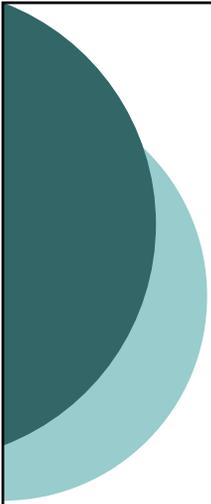




Jefferson County
Environmental Education
Resource Guide *2012*





Acknowledgements

The Jefferson County Environmental Education Resource Guide would not have been possible without the assistance of numerous individuals and organizations who came together to create this resource for the benefit of our community.

First and foremost, our community is indebted to the organizations and programs listed throughout this guide. Each one of them serves to educate on a unique aspect of our local environment. Such perspectives allow every member of our community to become increasingly connected with our environment.

We would also like to thank the Kentucky Environmental Education Council, especially for their publication of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan, which was the impetus for creating this guide.

Finally, the members of the Partnership for a Green City were instrumental in bringing together the individuals and resources necessary for this project to succeed. Sincere gratitude to Jefferson Community & Technical College, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville Metro Government, and the University of Louisville for their respective roles in facilitating this publication.



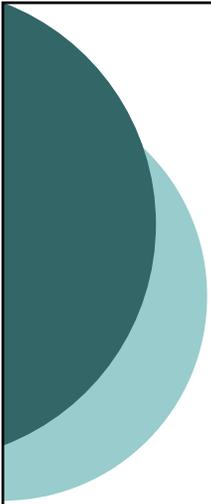


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Introduction

Friends of the community,

The Partnership for a Green City has witnessed flourishing cooperation between its member entities, resulting in framework of environmental stewardship that touches nearly every citizen in the Louisville Metropolitan area. We know, though, that a truly sustainable future will not only involve our schools and government, but the contributions of each and every member of the community.

Although the motivation to take responsible action may exist, it is not always clear what action you can take as an individual. Such decisions, at their core, are directly affected by educational resources available in an area. Of course, the Louisville community finds great potential in its public and private schools— from pre-kindergarten to the university level. Sometimes less evident, though, is the wealth of opportunity found in the various organizations and programs which provide informal education opportunities for children and adults alike.

The purpose of this guide is to shed some light on these invaluable resources. With the implementation of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan, teachers may wish to look for an engaging experience for their students. Likewise, families that want to get connected with nature can use the guide in finding an opportunity to learn about their local environment. No matter the specific need, one commonality exists between all the resources listed in this guide: each organization or program provides a unique perspective on the environment through experiential education in the Louisville community.

I wish you the best in the exciting journey of getting connected with our local environment!

Brent Fryrear

Director, Partnership for a Green City



Louisville
Environmental
Education
Resources

Belle of Louisville



“Take a cruise back in time”



Contact Information

401 West River Road
Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 574-2355

Overview

Originally launched in 1914, the Belle of Louisville, is an authentic source for historical education. In fact, it is the last true river steamboat still in operation! With this in mind, the Belle of Louisville is definitely a unique venue for school field trips as well as public tours, allowing participants to fully experience the steamboat era. Such cruises, available on the Belle of Louisville and the Spirit of Jefferson, also offer a chance to learn about the river and human interactions with it throughout history. Plus, the Belle of Louisville brings visitors back in time to experience a historical lifestyle before the advent of many modern technologies! Education staff are always willing to work with teachers in order to align specific curricular needs. To learn more about cruise options and plan your visit, check out the website below!

Website: www.belleoflouisville.org

Did you know?

- School groups from outside Louisville can still experience a Belle of Louisville field trip, electronically! KET offers an interactive website with a virtual tour and tons of resources for students to learn all about the history of steamboats and river travel!
- In 2014, the Belle of Louisville will be turning 100 years old! A number of special events are being planned for this Centennial Celebration!

Get Involved!

- The Belle of Louisville and the Spirit of Jefferson have frequent special events, including “Moonlight Comedy Cruises” and “Fireworks Cruises”, among many others!

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest



“Connecting people with nature”



Contact Information

Highway 245
Clermont, KY 40110

(502) 955-8512

nature@bernheim.org

Overview

With approximately 15,000 acres to use as an outdoor classroom, Bernheim Forest presents educational opportunities which are based on the central themes of water, air, community, soil, and energy. Additionally, these opportunities have the shared goal of encouraging children, and adults, to experience the outdoors. Bernheim offers programs for toddlers, adults, and everyone in between. Pollywog Play Parties combining music, art, language, and outdoor play to engage children under 5 years old. At the same time, a Smart Gardens and Landscapes workshop may be teaching landowners to manage their property sustainably. A new Edible Garden Project will demonstrate principles of ecological stewardship to visitors of all ages. Of course, field trips are easily arranged, covering topics such as the plants and animals of Bernheim, water ecology, and sustainability—all adaptable for students of any age.

Website: www.bernheim.org

Did you know?

- The Gardens in the Sky Initiative has allowed Bernheim Forest to become a leader in the development of best practices for living roof designs, which have been implemented throughout the region.
- The Visitor Center was the first LEED platinum building in Kentucky, and the entire region for that matter. It serves as a classroom of its own, featuring lessons on sustainable nature-inspired design.
- Monthly full moon night hikes, and sky watch nights give visitors the chance to connect with nature, at night!

Get Involved!

- There are plenty of ways to get involved at Bernheim, ranging from a single-day volunteer experience to the award-winning Naturalist in Training program. School groups and families are also encouraged to contribute, allowing younger volunteers to get connected as well!

Blackacre State Nature Preserve



“Preserving natural and historic features while promoting outdoor environmental education”



Contact Information

3200 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-9802
blackacre3200@gmail.com

Overview

Blackacre provides several unique venues for education, all of which allow visitors to catch a glimpse of a typical settler’s life. Trails and natural areas give the public a chance to connect with nature and understand a bit more about the human-environment dynamic throughout history. Meanwhile, participants can explore the Tyler Homestead, consisting of several original or replica historic structures such as the Presly Tyler 1844 Farmhouse, the Smoke House, and the Weaving Shed. This unique blend of natural and historical education allows visitors to Blackacre to get a truly interdisciplinary approach in learning about the environment and how it changes over time. While JCPS organizes trips to Blackacre for their schools (see “JCPS Field Experiences...”), the Blackacre Conservancy can organize opportunities for schools and groups not included in the Jefferson County Public School system.

Website: blackacreconservancy.org

Did you know?

- Special events give the public a chance to experience the range of opportunities at Blackacre - from stargazing and storytelling, to Fall hikes and country Christmas, there’s something for everyone!
- Farm Animal Feedings, organized on Saturdays from May to October, allow families to interact with a livestock farmer while learning about the animals, their care, and their role in the historic homestead.

Get Involved!

- Though Blackacre has several ways for individuals to volunteer, one of the more unique options is to become a Living History Reenactor. This gives participants the chance share information with visitors while dressing and playing the part of a pioneer settler!

Breaking New Grounds



“Turning waste into wealth”



Contact Information

2100 Woodland Ave
Louisville, KY 40210
(502) 437-9885

elisa@breakingnewgrounds.org

Overview

Breaking New Grounds is a non-profit organization with three goals revolving around the creation and use of compost. They focus on dissemination of the compost, facilitation of its use, and education regarding the entire process. Many of the education opportunities are largely informal. Other community partnerships with Breaking New Grounds allow institutions and organizations to learn how to handle their own waste. Additionally, trained “block captains” in the Crescent Hill area ensure that individual residents understand what they can do to repurpose their organic waste. However, with the development of Breaking New Grounds, education will no longer be limited to these informal opportunities. A curriculum for Jefferson County Public Schools will pair lessons with hands-on experience composting in the school setting. More information on this initiative can be obtained by contacting Breaking New Grounds.

Website: www.breakingnewgrounds.org

Did you know?

- Breaking New Grounds’ signature product is vermicompost, which is compost that has been fed to worms, resulting in an all-natural fertilizer!
- The vision of Breaking New Grounds is to see Louisville composting 100% of its organic waste by 2030.
- Breaking New Grounds removes over 150 tons of organic waste from the Louisville-area waste stream per year. This includes spent coffee grounds from Heine Brothers, brewery grains from Brown Forman, and wood chips from Limbwalker Tree Service.

Get Involved!

- Breaking New Grounds hosts volunteer days for groups and individuals of all ages to help out with operational tasks while learning all about composting and the local food economy!

Brightside



“Uniting people in clean and green activities to beautify the city and foster community pride”



Contact Information

400 S 1st Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 574-2613

Overview

Through volunteer work, and education initiatives, Brightside works to keep the Louisville community beautiful! Brightside’s key education program, Eco-drama, allows 3rd grade classes to explore important environmental issues through a interactive, drama-based presentation. The issues emphasized include recycling, litter, composting, clean water, and energy awareness. Such topics are also shared in a less formal setting through volunteer work experiences. Brightside also promotes outdoor learning by encouraging and facilitating the beautification of school campuses and the creation of outdoor classrooms. As an affiliate of “Keep America Beautiful”, Brightside serves the local community in raising awareness of litter prevention and waste reduction. This affiliation also allows Brightside to support teachers by providing resources and lessons focuses on such issues.

Website: www.louisvilleky.gov/Brightside/

Did you know?

- The Adopt-a-Mile program gives groups the chance to take responsibility for the beauty of a roadway in Metro Louisville. Similarly, the Adopt-a-Block allows the adoption of a block that you’d like to keep clean and maintained!
- Brightside advocates for a community with zero litter through the Anti-Litter education campaign, litter clean-up efforts, and the ability for community members to report litter via the Brightside website.

Get Involved!

- Whether you plan to help out once or on a recurring basis, you can find a perfect fit with clean-up efforts, special events, youth education initiatives, gardening, or office administration - just to name a few!

The Food Literacy Project



"Inspiring people to build relationships with healthy food, farming, and the land"



Contact Information

9001 Limehouse Lane
Louisville, KY 40222

(502) 491-0072

info@foodliteracyproject.org

Overview

The Food Literacy Project is a nonprofit education partner to a working farm, founded in 2006. Their farm-based experiential education programs serve public and private school classes and faculty, community groups, and special needs groups. Emphasizing discovery and exploration, the Food Literacy Project has experiential education opportunities covering a range of topics. Group and family programs are available with themes such as "Tasting Tour of the Farm", "Planting Seeds", "Baking Bread", and "Field-to-Fork Cooking" - just to name a few. The Food Literacy Project invites all visitors to become participants in a sustainable food system – by planting, weeding, harvesting, exploring, smelling, tasting and cooking healthy food on an 8-acre vegetable farm. Additionally, the Food Literacy Project offers in-service professional development for public and private school educators as well as staff from various community agencies.

Website: foodliteracyproject.org

Did you know?

- The "Entrepreneurial Youth Development" program allows local youth to experience the entire agricultural process over the course of the growing season. Participants gain experience planting, cultivating, harvesting, and cooking. Finally, a culminating farmer's market experience gives youth the chance to develop related business and marketing skills!
- Special events are available for the public, such as the "Field-to-Fork Dinner" - a fundraising event featuring foods raised by local farmers and prepared by local chefs.

Get Involved!

- The Food Literacy Project has a number of volunteer opportunities, involving tasks such as: facilitating farm experiences for youth, gardening, administrative assistance, performing maintenance, baking, creating media, or serving on a board committee.

Green Triangle



“See, Live, Be”



Overview

The Green Triangle is the 9th District’s sustainability initiative. The Green Triangle works with residents, businesses, and government to create a community of green space, transportation, and green thinking. Through the Green Triangle website, residents, groups, and businesses can track and measure their sustainability efforts. These individual efforts are compiled and quantified to help residents understand the power of collective action. Additionally, Green Triangle works to educate citizens on various steps they can take to be more environmentally-responsible at home. Green Triangle emphasizes goals such as establishing waste reduction/repurposing efforts and expanding recycling programs. The website serves as an educational resource in and of itself, with freely available resources, and community maps depicting green features like rain barrels, vegetable gardens, bee hives, and more.

Contact Information

9th District Councilwoman
Tina Ward-Pugh
601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 574-1109

tina.ward-pugh@louisvilleky.gov

Website: www.mygreentriangle.com

Did you know?

- The Green Tips Calendar, available online, provides a new sustainable suggestion every day!
- Green Triangle offers numerous success stories from sustainable projects such as composting, recycling, and general green living—all available on the website!
- Green Triangle reaches out to the community through public events and an e-newsletter!

Get Involved!

- Green Triangle hosts occasional volunteer opportunities including gardening, the bi-annual 9th District clean-up, and an annual recycling event. Volunteer are also welcomed in the planning process of various initiatives!

JCPS Field Experiences at Blackacre



“Supporting students in becoming environmentally literate and academically successful”



Overview

The Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) system utilizes Blackacre State Nature Preserve as the context for the many of its environmental education opportunities. Field experiences at Blackacre allow teachers to integrate outdoor learning with in-class curriculum, creating an interdisciplinary approach for learning about the environment. Prior to bringing a class to Blackacre, teachers are encouraged to visit for professional development and a chance to form a comprehensive plan for their students' experiences. Typical JCPS programs at Blackacre include a brief introduction, several thematic lessons, and time for discussion and reflection. Also welcoming classes for recurring experiences, JCPS facilitates an ongoing connection between students and the nature preserve. Children are even encouraged to come back to Blackacre individually so that they can be the leader of a new experience for their friends and family!

Contact Information

3200 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 485-3437

bryan.thompson@jefferson.kyschools.us

Website: www.jefferson.k12.ky.us

Did you know?

- JCPS Environmental Education staff are available to help facilitate experiences at schools, with activities such as wildlife habitat improvement, which encourages students to develop a plan, utilize interdisciplinary ideas, and implement a service learning approach in solving a local problem.
- Summer camps at Blackacre give JCPS students the chance to stay connected with environmental learning opportunities, even when school is not in session!

Get Involved!

- Students have worked with environmental education staff in the past to perform a variety of service projects at their schools and in the community. Such projects have included activities revolving around watersheds and water quality, Earth day, and educational outreach, among others.

Jefferson Memorial Forest



"A living, woodland memorial to Kentucky veterans"



Contact Information

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
Fairdale, KY 40118
(502) 368-5404

tonya.swan@louisvilleky.gov

Overview

Spanning 6,218 acres, Jefferson Memorial Forest has plenty of space for learning about nature. A variety of programs and experiences exist to accommodate audiences from pre-kindergarten children to adults. To get a glimpse of Jefferson Memorial Forest, single day experiences are offered and cover topics tailored to a group's needs such as the "Absolutely Animals" program which can emphasize adaptations, native animals, or habitats. Recurring opportunities are also available, including the Louisville ECHO program. This unique experience allows 4th grade classes to visit the forest multiple times, completing inquiry-based activities focused on scientific discovery and exploration. Jefferson Memorial Forest Staff can also facilitate educational opportunities at other Louisville Metro Park natural areas, such as the Caperton Swamp. Finally, professional development is offered to compliment programs at the Forest, or equip teachers to present national curricula such as Project WET, Project WILD, etc.

Website:

www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroParks/parks/jeffersonmemorialforest

Did you know?

- The "Sense of Place" program introduces adults to nature through discussion of a topic at the Louisville Free Public Library, followed experiential learning at Jefferson Memorial Forest.
- Education staff invite students from grade 4 to 7 to "bring a book to life" through a unique program which allows a class to be immersed in the experiences of characters from select books as they explore the Forest.
- Overnight programs give students a chance to learn about various topics while experiencing the outdoors and camping in the Forest!

Get Involved!

- Plenty of volunteer opportunities exist with duties such as "Trail Team", "Land Stewards", "Program Naturalists", and "Forest Ambassadors"

Kentuckiana Air Education (KAIRE)



“Increasing public awareness of the impact individual choices can have on local air quality”



Contact Information

850 Barret Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 574-6000

Overview

KAIRE serves as an outreach source for the entire region. This outreach comes in many forms, but all serves to educate the public on issues involving air quality and pollution. The “Idle Free” campaign is KAIRE’s primary program, encouraging drivers to shut off their engines when they are going to be sitting still for more than ten seconds. Idle Free messaging is distributed through television advertisements, signage at businesses and schools, and other visual media. Additionally, KAIRE works with schools to educate their students by setting up presentations, providing resource kits, and offering professional development for teachers interested in incorporating the material into various courses. In the past, KAIRE has even created a crosswalk between disciplines in an educational context by allowing students to combine art with the messaging of the Idle Free campaign.

Website: www.helptheair.org

Did you know?

- KAIRE emphasizes four clean air tips for the public: 1) Keeping tires inflated, 2) Getting oil changed regularly, 3) Not letting the engine idle, and 4) Getting fuel when it’s cool
- KAIRE is present at many community events including Waterfront Wednesday and the Forecastle Festival!
- KAIRE is a program of the Metro Air Pollution Control District, which has a variety of ongoing environmental projects

Get Involved!

- Visit the website for more information on joining the KAIRE network as well as taking action with initiatives such as the Idle Free campaign.

Kentucky Science Center



“Encouraging people of all ages to explore science in everyday life”



Contact Information

727 West Main Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 561-6100

Overview

The Kentucky Science Center hosts educational opportunities in a variety of forms, including exhibits at the Science Center, single-day programs, summer camps, and community outreach. The Science Center is committed to bring interactive exhibits and engaging programs for children, families and adults. The well-established exhibit, “The World Around Us”, focuses on all aspects of the natural environment as well as human-interactions with it. Past offerings have included the exhibit “Reuse-a-palooza” which taught visitors all about ‘upcycling’ and how waste can be repurposed instead of thrown away. The outreach program “DirtFest”, allowed visitors to experiment and explore different types of dirt as well as farming and landscaping. A new outreach program, “Captain Current vs. the Electricity Vampires”, brings an interactive presentation of electricity and energy efficiency to schools all across Kentucky.

Website: www.louisvillescience.org

Did you know?

- The Louisville Science Center produces a “Field Experience Guide” to assist teachers in choosing and planning opportunities for their students.
- Louisville Science Center’s IMAX theatre shows documentaries on a wide range of science-related topics every day of the week!

Get Involved!

- Volunteer opportunities are available for all ages, including the VolunTeen program, which allows students in grades 9-12 to help out on a recurring basis throughout the summer!

Locust Grove



"A national historic landmark telling the story of Kentucky history and life on the frontier"



Overview

Locust Grove offers field experiences for school groups, as well as special events for the general public. Students take a look at the historic site with an eye towards life as it was 200 years ago. Locust Grove displays the original "green" by presenting the ways that everything was reused and never wasted in the pioneer days! Summer camps also allow children to experience Locust Grove for several days in a row, focusing on topics such as woodworking, nature, and book arts.. Similar themes are presented at workshops for adults throughout the year. Historical interpretation is a popular aspect of Locust Grove, allowing visitors to see what life was like and experience occasional Revolutionary War reenactments. These also give volunteers a great way to help out while learning all about Locust Grove. Other experiences such as the antiques fair and gardening fair also provide valuable insight to life in the pioneer days.

Website: www.locustgrove.org

Contact Information

561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

lghh@locustgrove.org

Did you know?

- Locust Grove hosts several special events throughout the year, including antique fairs, gardening fairs, the "Jane Austen Fest", and a slow-food family picnic.
- Locust Grove offers joint field trip experiences with the Fraizer History Museum, allowing groups to make a full day of historical exploration!

Get Involved!

- No matter your age, there is a spot for volunteering at Locust Grove. Whether you are interested in becoming a docent (volunteer teacher), a costumed interpreter, or just an extra pair of hands, Locust Grove has plenty of options including high school and college programs.

Louisville Nature Center



"Providing nature education and encouraging stewardship in an urban forest"



Contact Information

3745 Illinois Avenue
Louisville, KY 40213

(502) 458-1328

LNC@bellsouth.net

Overview

The Louisville Nature Center is a wealth of educational opportunity in quite a unique setting. Directly adjacent to the Nature Center is the 41-acre Beargrass State Nature Preserve. This preserve serves as a living laboratory from which the Nature Center benefits in terms of inspiration and exploration. The one-of-a-kind urban preserve provides opportunities to interact with native species, including more than 150 bird species, 180 plant species, and 30 butterfly species. In fact, typical programs spend nearly half of the time outdoors! A variety of educational programs are available for K-12 students, along with ample opportunities for adults. The Louisville Nature Center emphasizes science core content, but has also conducted programs with a focus on topics such as art and writing. Additionally, teachers are encouraged to integrate lessons from the Nature Center into the school year through professional development opportunities.

Website: www.louisvillenaturecenter.org

Did you know?

- A "bird-blind" allows visitors to watch birds in their natural habitat without disturbing them or scaring them away.
- The Louisville Nature Center encourages visitors to experience nature all the time, not only when the weather is nice! Ponchos and other rain gear are provided to allow programs to continue, even in rainy weather. If the weather becomes too severe, it's no problem: all educational programs can also be conducted indoors, at the Visitors Center.

Get Involved!

- There are always opportunities for volunteering and ongoing service projects for K-12 students, college students, and adults!

Louisville Water Company



“Quality Water, Quality of Life”



Contact Information

550 South 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 583-6610

publicinfo@lwcky.gov

Overview

Louisville Water Company offers education in the form of community outreach as well as school-based programs. Youth programs such as “Drink to your Health”, “Message in a Bottle”, and “Where’s the Sugar” emphasize the benefits of drinking water and the comparison between tap water and bottled water. Science programs like “Tunneling for Water” and “River to Faucet” illustrate the importance of water as a natural resource. Louisville Water staff members are available to present programs in classes of all age and subject. In fact, the interdisciplinary nature of these programs allows them to be adapted across a range of content areas including science, social studies, math, and reading. A “Water Festival” held at The Water Tower hosts about 5,000 students per year, educating on a variety of topics revolving around water. Additionally, Louisville Water presence at numerous community events allows them to reach the general public with their water-centric messaging.

Website: www.louisvillewater.com

Did you know?

- Louisville Water Company’s product (water!) is so good they have branded it! Louisville pure tap® is available at faucets and fountains across the city. Louisville Water offers reusable bottles and coolers to make using Louisville pure tap® even more convenient!
- Public tours are available at many of the Louisville Water Company facilities. For instance, you can take a walk at the Crescent Hill Reservoir or tour The Water Tower. Just check out the website for scheduled tours!

Get Involved!

- If you’re a teacher, check into the professional development offered by Louisville Water. Approximately 150 teachers are trained each year!

Louisville Zoo



“Bettering the bond between people and our planet”



Contact Information

1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 238-5358

Overview

With education being one of the key purposes of the Louisville Zoo, you can be sure there are plenty of opportunities to learn all about animals and the ecosystems they come from! Groups visiting the Zoo can attend an educational program with themes such as “Life Cycles”, “Feathers & Fur”, “Life of a Tree”, and “Ecosystems” - just to name a few! These, and other programs, are adaptable to audiences of all different ages. The “School at the Zoo” program gives teachers a chance to bring their class to the Zoo for an entire week, ensuring an interdisciplinary approach that covers all the necessary content standards. Education staff and volunteers are also able to present outreach programs on location at a school or other institution, and can even bring animals along for a unique experience! Last but not least, the Zoo offers professional development for teachers who wish to learn more about utilizing this living laboratory in their instruction!

Website: www.louisvillezoo.org

Did you know?

- “Night Safaris” allow groups to camp out at the Zoo, participate in a variety of programs, and learn all about the animals through a one-of-a-kind experience!
- The Louisville Zoo publishes a “Backyard Action Hero” guide which helps children who are especially interested in wildlife to take action locally!
- Even if you can’t participate in a formal education event, a self-guided tour around the Zoo will bring you to a wealth of information provided at each exhibit.

Get Involved!

- Individuals can get involved in just about any area of the Zoo! The Docent program trains high school students and adults to teach at the Zoo and further its educational mission. Also, job shadowing programs allow high school and college level students to get an inside look at careers at a Zoo!

Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)



“Integrity, Stewardship, Service, Quality”



Contact Information

700 West Liberty Street
Louisville, KY 40203

(502) 587-0603

Overview

MSD has several programs that emphasize environmental education and awareness. With a focus on water quality issues, MSD facilitates school group visits to water treatment plants to learn about the sanitation process and how individual actions affect water quality. Other programs allow students to get out in the field and perform water testing, accompanied by educational resources for teachers to incorporate as appropriate. A scaled-down watershed model, called the “Enviroscape”, allows students to experiment with various additions to the system and observe consequences downstream! Although the majority of MSD’s educational programming occurs with school groups, there has also been much work to create neighborhood partnerships aimed at raising awareness in the general public. Web-based resources are available to the public as well as school groups, allowing educational initiatives to flourish in a range of formats.

Website: www.msdlouky.org

Did you know?

- MSD has a partnership with the University of Louisville and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to facilitate doctoral level research in water quality issues.
- MSD employs high school students during the summer to assist with inflow and infiltration investigations and stormwater discharge identification.
- There is often an MSD presence at community events, providing outreach to the public at venues such as the Louisville Zoo!

Get Involved!

- There are several ways individuals and groups can take action through MSD. For instance, MSD sponsored stream cleanups have resulted in some of the largest volunteer efforts of such nature in the area!

NEED Project



“National Energy Education Development Project”



Overview

The NEED project seeks to create an effective network for designing and delivering energy education programs. In doing so, the mission of NEED is to create an energy conscious and educated society. NEED’s main focus is K-12 education, hosting a variety of opportunities ranging from one-day workshops and presentations to ongoing student projects facilitated by teachers and NEED staff. Schools are used as a context for learning about electricity, allowing NEED to utilize a place-based teaching approach. NEED supplies extensive materials and resources for educating students on all things revolving around electricity and energy efficiency. Additionally, NEED can provide professional development for teachers wishing to incorporate the project into their curriculum. Finally, NEED hosts awards programs to recognize the work that students complete at the local, state, and national levels!

Contact Information

(859) 578-0312

kreagor@need.org

Website: www.need.org

Did you know?

- NEED has a collection of energy maps available with subjects such as “Total Energy Consumption by State”, “US Coal Consumption by State”, “US Wind Generation by State”, and many more!
- Many NEED curriculum guides are available in Spanish!
- A national conference allows teachers to come together during the summer and learn how they might incorporate the NEED project into their class!

Get Involved!

- Whether you are a student, parent, or teacher, NEED likely has resources that can help you learn or teach all about energy. Visit the website to learn more about how you might take action!

Olmsted Parks Conservancy



“Restoring, enhancing, and preserving the Frederick Law Olmsted Parks and Parkways”



Overview

The Olmsted Parks Conservancy works in Louisville’s 18 historic Olmsted -designed parks. Therefore, service learning activities, volunteer opportunities, or educational walks can be coordinated in various locations around Louisville, and are facilitated by staff or a volunteer naturalist. Olmsted Parks is also able to provide a variety of curricula and informal materials revolving around environmental education, with the ability to create an interdisciplinary focus. Outreach is available for interested parties such as school environmental clubs and events. Volunteer opportunities with Olmsted Parks Conservancy typically focus on invasive plant removal and restoration of native plant populations, thereby improving habitat and biodiversity, as well as reducing erosion and improving water quality. Volunteers are trained so they have the opportunity to learn about natural processes at work before beginning their field experience.

Website: www.olmstedparks.org

Contact Information

1299 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

(502) 456-8125

info@olmstedparks.org

Did you know?

- The Olmsted Parks Conservancy works not only with teachers, but also with landscape architects, horticulturists, and other professionals looking for development in their career path.
- During its 21-year history, Olmsted Parks Conservancy has raised over \$25 million and completed a number of key projects in all 18 parks in the Olmsted system. Projects have included renovations of sports facilities, woodland and savannah restoration, wetland creation, multi-use recreational paths, reconstruction of bridle and hiking trails, playgrounds and many more.

Get Involved!

- Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact the Olmsted Parks Conservancy to find out where they would best fit. Typical opportunities involve single-day experiences as well as recurring roles involving high school students, college interns, and adults!

Transit Authority of River City (TARC)



“Transportation opportunities that enhance the well-being of the Louisville community”



Contact Information

1000 W Broadway
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 585-1234

Overview

TARC provides educational opportunities with practicality in everyday life! For students wishing to learn all about public transportation and its benefits, the “Hop on Board” program brings a presentation and related materials to classes in the Louisville community. The activity can be done in a classroom, or on a real TARC bus! Groups can also find field experiences at the TARC headquarters, located in Union Station. A historic tour of the station shows the evolution of public transportation over time, while a visit to the LEED silver-certified Maintenance Annex provides another venue for learning about environmental stewardship. TARC also holds an annual art contest in which participants design a wrap to be used on a bus, while learning all about the environmental benefits of public transportation! Community outreach is also an important aspect of the TARC educational mission, with participation in events such as “Dump the Pump Day” and “Bike to Work Day”.

Website: www.ridetarc.org

Did you know?

- Visits to the TARC headquarters could include a trip through the bus wash! It’s an unforgettable way to see a bit of what goes on behind-the-scenes with public transportation!
- TARC often showcases one of their hybrid buses at community events such as the Kentucky State Fair and WorldFest

Get Involved!

- If you’ve never ridden a TARC bus before, check out the website to learn all about how to ride a bus and find the routes that work best for you!

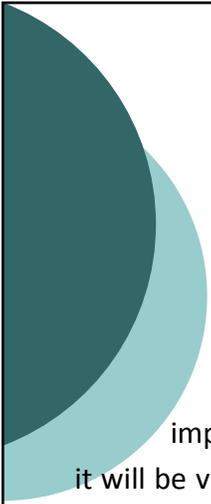


Additional Information

The organizations included in the guide all provide excellent programs for learning about the local environment. It should be noted, though, that there are numerous other experiences in Jefferson County that are equally deserving of recognition. If you know of such an opportunity to include, should future editions of this resource guide be produced, please send the appropriate information to louisville.eeguide@gmail.com

Furthermore, please check out the excellent statewide clearinghouse for environmental education maintained through a partnership between the Kentucky Environmental Education Council, the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, and other environmental education focused groups.

The website can be accessed at <http://eeinkentucky.org/>



Appendix A—Overview of Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

The following is an overview of the seven primary goals and more specific objectives as adapted from the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP), produced by the Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC). The KELP has been approved for implementation by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). For this to be successful, it will be vital to forge connections between schools and community organizations like those listed in this guide. By including the goals of the KELP alongside these environmental education profiles, we hop to encourage full utilization of community resources. For the full version of the KELP, please visit <http://keec.ky.gov/>

KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN

Goal 1—Identify specific content standards, content areas, and courses or subjects where instruction will take place.

Objectives:

1. Examine specific content standards, content areas, courses, subjects and school settings where instruction could take place.
2. Use KDE standards as a basis for incorporating environmental literacy into school practices.

Goal 2—Incorporate requirements that will ensure high school graduates are environmentally literate.

Objectives:

1. Identify a variety of ways that schools can ensure that their high school graduates are environmentally literate.
2. Identify existing high school graduation requirements that could be adapted to meet this goal (e.g., formal service learning projects and place-based projects) by incorporating environmental literacy.

Goal 3—Provide programs for professional development of K-12 educators and administrators to improve their environmental content knowledge, skill in teaching about environmental issues, and field-based pedagogical skills while ensuring utilization of this information.

Objectives:

1. Identify successful practices for implementing environmental literacy professional development throughout the state.
2. KDE will work with KEEC, Kentucky Education Association (KEA), KUPPEE, Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and other appropriate agencies to develop a comprehensive professional development series for pre-service and in-service teachers.

Goal 4—Develop a system of assessments to measure the environmental literacy of Kentucky students.

Objectives:

1. KDE will identify current state assessments that can be used or adapted to measure the environmental literacy of Kentucky’s students.
2. KDE will create a plan for implementation of those assessments, emphasizing collection of data from multiple sources.
3. KDE will create a plan for effectively analyzing and utilizing data from the assessments.

Goal 5—Secure funding and other necessary support for implementation of the KELP.

Objectives:

1. Collaborate with Kentucky organizations receiving funding for environmental education to examine ways they can help meet the requirements of the KELP.
2. Identify a variety of sources for additional funding, focusing particularly on sustainable funding sources.
3. Institutionalize environmental education at the state level.

Goal 6—KDE will encourage school districts to improve the sustainability of their buildings and grounds in order to use the facilities to improve student environmental literacy.

Objectives:

1. Increase student environmental literacy by using the school buildings and grounds as a learning laboratory.
2. Increase the number of high performance school buildings and properties based on low-impact design and green infrastructure principles, such as the Guidelines for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Design Manual, Energy Star and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Goal 7—KDE will encourage teachers and administrators to provide students with opportunities for positive interactions with the natural environment.

Objectives:

1. Ensure outdoor experiences are incorporated into the P-12 curriculum.
2. Identify resources that support districts in providing outdoor experiences for students.