

Johnson County Park & Recreation District Art and Natural Resources Residency (ANRR) Public Art Project

Project Plan



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I. Introduction

JCPRD launched its Public Art Program in 2020 to activate parks, trails, and facilities in a new way. The JCPRD Public Art Program commissions and cares for a collection of public artworks in JCPRD parks and facilities, and promotes the community's access to and engagement with public art. The Public Art Program is guided by the JCPRD Public Art Committee, a nine-member advisory committee to the JCPRD Board. The Public Art Committee advises and makes recommendations to the JCPRD Board regarding the Public Art Program. JCPRD has adopted a policy to set aside one-half of one percent (.5%) of the annual Capital Improvement Plan budget for public art. JCPRD is also using those funds to leverage additional philanthropic dollars.

JCPRD completed a Public Art Master Plan with unanimous board approval in September of 2021. As part of this planning process, the following vision was developed as a guiding statement for the program.

Public art in JCPRD parks, trails and facilities will inspire a deeper connection to place through interactive, immersive, and inclusive experiences.

The Art and Natural Resources Residency (ANRR) will be the first short-term residency program to engage a local artist at JCPRD and allow them to embed with our Natural Resource Team to learn, respond artistically, and amplify this important work.

The JCPRD Board officially adopted the Natural Resource Plan in 2019. JCPRD's vision for natural resource management is:

The forests, prairies, waters, and wildlife in JCPRD's parks and streamways will be protected, restored, and well-managed to be diverse and long lasting for the enjoyment of all people now and in the future.

JCPRD is often responding to disruptions in the processes that sustain healthy ecosystems. Millions of visitors, exotic plant invasions, and overabundant animal populations all affect the ecosystem health and diversity that JCPRD strives to protect.

Link to the plan can be found here: <https://www.icprd.com/DocumentCenter/View/11405/Resource-Management-Plan-2019>

This first project will focus on the important ecosystem of our forested areas of the parks which makes up approximately 43% of the park space at JCPRD.

The removal of invasive species like Bush Honeysuckle is crucial in order to maintain biodiversity and ecological resiliency of Johnson County and of our region. Images of bush honeysuckles can be found [HERE](#).

This residency program is being funded through the JCPRD general fund as an effort to engage and educate our community through the power of art. This project also hopes to invest in the local arts community and elevate the role and capacity of this important sector in this region.

JCPRD's parklands (including streamway parks and trails) contain about 4,300 acres of forest. Almost 13% of that is globally threatened old deciduous forest. This land supports recreation, provides

stormwater management, secures habitat for a diversity of plants and animals, and stores large amounts of carbon.

Forests across the Midwest have been slowly disrupted by one of the aggressive invasive species to escape from cultivation. Bush Honeysuckle limits native plants, wildlife habitat, and makes parks unusable for recreation. Since 2019, JCPRD embarked on an ambitious plan with non-profit partners, conservation contractors, and user groups to remove over 300 acres of Bush Honeysuckle. With a natural resource plan in place, much needed progress has been realized with restored habitat, rebuilt trails, and added interpretive signs to tell the story of reclaiming the forest from the jaws of landscape level destruction. However, more work needs to be done.

JCPRD seeks an artist in residence to visit the forest, engage natural resource experts, trail builders, and non-profit partners to tell the story of saving the forest and trail system at Shawnee Mission Park through art. The residency includes access to office/planning space within Shawnee Mission Park, but does not include overnight accommodations.

II. Park Context

[Shawnee Mission Park](#) sits in two cities, Lenexa and Shawnee and opened in 1964. Shawnee Mission Park is 1,655 acres and includes a 120-acre lake with swimming beach and marina, 11 shelters, numerous picnic areas, nature trails, play areas, an archery range, a 44-acre dog off-leash area, an 18-hole disc golf course, mountain biking and hiking trails, equestrian trails, and is home to the Theatre in the Park.

The ANRR will focus their work and efforts on the forest area in and around the orange trail which can be accessed right off the Shawnee Mission Park Beach area. The trail map illustrating this area can be found here [HERE](#).

III. Public Art Goals

The goals for the Art and Natural Resources Residency are to:

- Create interactive, artistic experiences that allow park visitors to learn about the land restoration and the ecology and natural systems that make up the JCPRD parks. Specifically, this ANRR will focus on the health of forests and the effect of the invasive species at Shawnee Mission Park.
- Provide a platform for artists to create new, engaging art projects that grow out of an exploration of the work of the Natural Resources team, the process of land restoration, and the ecology and natural systems of JCPRD parks.
- Increase community engagement, awareness, and appreciation related to the JCPRD Natural Resource Plan and the efforts and impact our staff have on the health of our natural ecosystem.
- Support the growth and development of Kansas City regional artists.

IV. Site and Scope

The Public Art Program is interested in commissioning an artist in residence to create a site-specific, temporary work of art made primarily of materials from Shawnee Mission Park. Support and fastening materials may be obtained off-site and used within the artwork as needed, providing they have a

minimal visual impact on the final work of art. A Special Use Permit will be issued for the artist to collect materials within the park, providing the sourcing of materials has a minimal impact to the park's environment. The artist in residency advisory team will be available for materials guidance and consultation as needed. Natural materials from areas other than Shawnee Mission Park are not permitted to be used or brought within the park for the well-being of the park ecosystem.

The artist will also be asked to provide an artist-led workshop/talk back, engage in a community volunteer event about bush honeysuckle removal, and be included in a photograph exhibit at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center telling the story of their experience.

Resources to explore impact and attributes of bush honeysuckle:

- [Curse of the Bush Honeysuckles \(mo.gov\)](https://www.mo.gov)
- [bush honeysuckles \(exotic\) Lonicera spp. L. \(forestryimages.org\)](https://forestryimages.org)

Site

JCPRD has identified an area near Shawnee Mission Lake focused on the Orange Trail System as a good area of focus. The artist will be encouraged to explore the entire park for inspiration during their time. The identified Orange Trail within Shawnee Mission Park is a good potential site for an artwork and the artist will be engaged to recommend an exact location for the ephemeral project. This area and trail system are highly used areas of the park which creates great opportunities for visibility and awareness of the project.

Artist in Residency Scope of Work

The selected artist will be invited to spend 3 weeks with the Natural Resource staff at Shawnee Mission Park during the month of August 2022. This will include some structured field work and experiences, meetings with staff and partners, and much unstructured time for the artist to explore, learn and create. September will be used to reflect, plan and create. We would anticipate a minimum of 8-10 hours per week with staff during the 3 week period. The artist is responsible for designing, fabricating, and installing the ephemeral temporary artwork made primarily of natural materials from the park, in the park. The artist will also design and plan an artist workshop/talk back, in conjunction with a community volunteer removal event, and assist with the visual representation of the project journey to be shared at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center in the exhibition space through photographs and didactics narrated by the artist. This scope includes the following deliverables:

- 1) Ephemeral Temporary Art Piece
 - Based on engagement with JCPRD staff and the inspiration gained by the artist during their residency, the artist will develop and create an ephemeral, temporary art installation. One to two weeks into the research period, the artist will meet with the Artist Selection Committee to present a concept proposal. It will be constructed primarily from natural materials collected within the park.
 - The final proposal will need to detail every physical feature of the construction, materials, and its integration with the site. Upon approval by staff, it will be installed by the artist the first week of October.
 - The piece should have a minimum "lasting" date of 1 month from installation.

- Any infrastructure piece will be removed at the end of 2022 at the latest, though could occur sooner if artistic integrity is compromised.
 - The artist will manage all aspects of the installation of the artwork.
- 2) Artist designed and led workshop/ artist talk back - (early October)
- Design program, workshop, and/or artists talk back within the park space. JCPRD staff can assist with logistics of this event.
 - Visual story of the artist in residence journey. Photography and videography will be coordinated with the artist to document the journey of the Residency. JCPRD staff will assist with the exhibition design, printing of photos, didactic printing and installation at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. The artists will be asked to provide narrative for the didactics and photographs. Costs associated with this will be funded by JCPRD.
- 3) Community outreach and staff collaboration
- Work cooperatively and maintain effective communication with all parties involved in the project.
 - Collaborate with JCPRD on marketing and promotion of all aspects.

V. Selection Process

The ANRR Art Selection Committee (ASC) will review artist qualifications and select a finalist based on qualifications, vision and experience. The ASC may choose to interview finalists prior to making a final decision. The ASC will recommend an artist to the Public Art Committee. The final artist selection and concept will be approved by the Public Art Committee.

ANRR Residency Art Selection Committee

- Matt Garrett, JCPRD Biologist
- Ryan Bell, JCPRD Fine Arts Coordinator
- Susan Mong, Superintendent of Culture
- Megan Garrett, JCPRD Planning Department
- Linda Lehrbaum, Kansas City Wildlands

Artist Eligibility

In an effort to invest in and grow the public art ecosystem in the Kansas City area, this public art opportunity is open to professional artists residing in the Kansas City region. We also invite artists who work in other professional disciplines to consider applying too. This could include Architects, environmentalists, ecologists, etc. Residents are required to make their own arrangements for transportation to and from the residency. Overnight accommodations are not included.

Pre-Proposal Conference

JCPRD will host an optional pre-proposal meeting for interested artists, online. The pre-proposal meeting will provide an overview of the park, the goals for the project, and a review of the application process.

Submittal of Qualifications

Interested artists will be asked to submit:

- A letter of interest that indicates their interest in the project and how they might approach the residency project (no more than 2 pages).
- A CV/resume with current contact information (no more than 3 pages).
- Names and contact information for 3 - 5 professional references.
- Up to 10 sample images of previous artwork relevant to this project.
- A corresponding image list with artwork title, medium, dimensions, brief description, location, date of work, commissioning entity and budget/price.

Criteria for Review of Qualifications

Artist qualifications will be reviewed by the ASC based on the following criteria:

- Artist resides in the Kansas City region.
- Artistic excellence: What is the quality of the artist’s work and their compatibility with the project?
- Goals: Does the artist’s body of work demonstrate an ability to create an artwork and community program/workshop experience that responds to the goals of the project?
- Approach: How well does the artist communicate his/her understanding of the project?
- Capabilities: Does the artist have sufficient experience to be able to design, fabricate, and install an artwork, workshop, and narrative reflection of the project on time and on budget?

VI. Tentative Timeline

December 2021	Approve Project Plan and Issue Call for Artists (December 16)
February 2022	February 3 - Artist Qualifications Due February 22 - Interviews conducted for finalists
March 2022	Committee and Board Approvals
April 2022	Contract/ Final schedule outlined for artist
August 2022	Residency with JCPRD Staff and on location at Shawnee Mission Park
September 2022	Design approved by JCPRD staff, fabrication, workshop planning
October 2022	Installation, workshop, community day

VII. Budget

From General Fund	
Artist stipend to include research, design, fabrication, installation and community program)	\$5,000
From Operating Fund	
Signage (design, fabricate, install, costs)	\$50
Print materials for JCAHC art exhibition (design, print)	\$400
Material costs for fabrication of ephemeral piece	\$300

Workshop/artist talk back (food, drink,)	\$200
TOTAL FROM OPERATING FUND	\$1000

VIII. Community Engagement, Marketing and Communications

Community engagement, marketing and communications should be geared toward engaging with existing stakeholders as well as bringing new audiences to experience the artwork.

JCPRD will make efforts to make stakeholders aware of the commissioning process and -- when appropriate -- to make information about project milestones accessible.

Stakeholders

Community engagement, marketing and communications should build upon the existing stakeholder base for art, parks, and Shawnee Mission Park, specifically. These will include, but may not be limited to, representatives from:

- Park Users
- Art Selection Committee
- Natural Resources Team
- JCPRD Staff and Board
- The Public Art Committee
- Kansas City Wildlands
- Urban Trail Company
- InterUrban Art House

Marketing and Communications

JCPRD staff will develop a marketing and communications strategy for throughout the entire ANRR process that will include:

- Web-based information about the commissioning process and the project.
- Social media announcements about project milestones, as appropriate.
- Print materials about the project to be shared in the JCAHC Art Exhibition Space
- Media releases to local and national publications and blogs.
- Hosting and promoting an educational program with the selected artist about the artwork development process or the artwork itself.

IX. Evaluation

There are several types of evaluation that can help provide valuable feedback regarding both the process and the success of the project.

A questionnaire will solicit feedback from the selected artist on the overall project development process. Staff involved with the project will also be invited to debrief.

Media, social media, QR code, and website hits will be used to monitor engagement with the artwork and the exhibition.

- How did visitors learn about the residency?
- Increased awareness and understanding of the Natural Resource Plan, forestry health, and how invasive species impact the health of our ecosystem.
- Did they come specifically to see the artwork at the park?
- What is their impression of the artwork?
- How does public art impact their experience of the park?
- Previous awareness of JCPRD's Public Art Program?
- Impact on local arts community to increase capacity and provide education with local partners