo, paved walking trail and picnic tables.

West End Park

609 West End St.

This park was the site of Darwin School, which served African-American students from 1928 until the school burned in 1963. It has play equipment, two picnic shelters, volleyball and basketball courts, a small open field and restroom facilities.



Cane Creek SportsPlex is the place to be for spring and fall adult co-ed softball.



Day campers enjoy arts and crafts at Cane Creek Recreation Center.



Chair Yoga and other wellness classes are popular at Cane Creek Recreation Center.



Photo by Cara Sheets

Dancers in Leisure Services' School of Dance perform at Cookeville Performing Arts Center.

FACILITIES

Administrative Office

45 E. Broad St. | 520-4FUN (4386)

Learn more about the city's parks and facilities at the Cookeville Leisure Services office in the Cookeville Municipal Building, across from Dogwood Park.

Cane Creek Recreation Center

180 C C Camp Road | 526-7393

Located near Cane Creek Park, this facility houses a fitness program, classes, workshops, events, camps and the Leisure Services School of Dance.

Cane Creek Gymnasium

180 C C Camp Road | 526-9767

Gymnasium activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball and cornhole. Admission is \$1. The facility also hosts league play, tournaments and youth camps and is available for rentals.

Cane Creek SportsPlex

2200 W. Jackson St. | 520-5224

This softball/baseball complex has four adult fields and four youth fields and hosts many major tournaments.

Cookeville City Cemetery

241 S. Walnut Ave. | 372-8086

This city-owned cemetery is operated by Cookeville Leisure Services. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cookeville Depot Museum

116 W. Broad St. | 528-8570

Built in 1909, the depot is on the National Register of Historic Places. It houses Tennessee Central Railway artifacts and an HO scale replica of Cookeville's WestSide in 1955. On the grounds are a 1913 Baldwin steam engine, two cabooses and two track cars. The area offers picnic tables and benches for visitors. Events are held throughout the year. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Cookeville History Museum

40 E. Broad St. | 520-5455

The museum provides exhibits and activities that promote the history of Cookeville and Putnam County. The front gallery houses temporary displays and collections while the rest of the museum features permanent exhibits and a timeline. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.



Children enjoy a game of basketball at Cane Creek Gymnasium.

Cookeville Performing Arts Center

10 E. Broad St. | 528-1313

This 456-seat facility produces local shows, including CPAC's award-winning Backstage Series. It also houses various other theatre productions, concerts, dance performances, film screenings and events.

Dogwood Performance Pavilion

30 E. Broad St. | 528-1313

The pavilion at Dogwood Park is the site of numerous concerts, movies and theatrical performances. It may be reserved for events.

Heart of the City Playground

30 E. Broad St. | 520-4386

This 12,000-square-foot playground facility, located within Dogwood Park, was designed so that all children, regardless of their ability or mobility level, could play together.

Park View Skate Park

570 Scott Ave. | 520-4386

Cookeville's new skate park features concrete ledges, bowls, wall rides and more for skaters and BMX bikers.

Parks Maintenance

544 Scott Ave. | 528-2605

This facility, near the Park View Park baseball fields, houses the parks maintenance crew.

General Maintenance

790 E. 15th St. | 520-5257

The general maintenance crew, which takes care of all the city's buildings, is housed here.



Employee
Spotlight:
Cara Sheets

Cookeville Leisure Services
 Recreation Superintendent

Cara Sheets enjoys a cup of coffee at her happy place — Cane Creek Recreation Center.

Recreation is her game

Every P.E. class has that one kid — the spirited, fun-loving, extra-excited one.

Cara Sheets was that kid.

“I adored P.E.,” she said. “Loved it. Always looked forward to it. It was, like, the best, most fun thing. And I thought, ‘I want to do that!’”

Become a physical education teacher,

that is. So, the Clinton, Tenn., native moved to Cookeville in 1995 to major in health and physical education at Tennessee Tech University. She also had a strong interest in health, which led to a master’s degree in lifetime wellness.

In the midst of her pursuits — which included teaching classes at TTU as an adjunct faculty member and working

part-time with a local school — Sheets discovered Cookeville Leisure Services. She joined the staff in 2000, initially as a day camp counselor and, soon after, part-time special programs coordinator. It was in the city’s “fun department” that Sheets would eventually land her dream job — recreation superintendent.

Since 2005, Sheets has overseen all aspects of the



Cara Sheets leads a fitness class at the rec center.

recreation division, including group fitness classes, events, youth camps and various other specialty classes, programs and workshops. It's a position that has allowed her to indulge in all of her interests: staying active, being healthy and just having fun.

"It piques my creative side; it speaks to my organizational side," she said. "I get to work with people from birth all the way up to senior citizens."

Sheets spends her days at Cane Creek Recreation Center, working alongside special programs coordinator Jen Webb, recreation programmer Sally Herren, support services technician Patty Partington, custodian Michael Cade and several day camp assistants.

Through her office wall, she can hear music and shouts of encouragement from the fitness studio as a variety of classes meet throughout the day — everything from Club Cardio to Fit 4 Life. Sheets herself instructs a couple of classes — PiYo and STAC (Strength Training and Conditioning). She revels in the high-energy atmosphere.

"The rec center has become a hub of this area," she said, noting its close proximity to Cane Creek Park and that it's under the same roof as Cane Creek Gymnasium. "People are always coming in from the park to ask questions. We've got so many classes and programs going on, and participants are just in and out. We've really gotten to know people who have been coming here for years and years. New people are constantly coming in as well. It's just a blast."

Highlights through the years for Sheets have included Father-Daughter Date Night, a beloved Cookeville tradition for more than 30 years; Fit Frenzy, an event at the rec center where people can sample classes for free; and Dogapalooza,



Cara Sheets and her children, Anderson and Crosby, pose during Oopy Goopy Day at summer camp.

which includes a kids' dog show at Dogwood Park.

She also looks forward to the last day of summer camp — but not because it's over and the kids are going back to school.

"We have a giant food fight," she said of what has become known as Oopy Goopy Day. "It's nasty. It's disgusting. It's incredibly amazing."

What's the best part of her job?

"I've always just loved helping people," she said. "I know this is going to sound cheesy, but if you know me, this is a real thing: I love making people happy. I love making people smile. I love creating things that bring people joy. For me, there's no greater gift."

Which is why Sheets feels strongly about providing quality recreation and leisure opportunities in Cookeville.

"People have to find that thing they love," Sheets said. "Our department offers so many things — so find your thing. If you don't like fitness or sports, go to our museums or performing arts center. We have something for everyone. It's just so important to have outlets outside of those day-to-day things you have to do. It's good for the soul."

In her leisure time, Sheets enjoys reading, hiking, being outdoors, going to the beach and spending time with her family — husband Trevor, daughter Anderson and son Crosby — down by the river near their home.

She's also a huge animal lover.

"We've got three dogs, four cats and 17 chickens. And I love it. I would have a whole farm and just be around animals all the time if I could."

Sheets describes herself as a "glass-half-full kind of gal."

"Positivity is huge for me," she said. "Let's look on the bright side. How can we spin it to make it better?" ■

family fishing

Family hooked on casting lines at Cane Creek Park

By Bailey Phonsnasinh

The Phonsnasinh family — Charlie, Bailey, Silas and Cora — gather by the lake for some fishing at Cane Creek Park. Below is a bass caught by Silas.



On a warm spring evening as my husband and I paddled our kayaks along the lake at Cane Creek Park, our son sat on the back of his dad's boat, casting a line.

At just 4 years old, he was still working on improving his casting skills to the sounds of frogs croaking and crickets chirping, which gave a sense of calm across the lake as the sun went down.

Calm until the bass splashed through the surface, jumping after the rattling lure our young angler dragged across the top of the water.

"Whoa! I got him!" he exclaimed, looking to his dad for instructions on what to do next.

"Awesome. Now keep your line tight and reel it in," my husband encouraged as he reached over the side of the kayak to help bring in the catch.

Sorry to break up the fun, I reminded the two of them of the time and noted that we would need to head home soon.

The request for "just one more cast, mom," told me that our son had experienced more than just a few lucky catches. He was hooked. Just like his dad, the fun and sport of fishing had taken hold of him.

The lake at Cane Creek Park is a perfect spot for kids to fall in love with fishing. At 56 acres, most of the lake's shoreline is accessible, so bank fishing opportunities are wide open. Plus, there are two fishing piers.

And no matter the season, there are fish to catch. Summer brings the annual Kids' Fishing Derby and a stock of catfish added to the water. As the weather cools in the fall, you can cast a line for carp, bass, bluegill or trout. The lake is stocked with hundreds more trout in the winter. And it is hard to beat the excitement of spring and summer bass fishing for young anglers.

Naturally, when our son got his first kayak for Christmas last year, he was anxious to paddle at Cane Creek Park. It's where he broke in his very own boat and where he caught his first fish from a kayak he was paddling himself: a trout.



Silas Phonsnasinh and his dad, Charlie, weigh his prize-winning catfish during the 2019 Kids' Fishing Derby held at Cane Creek Park.

Then, when the annual Kid's Fishing Derby came around last summer, he won a prize for catching the biggest fish in his age group.

For our family, fishing at Cane Creek Park is an opportunity to leave the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind and enjoy being together in the outdoors without having to go too far from home.

Just weeks before we welcomed our second child, a baby girl, to our family, loved ones hosted a baby shower for us where guests were asked to answer a few questions about their wishes for our daughter. One blank guests were left to complete: "I hope you get your dad's..."

The overwhelming response from the people close to us was that they hope our daughter gets her dad's love for the outdoors. While I cannot predict the personality or interests of our little one, I can guess that, much like our son, her interest in the outdoors will be initiated in local parks like Cane Creek.

Living in the Upper Cumberland, we are fortunate to have hundreds of miles of fishable shoreline nearby along local lakes, rivers and creeks. Even more fortunate for us are the accessible fishing opportunities available at Cane Creek Park, right here in our hometown, minutes from where we live and work every day. ■



Virtual Dogapalooza

Dogapalooza (normally held at Dogwood Park) is going online this year. We want pictures and descriptions of your Top Dog (How has he or she been a good companion during the quarantine?) as well as videos for our virtual Kids' Dog Show. For more details, see the Cookeville Leisure Services Facebook page.



Cayden Mahan and "Kota Bear" show their Best of Show award in the 2019 kids' dog show.

Storyfest in the Park

May 30

"Lend us your ears" for the seventh annual Storyfest in the Park. This is a



Sparks



Irwin

free event from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dogwood Park with professional storytellers from across the region, including nationally known headliners Minton Sparks and Andy Offutt Irwin. We'll also have our local amateur storytellers' competition.

World Tai Chi & Qigong Day

May 30

"One World... One Breath" is the motto of this annual event that offers free Tai Chi and Qigong demonstrations starting at 10 a.m. at Cane Creek Recreation Center. People around the world will learn about these martial art forms that are practiced both for defense and health benefits. Join us for this experience.



Softball season is a busy time at Cane Creek SportsPlex.

History Hikes

May-October

It's history and a hike all rolled into one fun adventure on the second Saturday of each month. Start at the Cookeville Depot or Cookeville History Museum between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and go exploring along Broad Street. Complete this activity to be entered in a prize drawing. Each month has a different theme. Participation is free.



Love history? Take a History Hike in downtown Cookeville.

Softball

Co-ed adult leagues

Spring co-ed church and recreation leagues and fall co-ed recreation and men's leagues will be scheduled at Cane Creek SportsPlex. For registration information, call 520-5224.

Kids Fishing Derby

June 6

Take the kids fishing at Cane Creek Park on Tennessee's Free Fishing Day. This event, for ages 15 and under, is hosted by Tennessee Tech Student Fisheries Association, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Cookeville Leisure Services. Prizes are awarded in various categories. Register at 7:30 a.m.

All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.



A crowd gathers at the Dogwood Performance Pavilion for a Cookeville Community Band concert.

CONCERTS & MOVIES

Community Band

**May 25, June 8, June 22,
July 6, July 20**

Summer nights in Dogwood Park are sweeter with the Cookeville Community Band. This woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble presents free concerts every other Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the performance pavilion. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and indulge in this enriching, musical treat.

After Dark Movies in the Park

June 5, 12, 19, 26

Gather around the big screen on Friday nights in June at Dogwood Park for a family-friendly film under the stars beginning at dark. Spread a blanket, munch on popcorn and enjoy this free movie series sponsored by Rep. Ryan Williams.

Third Thursday in the Park

June 18, July 16, Aug. 20

This concert series offers a variety of music — everything from classic rock to country — on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Come enjoy this free outdoor music experience in the heart of downtown Cookeville.

Big Band Sound

Aug. 3, Sept. 7

You'll want to dance during these lively orchestra concerts at Dogwood Park. Join us at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Bryan Symphony Orchestra

Sept. 6

An orchestra under the stars awaits music lovers at Dogwood Park at 7:30 p.m. This free annual outdoor concert features professional musicians as well as faculty and select students from Tennessee Tech University.

Brown Bag Lunch Concerts

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23

Music and lunch come together in a fun way for this concert series sponsored by Cookeville Arts Council. See a variety of bands on the Cookeville Depot patio on Fridays in October from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch may be purchased on site.



Ridin' the Rails performs at the Cookeville Depot.

Classic Cinema at the Depot

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23

Join us on Friday nights in October as we present free classic movies under the stars on the west patio of the Cookeville Depot Museum at 7 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on — we'll pop the popcorn and chill the water and sodas, which are \$1 each.

All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.

RED, WHITE & BOOM!

Fireworks

July 4

City of Cookeville's sixth annual Red, White & Boom celebration includes a children's bicycle/wagon parade starting at the Cookeville Courthouse at 10 a.m. and lots of activities at the Putnam County Fairgrounds, including a huge fireworks show synchronized to music starting at 8:45 p.m.



Cookeville's fireworks show is enjoyed by thousands.

SlideCKVL

July 4, 5

It's a big two-day water party on Broad Street with a 1,000-foot waterslide. Get tickets at www.cpactn.com.



SlideCKVL is fun for all ages on Broad Street.

Patriotic Concert

July 6

Cookeville Community Band will present a free concert at Dogwood Park at 7:30 p.m.

SUMMER CAMPS

Recreational Day Camp

To be announced

This camp is for rising first graders through age 12. Enjoy arts, crafts, games, trips to the pool and more. (Fall and spring camps are also offered.)

Basketball Camp

June 1-5, June 15-19, July 13-17

Players ages 7-15 will improve skills on the court through drills and shooting techniques.

All Sports Camp

June 8-12, June 29-July 3, July 20-24

This camp offers kids ages 7-12 a chance to learn or improve skills in several sports.

Lacrosse Camp

June 22-26

Children ages 7-12 will learn to play or improve skills in lacrosse. Equipment is provided.

Gym Games & Outdoor Fun Camp

July 6-10

Get ready for fun games like dodgeball and kickball at Cane Creek Gymnasium and some outdoor adventures such as hiking and paddleboat rides at Cane Creek Park. This camp is for ages 7-12.

Camps are held at Cane Creek Recreation Center and Gymnasium.

Call 526-7393 for more information.

All camps subject to change or cancellation.

Backstage Series

Aug. 14-16, 18, 20-22

Cookeville Performing Arts Center's award-winning Backstage Series continues with "Church and State." Productions are selected especially for presentation in the intimacy of the backstage theatre setting. For tickets, call 528-1313 or visit www.cpactn.com

Film Festival

Aug. 22

Cookeville Performing Arts Center, in partnership with WCTE, will present the inaugural WCTE PBS Film Festival at CPAC and Dogwood Park. The independent non-fiction films will focus on Putnam County's tornado tragedy and the impact of COVID-19 and social distancing on this region.

All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.

Cookeville Cemetery Walk

Sept. 19

Several Cookeville City Cemetery "residents" will rise from the grave to tell their stories. Tickets for this educational and entertaining event are available at Cookeville Performing Arts Center.

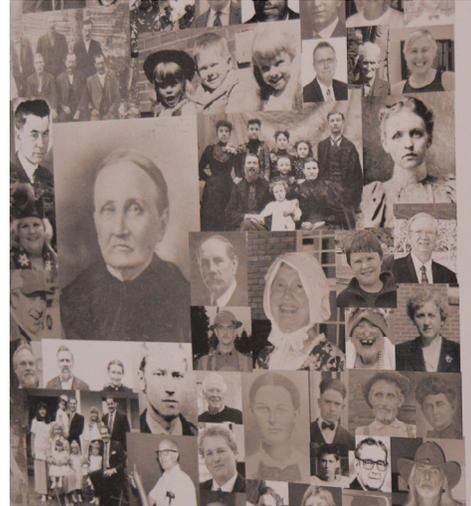


Hear stories from "residents" of the City Cemetery.

Shakespeare in the Park

Oct. 2-10

Experience a William Shakespeare play under the night sky at Dogwood Park at 7 p.m. This year's production is "Titus Andronicus." Bring a lawn chair and blanket. Admission is free.



Some recent exhibits: "30 Years of Cookeville Crazy Quilters" and "I Spy Cookeville."

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Been to the Cookeville History Museum lately? If not, you're in for a treat. But if you have, you're still in for a treat. After all, history keeps "changing" — so don't expect the same experience each time you visit. The front gallery continually houses new displays that delight history lovers of all ages. Past exhibits have featured "I Spy" activities, heirloom quilts, art, pottery and various other items from local collectors. Also be sure to browse the rest of the museum to see the permanent exhibits. Check out the Cookeville Depot Museum, too. Hours for both museums are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at 40 E. Broad St. and 116 W. Broad St. Admission is free.

Summer exhibits

"Expressions of the Upper Cumberland"

(Art exhibit at Cookeville History Museum)

"When I Think of Cookeville..."

(Children's art show at Cookeville Depot)

"Celebrating Local Women and Their Stories"

(Local women's history and suffrage at Cookeville History Museum)

ONGOING

Classes and Programs

Looking for fun and healthy ways to spend your leisure time? Get involved in our classes and programs, some of which include tai chi, chair yoga, belly dance and photography. Learn more at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/classes-programs or call Cane Creek Recreation Center at 526-7393.

Train Tales

Cookeville Depot Museum is the place to be for little ones on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for fun train stories and activities. Also be sure to check out the railway artifacts and see the big engine outside.



Come to the depot for Train Tales.

Gymnasium

Play basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball and cornhole at Cane Creek Gymnasium. Open gym is available any time the facility is not programmed or rented, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Admission is \$1. See the daily activity schedule at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/ccgym.

Group Fitness

Stay in shape the fun way. Cookeville Leisure Services offers group fitness classes daily at Cane Creek Recreation Center. Drop in for just \$3 per class — no contract or membership required. Try your first class for free. See the monthly schedule and class descriptions at www.cookeville-tn.gov/ls/fitness.

All events and activities subject to change based on public gathering recommendations.



Dogapalooza



Cookeville Depot



Dogwood Park



Dogwood Park

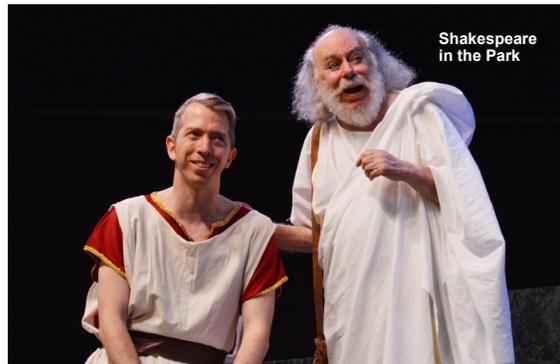
CITY OF
COOKEVILLE
LEISURE SERVICES



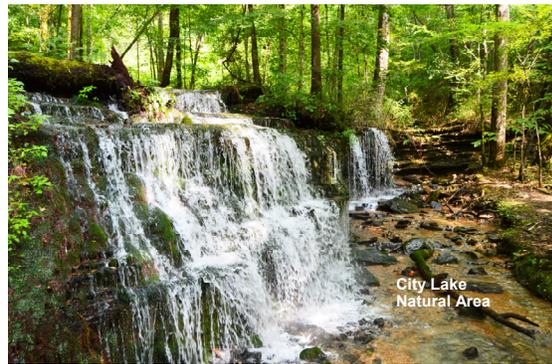
Lacrosse Camp



Cane Creek Park



Shakespeare in the Park



City Lake Natural Area