

SPRING 2025



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Spring has sprung at Jefferson Memorial Forest. The sea of daffodils on the Red Trail are always the beautiful welcoming of spring. Everyone has been busy preparing, from flood cleanup, to program planning, to fundraising for new projects.

One of the last pieces of the West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative infrastructure plan is underway. The redesign of the Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center construction plans is expected to be complete by the end of the summer with groundbreaking coming in the late fall or early winter. Stay tuned for the launch of our capital campaign for the SOL Center and ways to get involved.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Volunteers joined our Natural Areas Team at Shawnee Park on March 19th to help with cleanup along with partner organizations (MSD, ORSANCO, Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and KWA). Thanks to everyone who participated!

All ages welcome!

Nature Play & the Library!

at Jefferson Memorial Forest

Join Library staff at Jefferson Memorial Forest for nature-themed programs like storytimes, book checkouts, and fun activities, with free play time to follow! All ages welcome!

Storytimes
Mondays, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM,
on these dates*:
March 17 • April 21 • May 19

Bookmobile Visit
Thursday, April 3, 2–4 PM

*In the event of inclement weather, programs will move inside the Welcome Center.

Jefferson Memorial Forest has partnered with the Fairdale Library again this season to bring storytime and nature play to the Welcome Center. They will also have visits from the bookmobile in April.



Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center
Call (502) 375-2051 for more info.
11311 Mitchell Hill Road, Fairdale, KY 40118



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

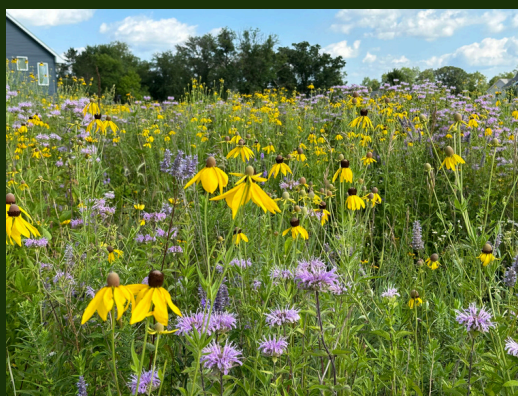
Tom Wallace has undergone many improvements over the past year and will be getting a new playground this spring. We hope you will join us for the ribbon cutting on May 28th at 11:00 am.



Jefferson Memorial Forest
is proud to present

Friends of the Forest Seed Library

Welcome Center staff worked with the Kentucky Native Plant Society to setup a native seed library in the Welcome Center. Come visit to get some native plant seeds!



VIEW FROM JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST



The Land Management team has been busy over this past winter – as usual!

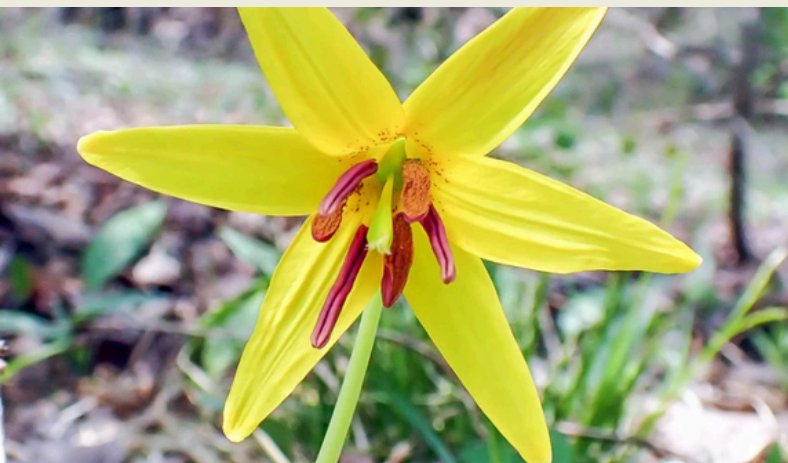
There was a great deal of flood cleanup involved after the inclement weather. Land Management cleaned along the Ohio River at Caperton Swamp, Shawnee Park and Kulmer Beach. They also had to deal with flooding at Tom Wallace, where they realigned the creek bed, removed the bridge causing many of the flooding issues and cleared culverts. The team maintained trails throughout our city-owned Natural Areas- this work involved repairing washouts, erosion control, clearing culverts and tree removal.

In JMF – they repaired broken railings along the Tulip Trail. At Paul Yost, Land Management constructed and installed hitching posts for equestrian use. They built and installed two new benches on the Red Trail.

They pruned trees in recreation areas and serviced and maintained equipment.

In order to keep everyone safe, the team completed First Aid and CPR / AED training.

Thanks to the Natural Areas Land Management Team for all they do and for making JMF and our other natural areas accessible and enjoyable for everyone!





Staff Spotlight

This spring we are getting to know Jonathan Callis, a Park Worker II with the Maintenance Team

1. Where did you grow up?

Jonathan: I grew up in Campbellsburg, Kentucky.

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

Jonathan: I loved playing outdoors as a kid - riding bikes or playing in the woods. I'm still attracted to the outdoors and outdoor recreation and like kayaking and mountain biking.

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

Jonathan: My day starts by opening gates at 6:30am. Then comes cleaning of the buildings in the Horine area and Welcome Center. Depending on the season, we may mow different natural areas properties. I usually have a busy day maintaining the natural areas and keeping them looking good!

4. How did you get interested in your job?

Jonathan: I've always loved the outdoors and parks.

5. What first made you want to work outdoors?

Jonathan: I've worked outdoors my whole life. It's all I know. I don't think I would like an indoors job.

6. What is your favorite part of your job?

Jonathan: Freedom is what I like most about my job. Working outside and having various things to do keeps it interesting!

7. What is your favorite local green space?

Jonathan: I love the Scotts Gap area, for the remoteness

8. Do you have a plant that you're excited to cor across in nature?

Jonathan: I like seeing the huge ferns that grow in the woods

Thanks to Jonathan for sharing with us all a bit about himself for our Spring Newsletter!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Breathe, Move, and Groove

Join us in April every Tuesday to promote physical activity, mindfulness, and community connection during National Stress Awareness Month. Each free session will focus on different stress-relief activities, providing a supportive environment for participants of all ages.



Yoga and Mindfulness
with Christie Welch
Chickasaw Sankofa Sanctuary
April 1, 5:30pm-7pm

Xtreme Burn: Cardio Kick Boxing
with Camille Jones Chickasaw
Sankofa Sanctuary
April 8, 5:30pm-7pm

Walking & Nature Exploration
with Ashely Dabney
Shawnee Park Louisville Loop
April 15, 5:30pm-7pm

Yoga and Mindfulness
with Christie Welch
Chickasaw Sankofa Sanctuary
April 22, 5:30pm-7pm

Derby Fitness and Fun!
with Ashely Dabney
Shawnee Park
April 29, 5:30pm-7pm

Register Here



Water and light snacks will be provided please bring own water bottles



PRESENTED BY TREESLOUISVILLE, LOUISVILLE PARKS & RECREATION, AND PARTNERS



APRIL 19, 2025 - 11AM-3PM

AN ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION - PETERSBURG PARK

TREE PLANTING AND GIVEAWAYS, TREE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, VENDORS, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & DRINK, AND FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.



91.9 WFPK

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL PRESENTS

FOREST FEST

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND LOCAL MAKERS

AT JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST

FEATURING

TOMMY PRINE

TRAY WELLINGTON BAND

KENTUCKY GENTLEMEN

MILES NIELSON & THE RUSTED HEARTS

RELAAY

5.17.25

11:30-7

\$15/CAR ALL AGES COOLERS/OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PROHIBITED

FORESTFESTLOUISVILLE

We hope you will join us for JMF's annual Forest Fest for a day of music, artists booths, family activities, and food vendors.

It's always a favorite day at the forest.

This event is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Metro Council.



LOUISVILLE
PARKS
AND RECREATION



METRO
COUNCIL



Spring Programs 2025

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



Evening Archery

March 13th, April 10th, May 8th,
5pm-7pm

\$10 for each date, 10 yrs +

Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow or improve your skills in this Evening Archery course led by Jefferson Memorial Forest staff and volunteers! You will learn archery safety, proper shooting techniques, proper stance, and how to aim. Bring your friends and family along or make friends during the course!



Fairies in the Forest

Mar 15th, 10am-12pm
\$10, 5-12 yrs

Enter a magical, hidden world in the Forest, where creatures of the imagination live. 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.



Little Learners: World Water Day

Mar 22nd, 10am-1130am

Free/Sign Up Required, 5-10 yrs

Celebrate World Water Day at Jefferson Memorial Forest! Join for an inspiring reading of "We are Water Protectors", with a water conservation craft & activity to follow. Every little learner with a love for creeks, streams, and all things marine will be sure to enjoy this opportunity to appreciate water together!



Map & Compass Skills

Mar 29th, 9am-12pm, \$5, 8 yrs+

Equip yourself with the knowledge necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations while using a compass.

Little Learners: Beaver Adventure

April 12th, 10am-1130am

Free/Sign Up Required, 5-10 yrs

Celebrate International Beaver Day at Jefferson Memorial Forest! Wood-n't you like to bring your little learner to a gnaw-some morning of beaver fun? Listen to the tale of the 1948 Beaver Drop during storytime, and then enjoy some stellar STEAM activities inspired by everybody's favorite ecosystem engineer. Beaver or be square!

Crafting in the Forest

April 26th, 1pm-3pm

Free/Sign Up Required, 18 yrs+

Escape to the beauty of Jefferson Memorial Forest for a peaceful, adults-only crafting experience! In this hands-on workshop, you'll explore the forest to collect natural materials and then use these materials to decorate your own mason jar lantern, that you can take home to light up your space. Join us for a relaxing afternoon in crafting in nature.

Mother's Day Leaf and Learn

May 11th, 10am-12pm

Free/Sign Up Required, 7 yrs+

Celebrate Mother's Day in nature with a special tree identification adventure! Join us for a guided hike where you'll learn to recognize trees by their leaves and flowers. After exploring, get creative with a leaf rubbing craft to take home. It's the perfect way to connect with nature and make lasting memories with mom!

Forest Fest

May 17th, 11am-7pm

\$15/parking, All ages

Join us for our annual Forest Fest Bluegrass & Americana festival! This will be a fun-filled day of 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.

Little Learners: Habitat Heroes

May 24th, 10am-1130am

Free/Sign Up Required, 5-10yrs

Does your little learner love to explore backyard streams and the local environment? That child-like curiosity and appreciation for nature's wonders is exactly what it takes to become a habitat hero! Join for a morning of hope and empowerment as we focus on restoration ecology and what that looks like in the urban watersheds- through storytelling, crafts, and activities made for young world-changers.

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

FB:jmfnaturalareas

IG:jmfnaturalareas



Scan the above QR-Code to sign up for all public programs



Summer Programs 2025

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



Map & Compass Skills

June 14th, July 19th, Aug 30th,
9am-12pm

\$5 for each date, 8 yrs+

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.

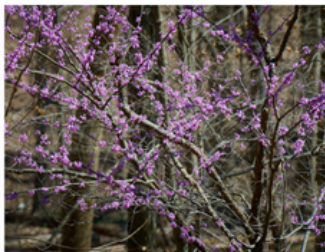


Great American Campout

June 21st-22nd, 5pm-9pm
\$25/group of 4, \$5/extra

All ages

Jefferson Memorial Forest will join tens of thousands of people across the nation as they camp for a cause. 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.



Pollinator Palooza

June 21st, 10am-1130am
Free/Sign Up Required,

All ages

Celebrate National Pollinator Week 2025 at Jefferson Memorial Forest! Don't miss this opportunity to make your own bird feeder, design a bee hotel, create a butterfly suncatcher, and more family friendly fun for all ages. This is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate these often unsung heroes and gather together in a collective effort to protect our native pollinators.



Scan the above QR-Code to sign up for all public programs

Summer Songbirds

June 28th, 10am-12pm

Free/Sign Up Required, 10 yrs+

Join us for a beginner birding adventure focused on songs! Use the Merlin Bird ID app and your ears to identify birds during an easy guided hike. Afterward, enjoy bird song trivia and make a pinecone bird feeder to take home.

Critter Crawlers

July 12th, 10am-12pm

Free/Sign Up Required, 7 yrs+

Join us for an insect-filled adventure. Learn about bugs through games and activities. Embark on an epic bug hunt to discover critters in their natural habitats, then get creative by building your very own mini bug hotel. It will be a buzzing good time!

"If You Find A Leaf"

July 12th, 10am-1130am

Free/Sign Up Required, 5-10 yrs

Come listen to a reading of "If You Find A Leaf" by Aimee Sicuro and let her charming illustrations inspire you to create your very own leaf art as you explore the forest floor and let your imagination run free!

Adaptation Station

Aug 16th, 10am-12pm

Free/Sign Up Required, 7 yrs+

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of learning about animal adaptations! In this hands-on program, kids will explore adaptations through games and activities that highlight how animals survive and thrive in their environments. After, kids will create their own adaptation craft to take home. It's a wild, hands-on adventure you won't want to miss!

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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

FB:jmfnaturalareas

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Come out to the forest!

scan here for
camping



scan here for
hiking



Hello Spring

See you on the trails!

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