



We are champions for Louisville's natural areas from Jefferson Memorial Forest, the nation's largest city-owned urban forest, to the ones in your neighborhood.

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SummerWorks Youth Naturalist Program

Summer 2023

The Natural Areas SummerWorks youth had an eventful experience as naturalists. Their activities included participating in the Laurel Wilt Disease (LWD) Field day where they learned the background of the disease, how to collect samples from trees and how to perform diagnostic testing. They also explored fungicide trials and how drones are used in studying LWD. Also on the agenda were land management days at Beargrass Park where the SummerWorks naturalists helped to remove the invasive species HoneyBush Suckle. The youth facilitated indoor and outdoor activities at the Portland Community Center and Southwick Community Centers, as well as partnered with the Shawnee Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library to hold outdoor story times for young children and to facilitate ECHO nature-based play.

During the summer, the youth attended a 2-day training at MSD on water quality, erosion prevention and sediment control, post construction design, construction and maintenance, and water quality sampling. They also met with a SummerWorks career coach who shared insight on resumes, how to pursue career goals, next steps for the coming school year, how to prepare for college, financial management and budgeting.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



This summer, restoration of Chickasaw Pond began. Natural Areas Administrator, Jessica Kane, speaks during the press conference regarding the pond restoration.

Natural Areas welcomes new members to the team!

Over the past few months, several new staff members have joined the Natural Areas team.

Andrea Madden is now a Welcome Center Assistant, Jonathan Callis and Courtney Pound are in Park Worker II positions and Rachel Young is a Naturalist. Please join us in welcoming these new staff to Natural Areas.



Jonathan Callis



Andrea Madden



Courtney Pound



Rachel Young



Land Management Perspectives

Summer 2023 has been filled with activity for the Natural Areas Land Management team. With the help of volunteers, we successfully planted 80 native trees in a reforestation planting project at Joe Creason Park during Tree Fest 2023. Our hard working volunteers also helped to finish a significant reroute on the Scott's Gap trail in order to avoid steep sections and hazardous creek crossings. Both volunteers and staff will participate in the official opening of the new entrance to Scott's Gap trail on August 19, 2023 (and the closing of the existing trail entrance).

Our Natural Areas team of staff and volunteers have also completed the resurfacing and widening of the Environment Education Stream trail, with just some fine-tuning

remaining. We have been devoting time and effort to repair sections of various natural areas trails damaged by uprooted trees and erosion, as well as clearing the trails from storm debris and fallen trees.

This summer, we have been working to control invasive species in many natural areas properties. This included efforts with SummerWorks participants at Beargrass Creek Greenway. Our team has also planned and started installation of pollinator gardens at the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center and the Horine Conference Center.

In partnership with University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Division of Forestry, we hosted a field day studying and learning how to identify Laurel Wilt Disease (LWD), which is a new threat to our native Sassafras and Spice bush caused by the Redbay

Ambrosia beetle.

The Natural Areas Land Management team also reinforced and stabilized the Mitchell Hill Lake dam to ensure its integrity and safety. We conducted our annual survey of Kentucky glade cress at McNeely Park and are continuing to establish a healthy ecosystem within the park. We are continuing the ongoing maintenance of the Louisville Loop and the care of trees planted in previous years as part of a larger reforestation effort within Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Through the hard work and dedication of the Natural Areas staff and volunteers, we have had an eventful, productive, and successful summer!

Staff Blog Spotlight

A Profile of Rachel Young

This quarter we are highlighting a new member of our team of Naturalists

1. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a 100-year-old house in south Louisville near the Iroquois Library and Iroquois Park. My parents have lived in the house where they raised me for nearly fifty years!

2. What drew you to the outdoors both as a child and now?

I am the youngest of eleven siblings, and all of us spent a lot of time outside. When so many other things were cost prohibitive for a family that size, exploring outdoors was a free way to escape an often-cramped house. We had the privilege of living near several “pocket parks” and down the street from the expansive Iroquois Park. On weekends, we would load into our parents’ station wagon and head to Bernheim Forest to explore in creeks and woods. Now, I still experience a sense of childlike wonder when I step into a natural space. I want to know the names of all the birds, insects, plants, and fungi that surround me.

3. What does a naturalist's work entail?

So much! My day-to-day varies depending on the season. Summer is obviously ^bcamp season, so we just wrapped up several weeks of hosting excited kiddos at the Forest. In the fall and spring, I will be working with our youth team building, Kentucky’s First People, Bring a Book to Life, and canoeing programs. Other naturalists on our team work with schools and community centers through our ECHO program, conduct archery programming, and lead environmental education field trips.

4. How did you get interested in becoming a naturalist?

As a kid, I had great mentors that taught me to view nature through a magical lens. My dad was my first naturalist, sharing fun facts about trees and rock formations with his kids every chance he got. I always knew that I wanted to share the gift he gave me with others. After graduating college with a

degree in Sustainability Education, I spent several years as a classroom science teacher in middle and high schools here in Louisville. I absolutely loved getting to work with students every day, but I felt claustrophobic being contained to an indoor classroom.

Becoming a naturalist has allowed me to continue using my teaching skills in an environment that makes me feel more at home.

4. What sparked your interest in working with children?

Because I’m the youngest of eleven, I became an aunt when I was only eight years old. As I grew up, I spent a lot of time babysitting and loved seeing my nieces and nephews “discover” things that were new to them, especially outdoors. I now have 18 nieces and nephews, and the joy of watching them grow and achieve milestones never fades.

5. What is your favorite part of the job?

I love the creative aspect of this job! Over the summer, I had several opportunities to dress in costume as a troll and “food spirit”

for summer camps. It is such a blast to see what can happen when grown ups collaborate to create immersive outdoor experiences for kids.

6. What's your favorite local green space?

Here at JMF, I love spending quiet moments observing birds and dragonflies at Mitchell Hill Lake. While this isn’t an area we manage, Iroquois Park has a special place in my heart. I grew up playing on that playground and still enjoy running there with family and hiking there with my partner and pup. It never ceases to amaze me how many fascinating critters exist just beyond our urban core if you venture onto a trail!

7. Do you have a favorite plant to find in nature?

This time of year, I get a kick out of pawpaw hunting. Pawpaws are the largest native fruit in Kentucky, and they taste like a combination of bananas and mangoes. Yum!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Seasonal Positions:

Environmental Programmer- \$16/hour

Join the Natural Areas Crew this coming spring and spend your time outside leading kids on interpretive hikes, habitat studies, outdoor free-play, fishing, archery, and more! Please send your application and resume to David.Grissom@louisvilleky.gov.

ECHO Programmer- \$16/hour

The Natural Areas Division at Jefferson Memorial Forest is searching for seasonal employees to provide outdoor education and recreation programming out of Shawnee Park. Please send your application and resume to Jessica.Kane@louisvilleky.gov.



Full-time Positions Available

ECHOmobil Programmer- Provides mobile nature play to pre-schools, daycares, and at community events. Maintains database for ECHO programs and youth.

Forester I- Work with the land management team to remove invasives, maintain the Louisville Loop, provide trail work, and tree maintenance.



Apply Online

SUMMER 2023



**Call the JMF Welcome
Center to register!
502-368-5404**

Natural Areas Programming Schedule

Archery 101

Saturday, Sept 9, 10am - noon

Join us for an introduction to archery and learn how to safely use a bow and arrow. This first session teaches familiarization with equipment as well as the form and skills needed to hit your marks. All equipment is provided.

Program meets in Horine Reservation.

Ages: 10 and up.

A parent/legal guardian must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Pre-Registration required. Register Online or by calling 502-368-5404. Fee: \$10/person

Map & Compass Skills

Saturday Sept 23, 9am - noon

Horine Conference Center
12408 Holsclaw Hill Rd,
Louisville, KY,

Map and landscape reading are skills every outdoor person should possess. Equip yourself with the knowledge necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations while using a compass. These in-field exercises are a hands-on learning experience. Program meets in the Horine Reservation main parking lot. Ages: 8 and up. A parent/legal guardian must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Pre-Registration required. Register online or by calling 502-368-5404. Fee: \$5/person

Urban Canoe Adventure

Friday Oct 6, 11am - 3pm

Shawnee Boat Ramp 4665
Shawnee Park Rd., Louisville

This free event is designed for individuals and families who are new to canoeing to experience the water in safe and stable big canoes which hold 6 people!. All safety equipment and trained staff are provided. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing that can get wet; no flip flops please. Last Boats at 2pm. Ages: 3 and up. Participants under the age of 18 MUST have a waiver signed by a parent/legal guardian. No advanced sign-ups required. Fee: FREE and open to public.

REGISTER ONLINE

FOR A LISTING OF ALL EVENTS, CLICK HERE



SUMMER 2023



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Natural Areas Programming Schedule

Urban Canoe Adventure

Saturday, Oct 7, 11am - 3pm

Riverview Park 8202
Greenwood Rd, Louisville, KY

This free event is designed for individuals and families who are new to canoeing to experience the water in safe and stable big canoes which hold 6 people!. All safety equipment and trained staff are provided. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing that can get wet; no flip flops please. Last Boats at 2pm. Ages: 3 and up. Participants under the age of 18 MUST have a waiver signed by a parent/legal guardian.

No advanced sign-ups required. Fee: FREE and open to public.

Wilderness Louisville Forest Adventure

Sat Oct 21, 2pm - 8pm

Horine Program Field
12304 Holsclaw Hill Rd, Louisville, KY

Join JMF staff for a family-friendly fall exploration and campout at Jefferson Memorial Forest. The event is held near the Forest's Environmental Education Center and offers a wide variety of activities showcasing all the Forest has to offer. Afternoon activities include archery, climbing wall, guided hikes, pumpkin decorating, hay rides, and nature play. Nighttime activities include spooky hike, stargazing, and s'mores by the bonfire.

Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

FEE for camping: \$25 family campsite, \$15 field, festival-style camping. All ages. A parent/legal guardian must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Space is limited for camping. Reserve your spot today by calling 502/368- 5404. **Register for activities at the registration table the day of the event**



SUMMER 2023



**Call the JMF Welcome
Center to register!
502-368-5404**

Natural Areas Programming Schedule

Gnomes & Trolls

Sat Nov 4, 10am - noon

Horine Program Field
12304 Holsclaw Hill Rd,
Louisville, KY

Enter a magical, hidden world in the Forest, where creatures of the imagination live. Be on the look-out for our Forest Troll, guarding a bridge along the trail. Perhaps he will let us pass if we offer him many of the edible foods in the Forest. While in the woods, we will build shelters of sticks and leaves and enjoy a woodland treat around a campfire. Program meets in the Horine Reservation's Environmental Education Center. Ages: 5 and up. A parent/legal guardian must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Pre-Registration required. Register online or by calling 502-368-5404. Fee: \$10/person

Owl Prowl

Sat Nov 11, 6pm - 8pm

Horine Conference Center
12408 Holsclaw Hill Rd, Louisville, KY

Will owls respond if they're called? Whooooo knows! Join Natural Areas staff for an owl prowl that will begin indoors with a presentation about these amazing nocturnal predators, their habitats, and behaviors. The evening continues with a hike along well-traveled paths as we call out for these elusive birds. Test your auditory skills by listening for their responses.

Dress for the weather and choose clothing that doesn't make noise when you move. You may bring a flashlight or headlamp, however, it MUST be a red light to protect everyone's night vision.

Program will meet in the Horine Reservation at the Horine Conference Center. 12408 Holsclaw Hill Rd. on Google Maps. Park in the large gravel lot and walk down the drive to the conference center. FEE: \$10/person For ages 10 and older (must be able to stand quietly for several minutes at a time.) A parent/ legal guardian must accompany anyone under the age of 18. Preregistration required. Register online or by calling 502/368-5404

REGISTER ONLINE

FOR A LISTING OF ALL EVENTS, CLICK HERE





Come out to the forest!

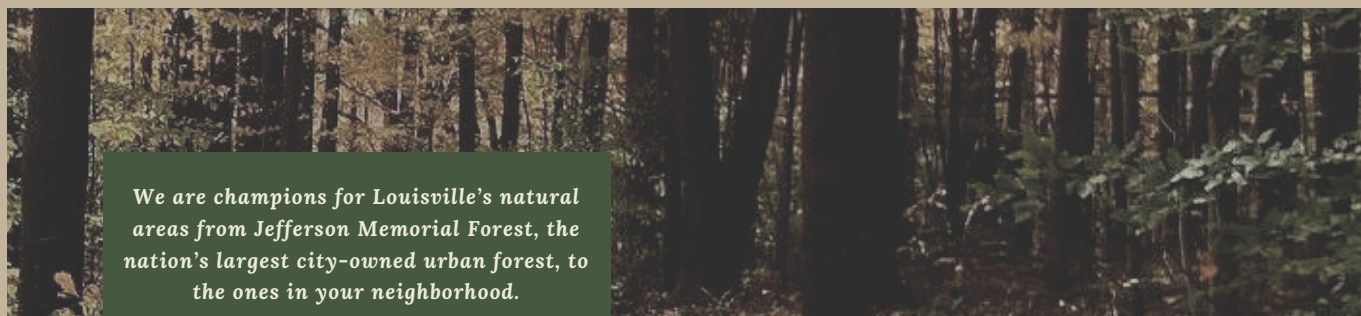
visit www.memorialforest.com for full offerings

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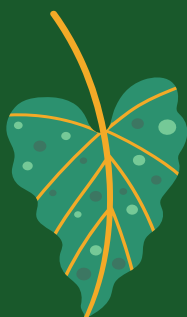


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UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

memorialforest.com/volunteer



STEWARDSHIP

9/11 - POLLINATOR PLANTING, Welcome Center (Limited Availability)

SPECIAL EVENTS

10/21 - Wilderness Louisville Forest Adventure

VIP / Training

9/8 - Volunteer Campfire Night

TBD - Guided Hike Training