

YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

Fall 2007 • VOL 2 • NO 4



Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118

502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com

www.metro-parks.org

forest@louisvilleky.gov

parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center is your destination for maps, gift items, program reservations, camping reservations, permits and Forest information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265) west and exit at New Cut Road. Turn left, go about one mile, and turn right onto Mitchell Hill Road. Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of Louisville Metro Parks is to create a City of Parks and enhance the quality of life for citizens of Louisville Metro by maintaining and acquiring attractive, vibrant parks and offering safe, diverse recreation programs, and protecting these lands and resources for future generations.

MEETING OUR MISSION!



In the Winter 2005 Jefferson Memorial Forest newsletter, we described the mission of the newly-created Metro Parks Natural Areas Region – to preserve natural areas including the Forest for the benefit of present and future generations; provide the highest quality environmental- and adventure-based education programs; and offer a wide-range of safe and environmentally-sensitive outdoor recreational opportunities for the benefit of the community. We are working very hard to implement the changes necessary to help us better meet this mission and we are happy to report that Metro Parks has taken some significant steps this year to move us forward.

With the greater emphasis on environmental stewardship and education, the Natural Areas Region is undergoing a targeted reorganization designed to further develop our ability to meet these needs – not just at the Forest, but also in the other natural areas across Metro Parks. Tonya Swan, who has been responsible for our high-quality public programs, is also taking on management of all program initiatives, including special events, reservations and rentals at the Forest and other locations in the Natural Areas Region. In addition, in an effort to expand our ability to offer public educational programs, three park naturalists – Christa Weidner, James Crockett and Shawn Nevins – will develop new programs that can be implemented by part-time and seasonal employees under their supervision. We will soon hire a part-time Environmental Education Specialist to help

Christa, James, and Shawn conduct these expanded programs in multiple locations.

We also continue to implement changes to help us better address pressing trail management and land management issues. We are providing some additional resources to Larry Hilton – our naturalist in charge of trail management – and to our landscape supervisor in charge of developing resource management plans and overseeing restoration activities. In addition, a manager's position that has yet to be filled will be in charge of all trail and park maintenance activities within the region.

Finally, thanks to the efforts of Metro Parks Volunteer Coordinator Laura Ryan, we are proud to announce the addition of AmeriCorps member Samantha "Sam" Davis to our team. To help us realize the Forest's potential as a place where volunteers of all stripes contribute their time in a personally rewarding way, Sam will help coordinate volunteer activities throughout Natural Areas.

These changes are the initial steps towards improving Metro Parks' ability to meet its stewardship mission. Obviously there is more progress to be made, but we are confident that we are heading in the right direction. We are extremely excited about the opportunities presented by these changes and believe that participants in our programs and visitors to natural areas within the system will see significant benefits as a result.

Bennett Knox, Park Manager



NATURAL HAPPENINGS, OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

OCTOBER

Maples begin to change to fall colors.

Virginia Creeper turns a brilliant red.

Lobelias can be seen blooming near the dam at Mitchell Hill Lake.

Mistflower is common along edges of woods. It can be seen growing at the Forest's edge near the Horine Conference Center.

Goldenrod species and aster species are the most commonly seen flowers.

Chestnut oak and red oak acorns fall.

Birds eat ripe berries on buckthorn trees.

Snakes move to the areas of their hibernacula (winter shelter).

Goldfinch males molt into drab plumage.

NOVEMBER

Ducks and geese migrate southwards.

Mallard ducks may be seen courting and doing swimming displays.

Sandhill cranes pass through on their fall migration route.

Some bat species (red and hoary) migrate south as well, often with flocks of birds.

Bald eagles may linger locally as they migrate, perhaps near Tom Wallace Lake.

Persimmons begin to ripen.

Cardinals form winter flocks.

Juncos begin arriving from their northern, summer homes. They can be seen gathering around the Bird Blind feeders at the Horine Environmental Education Center.

Great horned owl males can be heard hooting as they establish territories.

DECEMBER

Great horned owl courtship and breeding begins. Listen for females' hoots.

Eastern bluebirds form small flocks and begin foraging on berries.

Bluebirds may take raisins from bird feeding stations at this time.

Squirrels begin their second yearly mating season late in the month.

Enjoy the bright red berries on winterberry, which can be seen at the Welcome Center throughout winter.

If you are interested in planting winterberry make sure you have a male and female plant.

Virginia Creeper (George H. Bruso)



Sandhill Crane (Peter S. Weber)



Winterberry (George H. Bruso)





STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SAM DAVIS

We would like to welcome a new member to the Metro Parks Volunteer Program! Samantha "Sam" Davis has recently accepted a part-time AmeriCorps member service opportunity with Metro Parks. The AmeriCorps program is a part of the Commission for National and Community Service.

Sam holds a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She is devoting 20 hours of service per week for a period of one year in exchange for a living stipend and an education award. The bulk of her time will be devoted to volunteer coordination for Jefferson Memorial Forest and the Natural Areas Region, and she has an office at the Forest. We are extremely happy to welcome Sam to our team and look forward to her contributions over the next year. If you are interested in volunteering at the Forest or other Metro Parks natural areas, you can reach Sam via email at samantha.davis@louisvilleky.gov.



mayor's healthy hometown hike

Saturday, October 27, 2007

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mayor's remarks 10:45 a.m.

Jefferson Memorial Forest

Horine Section, Holsclaw Hill Road



Free admission -

First 500 receive a free t-shirt!

Children's face and pumpkin painting!

Hay rides! Pumpkins for sale!

Campsites available, reserve early!

Preschool nature hikes and music!



Louisville residents can "take a hike" at the Mayor's Fall Hike at Jefferson Memorial Forest. The free event is part of the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement, encouraging better nutrition and physical activity.

Hike participants should arrive at the Forest between 10 and 11 a.m. Booths with hiking and trail information will be open at 10 a.m., and the hike will begin at 11 a.m., with guides to assist you.



**METRO
Parks**
www.metro-parks.org



Information and directions:

502/268-5404 or www.memorialforest.com



NATURAL AREAS VIPs • VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

E.ON U.S. CARES

On September 22, more than 200 employees from E.ON U.S. (owners of Louisville Gas & Electric), along with their friends and family members, came to Jefferson Memorial Forest as part of their third annual Day of Caring. The daylong event is just a small part of their larger campaign, called The Power of One, that involves various fundraising events for United Way, Crusade for Children and the Fund for the Arts. Volunteers completed tasks such as painting footbridges and shelters, picking up trash, spreading mulch to help restore overused areas, and removing unwanted vegetation in the Tom Wallace Recreation Area. We are thankful to E.ON employees for taking a day to help spruce up the Forest.

Above: E.ON U.S. volunteers prepare a bridge for much-needed painting.

Below: More E.ON volunteers tackle painting one of the three picnic shelters at Tom Wallace.



A UofL volunteer gives thumbs-up to a worthwhile effort.

Another UofL volunteer hauls a bag of litter from near Beargrass Creek.

THEY'VE GOT SOUL

On Saturday, August 18, approximately 40 students with the University of Louisville's SOUL program (Student Outreach at the University of Louisville) dramatically improved the character of the entrance to the bike path at the Beargrass Creek Greenway near the intersection of Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive. In support of Metro Parks' long-term goal to improve the ecological health and aesthetic quality of this area, students removed litter and old construction debris and also helped Natural Areas staff remove invasive bush honeysuckle. This service project was a part of UofL's orientation for new students, and had the goal of helping new students get to know their community, one another, and some of the UofL faculty and staff while performing a worthwhile community service.



NATURAL AREAS VIPs + VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

TRAIL RANGERS AND TRAIL CREW

Sat, October 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sat, December 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Trail Rangers will patrol assigned sections of the Forest and report trail issues. The Trail Crew will continue work on the relocation of the Siltstone Tail near Jefferson Hill Road. Meet at the Welcome Center. Contact: Contact: Larry Hilton, 502/797-5768 (cell), 502/361-0119 (office) or email forest@louisvilleky.gov.

FOREST AMBASSADORS AND TRAIL RANGERS

Sat, October 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meet at the Horine Reservation to assist Forest visitors during the third annual Mayor's Fall Hike to support his Healthy Hometown Movement. Volunteers are needed to provide information and help Forest program staff with various activities scheduled for the event. Contact: Samantha Davis, 502/361-2918 or email samantha.davis@louisvilleky.gov.

TRAIL RANGERS AND TRAIL CREW

Sat, November 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meet at the Welcome Center. Trail Rangers will patrol assigned sections of the Forest and report trail issues. The group plans an overnight campout for those interested. Extra camping equipment is available upon request. This is a great opportunity to sit around a warm fire with group members. Contact: Larry Hilton, 502/797-5768 (cell), 502/361-0119 (office) or email forest@louisvilleky.gov.

ALL INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS

Sat, November 17, Time TBD

Please mark this date on your calendars! MSD, in conjunction with Living Lands and Waters and Metro Parks, will sponsor a volunteer event to help continue efforts to remove invasive bush honeysuckle from the Beargrass Creek corridor. Details will be forthcoming. Those interested should check our website in late October for more details.

TRAIL RANGERS AND TRAIL CREW

Sat, December 15, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Carpool from the Forest's Welcome Center at 9 a.m. to visit and hike other Natural Area properties. Wear appropriate footwear and attire based on the weather. We will stop for lunch along the way. Contact: Larry Hilton, 502/797-5768 (cell), 502/361-0119 (office) or email forest@louisvilleky.gov.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



AMANDA STOEES

Amanda Stoess, 12, has been volunteering for Jefferson Memorial Forest since January, assisting seasonal employee Sarah Brewer with the care of animals in the Environmental Education Center. She also has been helping in the Native Garden and with special events. Amanda would like to continue volunteering at the Forest, but she also plans to volunteer at The Louisville Zoo. She brings a lot of humor to the Forest. Keep up the good work Amanda... we have enjoyed working with you very much!

What is your favorite part about volunteering in the Environmental Education Center?

I love feeding the aquatic turtles.

Why did you choose the Forest?

There are cool animals.

What is your favorite experience so far volunteering at the Forest?

Taking care of the rabbit.

What changes would you like to see?

A new nature center.

What is your favorite animal?

Wild: wolf. Pet: dog

What area of the Forest is your favorite?

Paul Yost because of the monkey bars and the swing.

What is your favorite subject?

Math

What is the coolest thing you have seen at the Forest?

A baby raccoon.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A zoo keeper or a veterinarian.

ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Help to save trees and keep costs down by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov, with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you'll receive only electronic copies of future newsletters.



PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE: OCTOBER THROUGH NOVEMBER

We offer a wide array of programs for all ages. For more information visit our website or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help you make reservations, give you directions to the program location, or provide you a complete schedule of our programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes, and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel programs with insufficient registration. Rain checks will be provided.

EVENING PROGRAMS

7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Families welcome; an adult must accompany all children. Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

Fee: \$5 preregistered

BATS

Fri, October 12, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

A creature stalks Louisville in the darkness, swiftly swooping in on hundreds of victims each night. Don't be afraid, because bats only eat bugs in Kentucky. Learn the truth from the myths that surround these beneficial little creatures. Come to the Forest to see the flying mammal that lends its name to our city's baseball team.

OWLS, WITH WINGSPAN OF KENTUCKY

Fri, November 9, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Learn about the silent nighttime hunters that call the Forest home. See some of Kentucky's owls from Wingspan of Kentucky up close, and go on a short hike to listen for these majestic birds while learning some of their calls

HOWL AT THE MOON

Fri, October 19, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Special program by Kentucky Canine Search and Rescue

Fri, November 16, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Metro Parks staff will lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. As a courtesy to other dogs, make sure your dog is up-to-date on all of their vaccinations. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. Fee: \$5 per dog

OUTDOOR SKILLS #11 – MAP AND COMPASS SKILLS

Sat, November 3, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Get lost, then learn the skills to find your way back to the campsite! Metro Parks staff will show you the basics of orienteering and planning a path to get you to your destination. A great activity for parents and kids ages 10 and up.

Please dress for the weather.

Program meets in the Welcome Center.

Fee: \$5 preregistered

PRE-SCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURE - WINGS AND THINGS

Tue, November 6, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Sat, November 10, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Learn more about the feathered friends of the Forest. Go on a short hike to find where they live and how they find food, then see them up close! There will be a storytime with craft and snacks. Program is for parents with children 2 to 4. Program meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$8 per child

VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sun, November 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Jefferson Memorial Forest is proud to serve as a woodland tribute to Kentucky veterans who have served our nation in time of war. Please join us for a Veterans Day ceremony to honor those in uniform, both past and present. A reception will be held afterwards in the Welcome Center.

**Welcome Center
Holiday Open House**

**Saturday, December 1
10 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Get a jump on the holiday spirit
and find some wonderful gifts for
the outdoor enthusiasts on your list!
Enjoy refreshments and special holiday
discounts while shopping by a cozy fire
as you browse our gift shop and
check off your holiday gift list.**



NATURAL AREAS NEWS

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST, MSD AND MALE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM UP FOR LEARNING AND RESTORATION

This school year sees a new partnership begin, as Angela Page's Advanced Placement Environmental Science class at Male High School applies their classroom learning to real world issues.

Beargrass Creek Greenway at Irish Hill is a park maintained by the Natural Areas Region of Metro Parks. After receiving funding from MSD for restoration work along the pathway, a partnership was created to involve students in the monitoring, planning and restoration process. Phyllis Croce of MSD and Forest program staff worked together to prepare students for their work in the field by teaching several classes on watershed issues, plant identification and soil testing.

The students put this knowledge to use when they spent the day at this park along Lexington Road, conducting soil and water tests, exploring and mapping the area, identifying sources of pollution, and identifying native and invasive plants that are present on the restoration site.

Additional assignments involve developing a restoration plan including a list of invasive plants and trees to be removed, identifying methods for removal, designing the restoration site, and providing a list of suitable native plants for the site based upon the site conditions they have investigated. Their recommendations will be presented to Metro Parks and MSD managers who will share their knowledge and experience with the students.

This initial phase is to be followed by additional field trips involving site preparation and planting within the project area. Students will also create language and illustrations for permanent signage to inform the public about the species of plants and the importance of restoring the area to its native state. A dedication ceremony is planned in the spring to celebrate the success of this collaborative effort.

WAVERLY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to the support of District 25 Councilman Doug Hawkins and the Governor's Office for Local Development, Metro Parks has received \$362,000 to begin the improvements called for in Waverly Park's master plan. The ambitious plans call for dredging the fishing lake, and for improvements to the lake's habitat, hiking and mountain bike trail improvements, construction of an accessible gravel path around the lake, new bridges, at least one picnic pavilion, landscaping, parking and picnic area improvements, and ultimately construction of a two-bay restroom facility near the existing playground.

Over the summer, Metro Parks in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, partially drained the lake and reshaped its bottom to deepen it for an improved habitat. Sediment basins have been constructed to extend the lake's life by trapping sediment before it reaches the water. The basins will become a habitat for amphibians and other aquatic life. Metro Parks has contracted with landscape architecture firm Environs/Inc to prepare plans for the project, and hopes to have the project out to bid before the end of the year. Construction will begin in earnest in 2008.

FARNSLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

In August 2006, the JCPS Center for Environmental Education sponsored staff from the Jefferson Memorial Forest, MSD, and teachers from Farnsley Middle School to participate in a two-week training session centered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. The training was associated with the Earth Partnership for Schools Program and uses the ecological restoration process and inquiry-based learning to teach students concepts across multiple disciplines, including math, science, geography, social science, reading, art, etc.

Upon return from this program, with significant funding from MSD, project partners built a wonderful outdoor classroom at Farnsley Middle School (see photo). Completed over the summer, the outdoor classroom has a council ring, native grass and wildflower meadow, plant identification study plots, and areas for students to journal.

Jefferson Memorial Forest staff are incorporating this innovative curriculum into our own environmental education offerings for the benefit of area students who visit the Forest throughout the school year.



Outdoor classroom at Farnsley Middle School

Jefferson Memorial Forest
11371 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY 40118

tel • 502/368-5404
email • forests@louivillky.gov
web • www.memorialforest.com



Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

COME WORK AT THE FOREST!

Jefferson Memorial Forest is accepting applications for the following temporary position.

WELCOME CENTER RECEPTIONIST/CASHIER

Duties: Provide information to park visitors;
assist in operation of gift shop.
Position is for weekends and holidays.

PARK AIDE

Duties: Lock park gates in the evening; communicate
to park visitors at park closing; report park issues;
perform trash collection; and various duties, as assigned.

General Requirements: Lift and carry up to 70 pounds;
must be 21 years of age; must possess a clean driving record.

Part-time position. Hours are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.,
Monday through Friday. \$8.00 per hour

PERFECT WEEKEND JOB!

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT WWW.METRO-PARKS.ORG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 502/368-6856 OR VISIT WWW.MEMORIALFOREST.COM

Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org

Michael J. Heltz, MA
Director

Jerry Brown
Assistant Director

Bennett Knox
Park Manager

Larry Hilton
Naturalist/
Land Management

Tonya Swain
Coordinator of
Public Education

Christa Waldner
Naturalist Programs

James Crockett
Shawn Novins
Recreation
Coordinators



Metro Parks is an equal-opportunity employer