

LATE FALL 2024



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Tom Wallace Recreation Area

*Pavilion installed and playground coming
Spring 2025*



The Tom Wallace Recreation Area press conference scheduled for Dec 14th was rescheduled to the Spring 2025, due to inclement weather on the 14th. The Pavilion at Tom Wallace has been installed and a new playground will be coming in the spring. The area is reopened - please come by and visit!



Concept design of
Playground coming
Spring 2025



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



New pavilion in Horine is complete and can now house many more students and summer campers for lunch!



The McNeely prescriptive burn was a success with multiple partners involved in the process and another is planned for the spring

All Natural Areas team members will be attending Wilderness First Aid training this December

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



The new White Oak Ridge Loop trail has been completed and we lead a few guided hikes on the trail as a “grand opening”. Our volunteer trail team has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and they are very excited to share it with the community.

New Hires!



Natural Areas welcomes Rodney Perry as the ECHOMobile Program Lead

Natural Areas recently brought on board a new staff member, Rodney Perry. He studied cultural Anthropology at the University of Louisville. When not engaged in park programming, Rodney enjoys studying recreational Biology and Anthropology study, playing sports in the outdoors and exploring different culinary delights.



Land Management Perspectives

As always, the Land Management Team has been diligently preserving and maintaining your Natural Areas!

Some major developments include a successful prescribed burn at McNeely, with the help of the JMF Maintenance team and Olmsted Parks

Conservancy, for the ongoing Kentucky Glade Cress restoration (7.5 acres). In other news, constructed has been completed and there has been an official opening of the White Oak Ridge Loop (WORL) trail. Guided hikes are scheduled for Dec 6th and Dec 7th at 1pm – preregistration is required ([register here](#)).

Volunteers are an integral part of the work accomplished at Natural Areas – to recognize Bob Dietrich for his 1,000 hours of service to JMF a Volunteer Dedication Tree was

planted at the Horine trailhead. A Memorial Tree was planted at Tom Wallace Lake at the request of a JMF patron (Memorial Trees are available in the price range of \$500).

Other tree plantings included 20 bald cypress trees – 12 at Tom Wallace along the boardwalk and 8 at a recently acquired Natural Areas property! On December 4th, there was a tree planting of 78 native trees around areas that had been disturbed at Tom Wallace Lake. The Land Management Team prepared the planting locations and participants from our ECHO program and Coral Ridge Elementary helped to place the trees in the round. The team keeps up to date on trainings, including trainings on trailer safety, loading and towing, as well as trainings on the handling of needles / sharps and on using Narcan. Trail maintenance duties over the past few months included

tree removal, minor erosion repairs and vegetation clearing. Land Management also controls invasive species in city-owned Natural Areas and completed herbicide treatment of 12.4 acres at the Sand Pit property. At Waverly, kudzu vines were treated with herbicide. Rounding out a full schedule of activities for the Land Management Team was Louisville Loop maintenance, which included mowing, trimming, trash cleanup and sweeping. Thanks to the hardworking Land Management Team for all the work they do to preserve our Natural Areas!



Staff Blog Spotlight

A Profile of Carter DeVore, Cricket Diggs, and April Grubb.
This quarter we are getting to know some members of the Guest Services team



1. *Where did you grow up?*

Carter: I've lived in south Louisville my whole life! I grew up in Okolona, and now I live in Fairdale with my husband.

Cricket: I grew up in the Camp Taylor neighborhood in Louisville.

April: Majestic, KY in Pike County.

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

Carter: I was actually a very indoorsy kid! I grew up in a suburb with a manicured lawn that didn't engage me or capture my interest in any meaningful way. My enthusiasm for the outdoors is something I've gained as I've grown older, especially as I've grown more interested in ecosystem restoration and native plants. For me, learning about the different organisms and getting to know them was a huge motivation to get outside!

Cricket: SO many things. My grandmother had 5 acres I loved to explore on, many trees to climb. I also would travel to the Adirondack's as a kid & found a love of hiking & 'rock jumping'. I was heavily involved with sports, specifically soccer. And lastly, you don't need siblings or friends to

have a fun time out in nature!

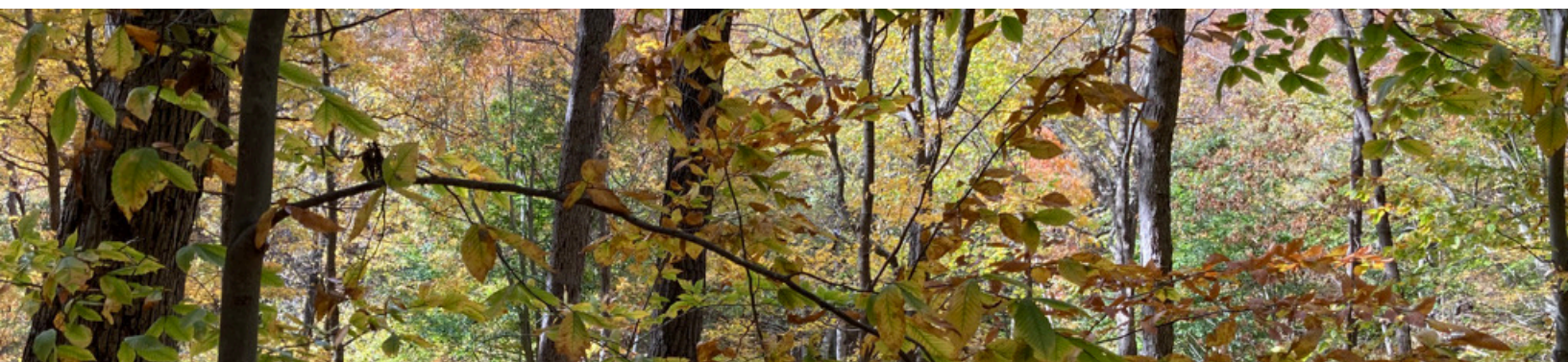
April: I grew up in the mountains and every season just seems so magical and filled with reasons to explore. I loved finding hidden coves, or groves of trees that made me feel like I was in my own private world.

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

Carter: I love researching and digging through files and archives to find the most interesting things to display in the Welcome Center. Between customer interactions and printing trail maps, I'm often sifting through history or science articles to share or working on a new personal project to spread knowledge and enthusiasm for the world around us.

Cricket: I welcome you to the forest!

April: From greeting guests of the forest, booking our rentable spaces, responding to calls and concerns regarding any of the parks and natural areas we manage – every day is different, but also the same when it comes to anything needed to welcome visitors of the forest.



Staff Blog Spotlight continued...

4. How did you get interested in your job?

Carter: I was looking for a job that could connect me my community, like the library or a community center. When I found JMF's open position, I jumped on it as soon as I could! Between my interest in ecology and my love of public parks, it felt like a perfect fit for where I am in my journey.

Cricket: After 12 strenuous years in the service industry, I wanted to get a job connected to what brought me the most joy in life which is nature/the outdoors.

April: I've worked in the customer service industry in a myriad of ways, and my down time has been spent being out in nature, camping, and hiking. The opportunity to do both seemed like a dream job!

5. What is your favorite local green space?

Carter: I love swampy wetlands, like in Tom Wallace or at Caperton Swamp. It feels like reconnecting to what the land my home was built on is meant to be.

Cricket: I have so many! It truly depends on what I am interested in doing but Red River Gorge, Charleston State Park, Joe Creason Park, Iroquois Park and Tioga Falls are some top picks.

April: Cherokee Park. Big Rock was the first green space I visited when I first moved to Louisville. Throughout the years I've been there for everything from weddings to picnics, for play, and to take portraits. I spend time at a lot of parks, but Cherokee will always hold a special place in my heart.

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

Devin: I love finding mayapples! The way they cluster together is very whimsical – like a group of umbrellas for frogs and fairies.

Cricket: My favorite thing to find in nature is crawdads in creeks & a turtle on a log but plant wise, I love getting to see Mountain Laurels!

April: Ironweed. They're so vibrant and usually hosting a butterfly or two.

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

Carter: I'm the one who catches the wasps and spiders and safely relocates them outside of the office.

Cricket: I am a proud organizer with the Louisville Tenant Union!



Carter DeVore
Welcome Center
Assistant



Cricket Diggs
Welcome Center
Assistant



April Grubb
Guest Services
Supervisor

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Full-Time Positions:

Naturalist - \$42,099.20 annually
+benefits

The purpose of this position is to plan, develop and conduct educational programs and exhibits on historical, natural and scientific park features, and arranges plant and animal displays. Prepare environmental education materials, and conduct nature walks and nature talks.

This class works independently, under limited supervision, reporting major activities through periodic meetings.



For details:



Apply Online

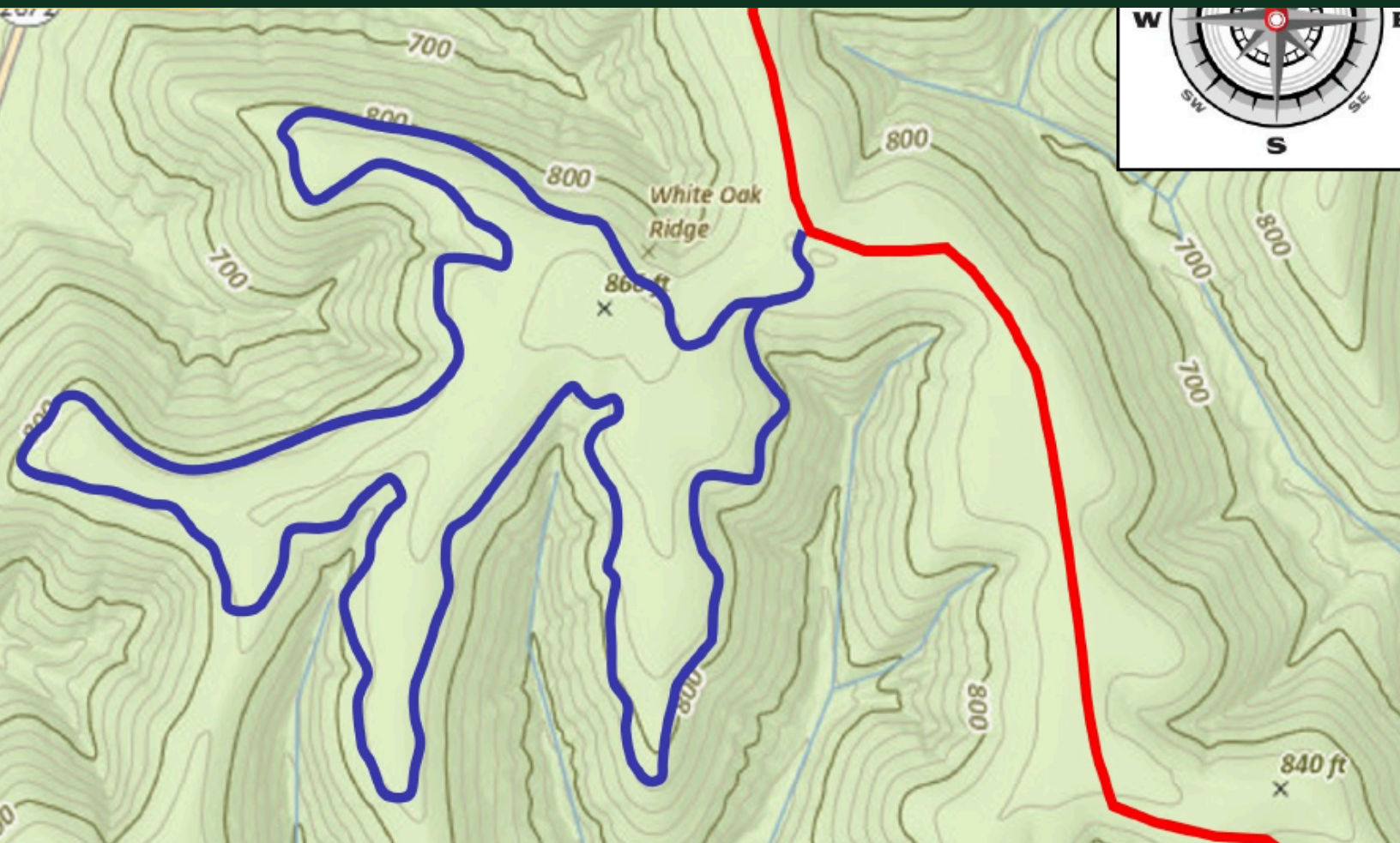


UPCOMING EVENTS

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST

WHITE OAK RIDGE LOOP

New Trail unveiling with Guided Hikes!
12/6 & 12/7 1:00 pm | [Pre-registration required](#)





Come out to the forest!

scan here for
camping



scan here for
hiking





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM ALL OF US AT WILDERNESS
LOUISVILLE, THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

[DONATE](#)

