



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Reynolds
Chair

Vicki Welch

Vice-Chair

Sharon Bond

Treasurer

Patricia Tennen

Secretary

Kendall Boyd

Equity Officer

Krista Drescher-Burke

Connor Caudill

Chuck Haddaway

Kate Miller

Tiffany Ogunsanya

Lynn Rippy

Randal Strobo

Layne Taylor

William Wright

Ex Officio

Prasanthi Persad

Executive Director

Ozzy Gibson

Interim Parks Director

ECHO Program overnight campout with 4th graders

Fall 2023

Through our ECHO Program, 4th graders from Coral Ridge Elementary had an overnight campout in Horine, with two fun-filled days of activities including a short hike, field stream studies, identification of animals found in the pond, and learning how to build a campfire.



NATURAL AREAS STAFF

Jessica Kane

Parks Administrator

Mark Chaffin

Maintenance Supervisor

David Grissom

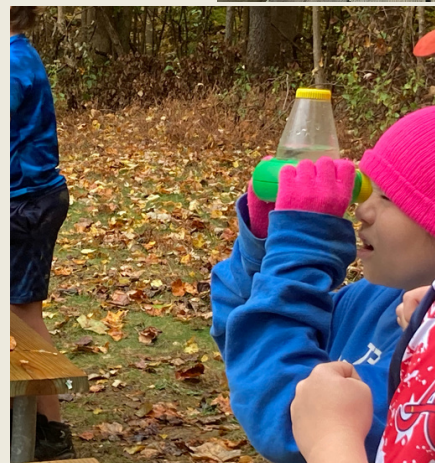
Recreation Supervisor

John Studer

Parks Manager

Cimara Dunn

Guest Services Manager



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



LG&E Grant

Through a grant from LG&E, our ECHO program partnered with Coral Ridge Elementary this Fall to plant 66 trees in the environmental education field at Horine



Chickasaw Forest Play

Phase I of the Forest Play area in Chickasaw Park is complete and Phase II, the installation of play elements, will begin this winter. Grand opening is set for Spring 2024!



Natural Areas welcomes new team member: Jade Glore

Jade is a long-time resident of Louisville, KY and has enjoyed trips to Jefferson Memorial Forest for many years. He graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina where he received a degree in both Environmental Studies and Political Science. At the Forest, Jade works with the Land Management team to remove invasive plants, build and maintain the trails, and generally be a steward of the Natural Areas land. When he's not at work Jade can be found on other trails across the country camping and backpacking with his dog, Pluto, and his partner, Jessie. He also enjoys cooking yummy food, reading strange books, and attending outdoor concerts. He loves working at the forest because he gets to support this beautiful forest that is a gem for everyone in the beautifully diverse Louisville community.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Tom Wallace Improvement Project

It is a \$2.7 million improvement project for the Tom Wallace Recreation Area. The improvements include

- ~ Accessible path for lake access
- ~ New picnic shelter
- ~ Boardwalk over a wetland area
- ~ Additional parking
- ~ Designated fishing locations and a kayak launch

The first phase will be tree/debris removal . The parking lot will be closed for portions of this phase.



18 Additional Acres added to the forest that provides east/west connectivity



Land Management Perspectives

The Natural Areas Land Management team has been busy as usual this fall! They have completed invasive species removal at Chickasaw, Shawnee, Carson, Waverly (kudzu and encroaching trees around the lake), Cassell and Sullivan. They are continuing the habitat restoration work at McNeely Lake Park south, including invasive species removal and expansion and improvement of the critical habitat for Kentucky Glade Cress. The team also completed meadow management for this Fall, which involved supplemental seeding and dead-heading invasive species, at Waverly and Horine meadows.

The Land Management team also cared for trees (mulched, watered, pruned) previously planted through the LG&E Plant for the Planet grant. There was also the Fall 2023 ECHO tree planting of 66 trees at Horine. The team also planted about 10 trees at the Horine Conference Center and 6 more at the Programs Office. Natural Areas volunteers play a vital role in our work. With the help of volunteers, land management completed a new rock armored access path to the Orange and Red trails from the campground. During Tree Week Louisville, volunteers helped with mulching and watering trees at Cassell. Also during Tree Week, there was a reforestation planting at Joe Creason Park – with the help of 15 volunteers about 90 trees were planted. Our intrepid volunteers also helped in completing a new Environmental Education trail section for Natural Areas Programs division to use for summer camps and school groups.

The team also removed fallen trees on the trail, repaired trail blowouts in Paul Yost, took preventive steps to avoid erosion, trimmed and cleared overgrowth on trails and cleaned the Louisville Loop. They also installed three gravel walk-out pads for easier access to Shannon's Pond and cleared vegetation encroaching upon the pond. The team built and installed three new benches around the Shawnee Hiking trail. They removed hazardous trees in the Programs area and helped the Welcome Center and Programs teams with the installation of a pollinator garden at the Welcome Center in Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Staff Spotlight

Profile of Courtney Pound

A conversation with one of the new members of the Natural Areas Maintenance Team



1. Where did you grow up, Courtney?

I grew up in the Germantown area

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

As a child, I always found myself outside doing anything I could come up with from dirt salads to DIY's. The FREE feeling of the outdoors itself is what truly draws me in. As an adult I still find the urge and numerous hobbies to get me out and about enjoying the weather and outdoors year round.

3. What is a day like in your work with the team?

A day in the life with the JMF maintenance team is very enjoyable, and beautiful there's no two days the same and we're always finding things to get into throughout the forest.

4. How did you get interested in your line of work?

I found myself longing for a job like I've never had before, and decided to try something different and that it has been. But truly an awesome place to work!

5. What first made you want to work outdoors?

I've always enjoyed the outdoors from dirt salads as a kid to DIY projects as a adult, so working outdoors just seemed to be something I knew I would love and that I do.

6. What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of working for the forest is the experience, it's so beautiful. Season to season, event from event there's always something going on at the forest.

7. What's your favorite local green space?

My favorite local green space has to be Scott's Gap, it's so secluded and quiet and peaceful yet so beautiful. I always enjoy going there.

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

I love to see all the plants - no one in particular. Year round watching the greenery in the forest do its thing is very beautiful.

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 David.Grissom@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

FALL 2023



THANK YOU



On behalf of all of us at Wilderness Louisville and Natural Areas, thank you for your support throughout the year. Your generosity supports conservation efforts, community events, and youth programming!

If you plan on giving charitable donations during the Holiday season, please keep Wilderness Louisville in mind!

DONATE here





Come out to the forest!

visit www.memorialforest.com for full offerings

scan here for
camping



scan here for
hiking





HAPPY
Holidays



From all of us to all of you,
have a very Happy Holiday
season. All the very best to you
and yours in 2024!

See you on the trails

May your days be

MERRY
& BRIGHT

