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## Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center Included in Mayor Greenberg's State Budget Request and in Governor Beshear's Budget

Wilderness Louisville was thrilled to be included in Mayor Greenberg's request for state funding for Louisville. The Mayor requested \$7 million toward construction of the Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center and the request was included in Governor Beshear's budget. Wilderness Louisville is in the process of lobbying to be included in the final Kentucky state budget. Thank you to Mayor Greenberg, Deputy Mayor George, Governor Beshear, Council Member Purvis and all the Louisville Council Members and Kentucky Legislators supporting the project!



Rendering of the future Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center





# Public Programs

## Welcome Center

11311 Mitchell Hill Rd, Fairdale, KY 40118

Hours: every day 8:30am-4:00pm

Office: 502.368.5404 Email: forest@louisvilleky.gov

## Horine Reservation

12304 Holsclaw Hill Rd, Fairdale, KY 40118

Hours: dusk to dawn unless specified by program

Program Office: 502.366.5432

## Fairies in the Forest

**March 16, 10am-12pm**  
**\$10 \***

Bring your children on an enchanted hike in search of forest fairies living among the wildflowers and trees. Along the way, your child may use their creativity to make a fairy house of natural materials. We will end at our Nature Explore Classroom and enjoy s'mores at the campfire!

## Map and Compass

**March 16, 9am-12pm**  
**Aug 8, 9am-12pm**  
**Nov 11, 9am-12pm**  
**\$5 \***

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.

## Crafternoons

**March 23, 10am-12pm**  
**Dec 7, 10am-12pm**  
**\$10 \***

Celebrate the seasons by creating a nature craft that will keep your space cheery and bright all season long! Grab a friend, a date, or come ready to meet fellow crafters at this adults-only event. All materials (and a light snack!) will be provided during this naturalist-led craft.

## Forest Fest

**May 18,**  
**10:30am-7:00pm**  
**FREE**

Join us for our annual Forest Fest. This will be a fun-filled day of Bluegrass music, arts & crafts, family activities, and food booths. This event is sponsored by Metro Council and free to the public. Follow the @Forestfest Facebook page for the line up and more information. **\$15 parking fee**

## Budding Naturalist

**May 25, 10am-12pm**  
**FREE**

A family-friendly environmental program aimed at enticing young budding naturalists in seeing nature through a different lens. Individuals will be crafting their own unique binoculars out of natural materials that will then be utilized on a guided hike to help bring nature more into focus. Each participant will be provided a naturalist journal to help identify their observations.

## Great American Campout

**June 22, 5pm**  
**to June 23 10am**  
**\$25/family of 4**  
**\$5/additional \***

The annual Great American Campout is a nationwide event that connects people with the great outdoors. This event is an easy way for friends, families, and children to connect with nature, sleep under the stars, and create memories of outdoor experiences. Jefferson Memorial Forest will provide the campfire, s'mores, and evening activities for your family to enjoy.

## Evening Archery

**Sept 13, 5pm-7pm**  
**Oct 11, 5pm-7pm**  
**\$10 \***

Join us for an introduction to archery and learn how to safely use a bow and arrow. These evening sessions will teach the various parts of bows and arrows as well as the form and skills needed to hit your marks. All equipment provided onsite.

## Forest Adventure Campout

**Oct 19, 2pm-8pm**  
**\$15/field camping \***  
**\$25/family \$40/group**

Join JMF staff for a family-friendly fall exploration and campout at the Horine Reservation. Activities include archery, climbing wall, guided hikes, pumpkin decorating, hay rides, costume contest, and nature play. Nighttime activities include a spooky hike, stargazing, and s'mores by the bonfire.

## Owl Prowl

**Nov 9, 6pm-8pm**  
**\$10 \***

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.

## Gnomes and Trolls

**Nov 2, 10am-12pm**  
**\$10 \***

Be on the lookout 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 Info

All JMF programs will take place either at the Welcome Center or Horine Reservation. When registering, more information will be provided for each program.

For more details on all the adventures JMF has to offer, check our website and social media.

[www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)  
FB:jmfnaturalareas  
IG:jmfnaturalareas



Scan the above QR-Code to signup for all public programs that require registration. \*



**METRO PARKS AND RECREATION**  
Escape. Explore. Connect.



# Public Programs

LOUISVILLE  
**ECHO**  
ENGAGING CHILDREN OUTDOORS



JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST  
AN INITIATIVE OF LOUISVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION



## Shawnee Owl Prowl

Feb 23, 6pm-8pm

\$5 \*

Will owls respond if they're called? Whooooo knows! Join Natural Areas staff for an owl prowling that will begin indoors with a presentation by Raptor Rehab of Kentuckiana. See live owls up close! Learn 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. Dress for the weather.

## Family Birding with Raptor Rehab

Feb 25, 2pm-4pm

\$5/family of 4 \*

Come meet and learn about Raptor Rehab's beautiful birds of prey! Afterward, we will go out and practice birding. Hopefully, we can spot some raptors in the wild! The first half of the program is indoors, and the second half is walking outdoors, so please bring layers to keep warm if you plan to bird with us.

## Chickasaw Nature Play Opening

April 4, 10am-2pm

Join us for a day of nature play at the newly built Chickasaw Nature Playground! Families get to explore a wooden canoe in a winding dry creek bed, climb limestone slabs overlooking the Ohio River, and construct beaver lodges using natural materials. Other areas include climbing logs and stepping stones. Staff will be present to help facilitate areas, but all family members are encouraged to join in the fun!

## Shawnee Park

230 Southwestern Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40212

## Shawnee Golf Clubhouse

460 Northwestern Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40212

## Chickasaw Park

1200 Southwestern Pkwy, Louisville, KY 40211

## Teen Biking at Shawnee Pump Track

April 19, 5pm-7pm

Ever wondered how to ride a BMX bike on a pump track? ECHO staff will be teaching teens how to safely ride at Shawnee Park with all the equipment needed.

## Chickasaw Family Canoe Day

May 3, 12pm-3pm

Aug 24, 10am-1pm

Come paddle the newly renovated Chickasaw Pond with your family! JMF staff will provide all the necessary equipment and instruction to safely paddle. Canoes will be 2 person tandem canoes. Please be sure to wear closed-toe shoes. First come, first served.

## Chickasaw Fishing Derby

June 1, 10am-2pm

Cast a line and catch a fish! This Saturday, JMF staff will be hosting a fishing derby for families at Chickasaw Pond. No license requirement! Youth raffle prizes will be drawn each hour starting at 11am. All equipment and instruction will be provided by JMF staff.

## West Louisville Appreciation Day

July 27, 11am-3pm

Join us for an adventurous day of outdoor recreation at Shawnee Park! We will have Nature Play and Rock Climbing available for families to enjoy.

## Urban Canoe Adventure

Sept 21 @ Shawnee

Sept 22 @ Riverview

11am-3pm each day

Last boats at 2pm

This free event is designed for individuals and families who are new to canoeing. 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.

[www.louisvilleecho.com](http://www.louisvilleecho.com)

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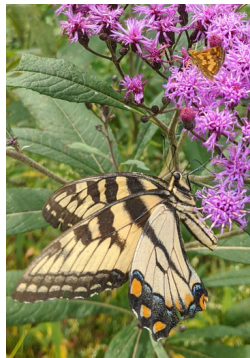
502.366.5432

Email [louisvilleecho@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:louisvilleecho@louisvilleky.gov)

## Program Info

All ECHO programs will take place at the above locations unless listed otherwise. When registering, more information will be provided for each program.

For more details on all the adventures ECHO has to offer, check our website and social media.



Sign up for our newsletter and receive updates for seasonal programming including nature hikes, biking, archery and more. All programs are staff led and provide all necessary equipment. Visit [wildernesslouisville.org/echo\\_registration](http://wildernesslouisville.org/echo_registration)



Scan the above QR-Code to signup for all public programs that require registration. \*





# NEW DEVELOPMENTS



## Projects at Jefferson Memorial Forest

- The Tom Wallace Improvement Project continues this winter. Stonework around the lake is currently being installed, including picnic areas and designated fishing locations. Project completion is set for late spring.
- The Horine Conference Center is being renovated and will be ready for rentals again in late spring. Stay tuned for an open house revealing all the improvements!





# NEW DEVELOPMENTS

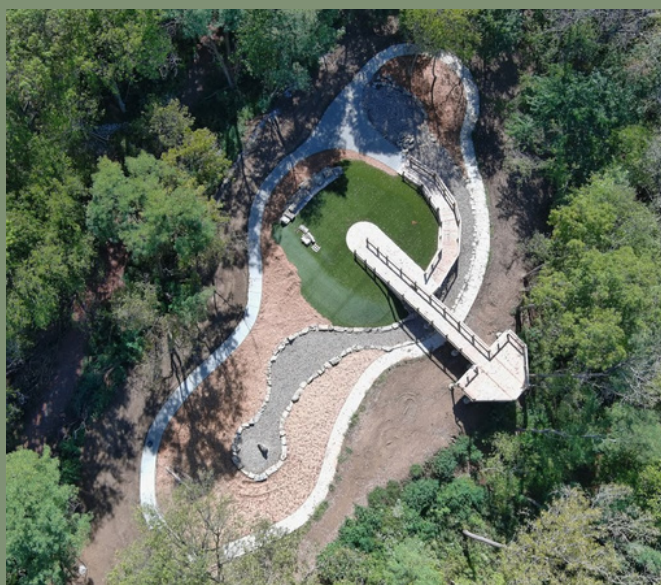


## Chickasaw Pond

There is lots of renovation happening in Chickasaw pond. Upon completion this project will include a canoe/kayak launch, designated fishing areas, new pathways around the lake, and a pollinator garden installation in partnership with Olmsted Parks! Chickasaw Pond will also become part of the Fishing in Neighborhoods program with KY Fish and Wildlife. Natural Areas will be activating this space with programming this summer. Check out the full program calendar for West Louisville!

## Chickasaw Forest Play

Forest Play construction is complete and Natural Areas has partnered with Olmsted Parks to install the nature play elements and plantings. Prospect Parks has graciously donated River Cane for the Forest Play area, installation will take place in February.



*Please welcome a new Naturalist to our team: Logan Mattingly*



Logan found her calling to work outdoors with children when she was 17 years old as a camp counselor, and returned every summer since. She studied Psychology and Spanish at University of Louisville and created her degree called Interpersonal Relations with ambitions to help others. After experiences guiding children and teens in canoe trips, spelunking, rock climbing, team building, hiking, and through social and emotional growth, she realized that Outdoor Recreation is how she would help others—by connecting them to themselves, to others, and to nature. Logan's favorite things to do include funny dances, yoga, rock climbing with friends, reading, and learning new things.





## Land Management Perspectives

As in every season, our Land Management team had a packed schedule this winter. The team did a lot of tree planting – they planted 65 trees with the help of Coral Ridge Elementary at the environmental education field, planted 5 trees at our Programs Office and planted 10 trees at the Horine Conference Center. The team also spent time on the trails, inspecting them for improvements, working on erosion mitigation for trails and trimming back overgrowth. Land Management also installed a new bridge and resurfaced another one on the Waverly Park trails. With the help of volunteers Steve Kendra and Bob Dietrich, the team is in the planning / design phase of laying out a new section of trails to add to the already expansive trail network.

The Land Management team has also focused on upkeep of our natural areas by pruning trees and removing dead trees and old stumps from the Horine Conference Center lawn, by removing fallen trees on trails and hazardous trees around Jefferson Memorial Forest, and by continuing – with the help of volunteers – removal of invasive species at the Sand Pit. The team also participated in a prescribed burn at Iroquois Park's Summit Field.



The team has also been making improvements by installing new railings around the Waverly Park parking lot, by installing hand railings on the steps at Forest Green Greenway and by installing cedar post and rope borders around landscaping beds at the Horine Conference Center and Welcome Center. The team has also been diligently maintaining the Louisville Loop.

In other exciting news, the Land Management team attended the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association conference. Thanks to our Land Management team of staff and volunteers for all you do in making our trails and natural areas accessible and welcoming!



# Staff Spotlight

## Profile of Jade Glore

*A conversation with one of the new members of the  
Natural Areas Land Management Team*



### **1. Where did you grow up, Jade?**

I grew up in Louisville in the Clifton Neighborhood

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

My parents took me on my first 'hike' when I was three weeks old at Charlestown State Park. As a child, the outdoors were a blank canvas for my imagination and I loved the infinite adventures that could be had. As I've gotten older, I've grown more of an appreciation for the natural world and the interconnectedness of everything in it. Though I still love going on adventures.

### **3. What does your day-to-day work entail?**

Our team does a lot around the forest but you can usually find us clearing and maintaining the trails,

removing invasive species, or managing natural areas throughout the city

### **4. How did you become interested in your job?**

I became interested in working in natural areas from hiking and backpacking all over. Working outside makes me happy. I love being a steward of the forest and the trails.

### **5. What is your favorite local green space?**

There's a lot to pick from but I would say my current favorite is Caperton Swamp, during the winter you can see so many birds!

### **6. Do you have a favorite plant to find in nature?**

I'm a big fan of spring ephemerals, they're so fleeting and a beautiful little reminder of the changing seasons. My favorite to find are probably Trilliums.

### **7. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**

Latest read of the Land Management book club was Hollow Kingdom by Kira Jane Buxton. If you're looking for a funny nature book featuring the end of the world and lots of animals, check it out!





# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

# WINTER 2024



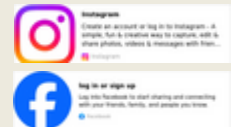
## THANK YOU



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

*A warm welcome to our new followers on social media and thank you to all our loyal, long-term followers!*

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/35676866/admin/feed/posts/>







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