

**YOUR
FOREST
YOUR
ADVENTURE**

Summer 2007 • VOL 2 • NO 3



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.

FOREST FORESIGHT!

The Jefferson Memorial Forest was established in 1948 as a woodland tribute to Kentucky's veterans of World War II, with the primary mission of preserving the biologically diverse and ecologically important woods and providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the community. Over the past 60 years, there have been a number of initiatives for the expansion and development of the Forest since initial efforts by the first Forest Commission in the 1940s and early 50s. These include land acquisition commissioned by then-County Judge Mitch McConnell in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which ultimately doubled the size of the Forest. These efforts also include the Jefferson County Memorial Forest Committee established in the early 1990s by then-County Judge David Armstrong, which resulted in detailed recommendations for new facilities including the Welcome Center and Horine Conference Center, along with development of environmental and recreation programs in the newly-acquired Horine Reservation. Finally, there was a general resource management plan created in 1995, which has been the guide for improvements made to the Forest since the late 1990s.

And now, we enter a new phase in the continual quest to implement the mission of the Forest! As part of Mayor Jerry Abramson's City of Parks initiative, with the support of the Metro Council – including District 13 Councilwoman Vicki Welch and former councilman Ron Weston – and with a generous grant from the CE&S foundation established by Humana co-founder David Jones and his wife Betty, we are extremely pleased to announce the initiation of a formal master plan process for Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Presently, Metro Parks planners, Forest staff, and representatives of the CE&S Foundation are reviewing proposals from a number of well-known and accomplished design firms, with the goal of ultimately selecting the most qualified firm by the end of the summer. The selected firm will work with Metro Parks to develop this visionary master plan with significant input from the community and especially those who have an interest in seeing the Forest develop in a positive way, including, but not limited to, recreational user groups, neighboring landowners, conservation organizations, natural

resource professionals and environmental educators. This plan will be the first formal master plan and the first to truly consider the Forest as a whole. As such, it will tie its recommendations to other initiatives in the community, including the 100-mile paved metro loop path, planned restoration of the Pond Creek Corridor, and efforts by Metro Parks to expand environmental education offerings and enhance our ability to meet our stewardship obligations.

With that said, we want to encourage all users of the Forest and concerned citizens to become involved in this process. In the coming months, Metro Parks will announce upcoming public meetings. Certainly those who receive our newsletter will be notified via e-mail or letter. We encourage you to let interested friends and acquaintances know about this initiative and invite them to sign up for our mailing list. Beyond our newsletter, public notices will be advertised in the local paper and other venues as appropriate. If you don't already receive quarterly e-mail updates from Jefferson Memorial Forest, you can sign up for notices by visiting www.metro-parks.org and clicking on the e-newsletter link.

Bennett Knox, Park Manager

Tom Wallace circa 1948 and at his home in Jefferson County. Mr. Wallace was the most prominent early proponent of establishing the Jefferson Memorial Forest. We continue his legacy today as we embark on a new master plan for the Forest. Photos courtesy of the Filson Historical Society.





FOREST ISSUES CONSIDERED

PART 4 OF 4: ENCROACHMENT

This is the final installment of four recent articles detailing a few of the more important issues facing the health and integrity of the Jefferson Memorial Forest. Previous articles dealt with illegal dumping, exotic and invasive plants, and all-terrain vehicles. In this issue we discuss some of the issues related to encroachment at the Forest boundary. It is important to first mention two of the primary roles of the Forest, given its stature as the largest nature preserve within Jefferson County. The Forest's nearly 6,200 acres shelter hundreds of plant and animal species, and equally important, the forested slopes within the boundary of the park offer tremendous benefit to water quality and flood protection in the Pond Creek and Knob Creek watersheds. Part of our responsibility at Metro Parks is to maintain and protect the ability of the Forest to continue serving these two vitally important roles.

The purpose of this article is to impress upon adjacent landowners:

- the importance of their properties as buffers between the forest and areas of more intense development
- their responsibility to be respectful of the park boundary
- to be aware of the impacts their activities may have on forest health

Many of the properties adjacent to the Forest function as part and parcel of the Forest ecosystem. Some of these properties are located on the very same wooded knob slopes as the park nearby. Others are located in the headwaters of streams and drainages that will flow through the Forest and vice-versa. Animals and plants migrate across this artificial boundary according to their ability and design. Although the natural system does not acknowledge artificial boundaries, Metro Parks and adjacent landowners should recognize the issues associated with our shared boundary.

Encroachment at the Forest boundary takes a number of forms including the creation of unapproved trails and paths extending from private property across

the forest boundary; construction of structures including deer stands; dumping of debris (including yard waste); removal of trees and clearing of vegetation to extend back yards onto Forest property. Some of these issues, such as creation of trails, create liability issues for private landowners that residents should be aware of. For instance, residents may not be aware that landowners could be liable in the event someone would be injured hiking or riding a horse on a path leading onto private property. Other issues such as dumping, removal of vegetation, and discharge of untreated water onto Forest property could result in significant penalties should issues uncovered result in enforcement action. Other encroachment issues can negatively impact the health of the forest. For instance, trails can be corridors for unwanted invasive plant

species. Of course, Metro Parks is not without its responsibility. For example, at times in the past, hiking trails have been constructed by volunteers unwittingly onto private property. We have worked to eliminate any trail segments passing onto private property and have put signs at the boundary to close these trails.

We encourage residents to contact us should they have a question related to a boundary issue. Furthermore, given that the Forest is in the process of developing a master plan for the park, boundary issues are likely to receive increased attention moving forward and will likely be addressed in a significant way in the planning process. Therefore we encourage landowners adjacent to the forest to become involved with the Forest master planning process.

Boundary encroachment, spread of invasive species, and soil erosion are issues of concern related to logging adjacent to the forest. Those considering harvesting trees should be aware of timber trespass regulations. KRS Chapter 364 stipulates that the landowner responsible for logging is liable to certify that logs taken were not from a neighbor's property. It further stipulates that damages are to be paid any injured party in the amount of three times the stumpage value of the timber and three times the costs incurred by the rightful owner (plus legal fees).





FOREST FEST 2007 WRAP-UP

A big thank you to our Metro Council members, sponsors, crafters, Metro Parks Event Team, bands, the Fairdale Lion's Club and the Fairdale community for making this the best Forest Fest yet!



Guest bands and the public enjoy Jefferson Memorial Forest's day-long Forest Fest event on May 19.

NATURAL AREAS NEWS

MAPPING INVASIVE PLANT POPULATIONS

Our land management team is conducting an inventory of properties in our Natural Areas program to document populations of invasive plants. Working with Landscaping Supervisor David Fothergill, intern Nathan Soley is mapping these populations and collecting relevant data such as the species present and relative infestation patch size, and noteworthy life cycle information. Our goal is to map all noteworthy populations of invasive plants as well as to identify locations where invasive plants are not currently present in significant numbers. This will allow land management staff to establish priorities and implement appropriate controls, leading to a healthier forest ecosystem.

WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Natural Areas staff is working to improve the Scott's Gap section of the Forest and the Tyler-Schooling property near Floyd's Fork Park. This spring, activities were geared toward controlling vegetation competing with areas that were seeded with native grasses and forbs over the past two years. Johnson grass, in particular, has been a problem plant. With the help of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, we have taken steps to help promote establishment of desired species. Our next step in this process will be a controlled burn at Scott's Gap next spring.

MILES PARK UPDATE

Approximately 1,700 tree seedlings were planted at William F. Miles Park this spring, continuing efforts to implement elements of the park's master plan and establish a savannah zone. The planting took place with help from the ROTC and other students groups from Eastern High School. In addition to the trees, native grasses and forbs were also planted on 7 acres. The plantings will increase habitat for wildlife, improve storm water drainage, and buffer the park from a nearby subdivision. In addition, as part of the Mayor's City of Parks initiative, a new canoe "put-in" along Floyds Fork in Miles Park opened at the end of May. The canoe "take-out" is a few miles downstream near off Taylorsville Road.



NATURAL AREAS VIPs • VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

VIP NEWS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

The first annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic took place in the Horine section of the Forest on June 16, 2007. Forest staff cooked and organized games while our hard-working volunteers took the day off! There were door prizes, water balloons and lots of good food, good friends and fun.

Over the past year, our volunteers have donated over 2,863 hours of their time, valued at \$43,038.41. Our volunteer groups include various Boy Scout groups who donated over 995 hours, KYMBA volunteers who worked on trails for 344 hours, and our own Forest Trail Rangers, who patrolled and helped maintain trails for 826 hours. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated by Forest staff.

The Forest gratefully acknowledges event sponsors who provided door prizes:

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|--|---|
| Alliance Chiropractic | Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing |
| Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest | Shack In the Back BBQ |
| Falls of the Ohio | Speed Art Museum |
| Frazier International History Museum | Texas Roadhouse |
| Kentucky Down Under | |

Please show your appreciation of our generous sponsors with your support.

VOLUNTEER PROJECT DAY WITH MERCY ACADEMY

On April 24, 100 students from Mercy Academy arrived ready to battle trash and remove invasive plants. They cleaned up trash in the Horine Reservation and muscled their way through honeysuckle vines and multi-flora rose pulling and cutting. We also had a small group of students that helped with the pre-school outdoor play area, creating play items from natural materials as well as clearing invasive plants. We are thankful to Mercy Academy for taking a day away from school to help the Forest.



*Above and below:
Students from Mercy Academy*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



SANDY TUCKER AND MINDY STOESS

Who is creating the incredible splashes of color surrounding the Forest entrance sign and Paul Yost section signs? Is it forest fairies? No, it is two unsung volunteers and Forest neighbors, Sandy Tucker and Mindy Stoess. These two ladies can be seen planting native flowers from their own gardens and many annuals that they purchase themselves.

Sandy says: "The Forest means a lot to me. I want visitors' first impression to be a good one. I want people to love this area as much as I do!" Sandy has lived close to the Forest all her life. She and husband Mark were married at Tom Wallace Lake! Mindy and her husband live near the forest with their two children, Amanda and Robert. Amanda, their oldest, volunteers at the Horine Environmental Education Center, helping care for the animals. The Forest is very fortunate to have such wonderful neighbors! Thank you Mindy and Sandy! Be sure to read about Amanda Stoess in the next volunteer spotlight!





NATURAL AREAS VIPs • VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

TRAIL RANGER AND TRAIL CREW VOLUNTEER PROJECT DAYS

For information on these opportunities, or to learn how to join either our Trail Rangers patrol group or Trail Construction Crew, please contact Naturalist Larry Hilton – cell 797-5768, office 361-0119 or e-mail forest@louisvilleky.gov.

Sat, August 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Meet at the Welcome Center conference room for required First Aid/CPR training.

Sun, August 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Meet at the Welcome Center conference room for required First Aid/CPR training.

Sat, August 25, 4 p.m.-Sun, August 26

Join our group for overnight camping in the Horine Section. Extra camping equipment available if requested.

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

Meet at the Welcome Center. Trail Rangers will patrol assigned sections of the forest and report trail issues. Trail Crew will work on Siltstone Trail relocation and realignment.

Sat, September 22, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come dressed for the weather on a planned group hike to Bridges To The Past (easy) and Tioga Falls Trails (moderate) near West Point, Kentucky. We plan to carpool from the Forest Welcome Center.

VOLUNTEER CALENDAR PROGRAM AREA OPPORTUNITIES

Please note: The volunteer garden day for September is cancelled as it falls on Labor Day. Have a wonderful long weekend!

VOLUNTEER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES (EAGLE SCOUTS, GOLD AND SILVER AWARD PROJECTS)

- Replace crosstie retaining wall with rock at the Tulip Tree Shelter.
- Design/install rock steps on the red trail near the Horine Cemetery.
- Replace broken handles, sharpen and lubricate hand tools used for trail work.

Interested persons should contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist, at 502/797-5768 or forest@louisvilleky.gov.

Please call 502/361-2918 if you are interested in volunteering to control invasive plants, weed ornamental beds, or plant native plants. The experience will prove to be rewarding and you can sleep well, knowing that you have done your part to help preserve Jefferson Memorial Forest for future generations.

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: AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER

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.

ALPINE TOWER PUBLIC PROGRAM

Sat, August 25, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sat, September 22, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Challenge yourself on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence, and problem-solving skills from tackling this "high altitude" obstacle course. This program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear: tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts (with inseam greater than 5"). Sign-up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Program meets in the Horine Reservation.

Fee: \$10 per person



PRESCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

9:30-11 a.m.

Program for parents and children ages 2 and a half to 4. There will be a story-time with craft and snacks. This program provides experiences in nature for parents and little ones to share. Program meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$8 per child.

SSSNAKES!

Tue, September 4, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Sat, September 8, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Discover the secrets of snakes. Feel for yourself if they are truly slimy and learn many more fascinating facts about these wonderful animals.

SNAKE APPRECIATION DAY

Sat, September 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Love them or hate them, these limbless reptiles fascinate everybody. Join us in an exciting daylong celebration of snakes. Metro Parks staff and the Kentucky Herpetological Society will share interesting and little-known facts about these misunderstood creatures. A variety of these reptiles will be on-hand for up close interaction. Special guest speakers will share their love and knowledge of these important creatures. Activities and demonstrations – including crafts for kids to make and take home – will be located around the Horine Environmental Education Center. This program is for all ages. Bring your camera and a lunch, but please do not bring any reptile pets! Call the Welcome Center at 368-5404 for a program of the day's events and directions to the Environmental Education Center. Fee: Free





PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE: AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER

OUTDOOR SKILLS

Programs meet at the Welcome Center.

CANOEING BASICS

Sat, September 1, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Learn canoeing basics from Metro Parks staff certified by the American Canoe Association. You'll receive instruction on canoe safety and basic paddling techniques, along with resources that help you get started in paddle sports. For ages 12 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Register early as space is very limited for this special program! Be sure to bring a lunch. Due to specific space requirements pre-registration and pre-payment are mandatory. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. There is space for 16 participants, with a maximum of 10 adults. Fee: \$10



EVENING PROGRAMS

Program meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$5

EVENING ALPINE TOWER CLIMB

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

A once-a-year program, so don't miss out! Challenge yourself with a night climb on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower, and bring a headlamp or climb the tower by the light of the full moon. Learn basic climbing techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence and problem-solving skills from tackling this high-altitude obstacle course. Program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany those under 18. Wear tennis shoes and long pants or shorts with an inseam greater than 5 inches. Sign-up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Meet at the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10

HOWL AT THE MOON

Fri, August 17, 7-8:30 p.m. – Kentucky Humane Society info about the Snip Clinic.
Fri, September 14, 2007

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. Meet at the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$5 per dog

NATURALIST'S NOTEBOOK, AUG-SEPT

AUGUST

Wild turkeys can be seen with their young all summer.

Visit our native garden and watch the hummingbirds feed on the cardinal flower.

Eastern chipmunks are raising second litters.

Raccoon's offspring begin to run and climb.

Bullfrogs are laying eggs in water.

Wildflowers:

Rose mallow	Bear's foot
Obedient plant	Cup plant
Cardinal flower	Cardinal flower
Virgin's bower	

SEPTEMBER

The American goldfinch can still be seen nesting and feeding young.

Woodcocks are migrating south.

Box turtles hatch but may remain in the nest until spring.

Bobcat kittens begin leaving their mother

Wildflowers

White snakeroot	Ironweed
Joe Pye weed	New England aster
Mistflower	Goldenrod



Photos by T. Bright

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Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

SUPPORT THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST!

Did you know that a foundation is being created to help support improvements throughout the Metro Parks system, including right here at Jefferson Memorial Forest?

Similar in function to the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, which has been raising money since 1989 to restore, enhance and preserve the historic Olmsted Parks in Louisville, the new Parks Foundation will provide volunteers and financial resources for parks and recreation programs throughout Louisville.

If you are supportive of efforts to improve our community's parks, open spaces and recreation facilities, please look for an announcement about this new foundation in the near future.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Andrew Crocker, Metro Parks Development Officer, at 456-1857.



Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org

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Director

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