



January 2023

Hello Ashton,

We are excited to welcome 2023! A new year means new goals and fresh starts for many. Mahr Park Arboretum is the place to grow and create memorable moments throughout the year. Are you looking to hit the trails? Improve your physical or mental health? Spend more time with family? Create new habits? Or simply take in nature at its finest? We're here for you. As we grow, we continually look at the needs of our community. We are excited to serve you this year and look forward to new growth.

Warm Regards,
Ashton Robinson, Park Director

A look back at 2022!



Arboretum Growth

We planted 96 trees in 2022 for reforestation and further expanding the Arboretum. In the spring, we created our tree donor program and tree trail. With the addition of QR codes to our new tree and plant tags, we started a unique tree trail for a self-guided educational experience. If you are interested in investing in the future of our Arboretum, click the link below to learn more!

[Tree Donor Program](#)

Event Venues



Our event venues flourished in 2022. With over 115 events in our facilities in 2022, our unique spaces provided memories that will last a lifetime. Renters were serviced from 26 Kentucky cities and four different states.

From weddings, reunions, graduations, birthdays, and more, It has been a pleasure to continue serving our community and beyond as a leading venue for events.

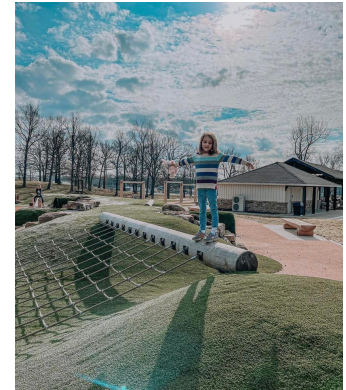


New Signage

We strived to make navigating the Arboretum easier for you in 2022. We were happy to place 60 new signs in various locations to help you as you explore—six beautiful posts with natural stone features set through the main drive added appeal. New signage for our Championship and Recreational disc golf courses was updated and replaced. Be on the lookout for more signage in the future!



Nature Play Area



The Nature Play Area phase I was completed in late 2021 and we seen significant use in 2022. It was rewarding to see so many children impacted by this one of a kind space. We were thrilled to see many field trips from near and far playing in a natural space and engaging all the senses.

Plans are in place for future phases of this amazing Nature Play Area!



Educational Opportunities



Investing in the future of our community is valuable from hosting Hopkins County Schools, homeschooling and private school students, and surrounding county school systems. It is always great to have students enjoying the outdoors and using the Arboretum as their classroom. Harvest Fest was able to host over 400 students, and an estimated 2,000 students were impacted by field trips in 2022.

Guided hikes led by volunteers engage the community with ten led hikes. Our most attended hike was the Summer Solstice night hike. Sunday Seminars returned in 2022, and we were happy to have animal rehabilitators, native plant nurseries, bee programs, and water habitats speakers.



We partnered with MCC Agriculture program with their



Eagle Scout Project

Ethan Springer completed his Eagle Scout project in our 7-acre pollinator garden this spring. His project included an outdoor classroom with natural outdoor seating and a presentation board. His project will certainly impact students for years to come. We thank all that was able to help and for Ethans' leadership and dedication to this special project in 2022.



Community Events

horticulture class, planting native plants in the Mahr home Monarch waystation. Our first Star Party was successful thanks to Charity Williams, with Ross Workman presenting a star tour over the Arboretum. Maria Bailey led the Jr. Naturalist 4-H club monthly meetings in the Discovery classroom. Educational resources and working alongside community partners and our Mahr Park educator volunteers are incredibly important as we invest in the future and impact many.



2022 was a year full of exciting memories shared!

Harvest Fest and the Hay Bale Trail continue to grow. People came from near and far to see the creativity of members of our community. The excitement on all the faces is rewarding and, indeed, something all enjoyed.

The Kentucky State Disc Golf tournament was a success in September, with over 100 players from 12 states. We continue to see increased tourism from the Championship and Recreational courses.

Local businesses, organizations, and non-profits hosted engaging events in 2022, including Show and Go Car Club 40th Anniversary show, Woman Spring Retreats, HCYP Candidate and Hall of Fame dinner, cookouts, dances, graduations, company picnics, class reunions, Happy Feet Sweet Feet fundraiser, Independence Bank Farm to Fork dinner, Impact Mentoring Jolly Jingle Mingle, Run for the Hungry 5K and several more. We are always happy to provide a unique space to our community.



Volunteering

Mahr Park volunteers are vital to the Arboretum. Hours are spent weekly maintaining garden beds, investing in our youth and community for educational-led programs, and supporting essential programs, including birding, arboretum development, hospitality, and many more. We would be happy to have you if you are interested in



2022 Birding Programs

Our birding programs include an Eastern Bluebird trail and a Purple Martin colony. A special thank you to our birding volunteers that spend many hours weekly dedicating time to environmental efforts, Susie Scholze, Dan Reasons, Chip Tate, Maria Bailey, and Nikki Rothwell.

2022 Eastern Bluebird data:

94 Eastern bluebird eggs were laid in 2022 summer; they documented that 79 hatched (84%) and 73 fledged (78%).

2022 Purple Martin data:

128 Purple Martin eggs, 121 hatched, 111 fledged (92%) 24 pairs of Adult breeding pairs plus juveniles.

[More info](#)



Staff

A special thank you to our amazing grounds crew and office staff in 2022. It takes all hands and hearts to operate grounds and facilities efficiently as a team. We are thankful to service the community and enjoy seeing you create memories and utilize the Arboretum.

Benches

With the help of many donors, we placed 18 new natural stone benches within Mahr Park Arboretum in 2022.



Have you seen our new water feature?

Thanks to a special donor, we were able to have this beautiful fountain installed in front of the Welcome Center! The fountain is a showpiece and certainly a head-turner to visitors near and far. The wildlife enjoys the fountain as much as the guests. It is a highlight of the legacy the Mahrs have given to our community. Stop by soon to enjoy the beauty that encompasses the love of nature and the beauty of the outdoors.





Community Garden

Special thanks to Independence Bank for supporting and maintaining the community garden in 2022! The flowers were cherished by many, and the time, dedication, and support to the youth and local food bank do not go unnoticed.

Helping Hands!



Be on the lookout this spring for over 100 new daffodils! Special thanks to the Morton's Gap Mennonite Church Youth Group for dedicating time to plant these special flowers around the Arboretum.



Our partnership with Kentucky Division of Forestry is essential to Arboretum development and has provided excellent educational resources in 2022.



Boy Scout troops are always willing to lend a hand at Mahr Park Arboretum! We are thankful to have an amazing community that has a heart to help! In 2022 they were able to help us replace tree tags.

A Look Ahead, 2023!



2023 Events

Upcoming Events

01/21/23, Guided Hike, Winter Trekking 1 - 3 PM

*Meet at Welcome Center

02/18/23, Great Backyard Bird Count, Bird ID 101 class and hike, 10 AM-12 PM

*Meet at Welcome Center

02/19/23, Attracting Birds to your Garden class and hike, 2-4 PM

*Meet at Welcome Center

03/05/23, Volunteer Recruitment Day, 2-4 PM

*Meet at Welcome Center

03/12/23, Sunday Seminar, 2-4 PM

*Mahr Historic Home

03/25/23, Star Party, Barn B, 7-8 PM

*Barn B



[Learn More](#)



Contact Us

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