

# Alum Creek Park, Delaware County

Tucker Green

## Background:

This summer I had a great opportunity to work through the SCA, Student Conservation Association, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Delaware County, Ohio.

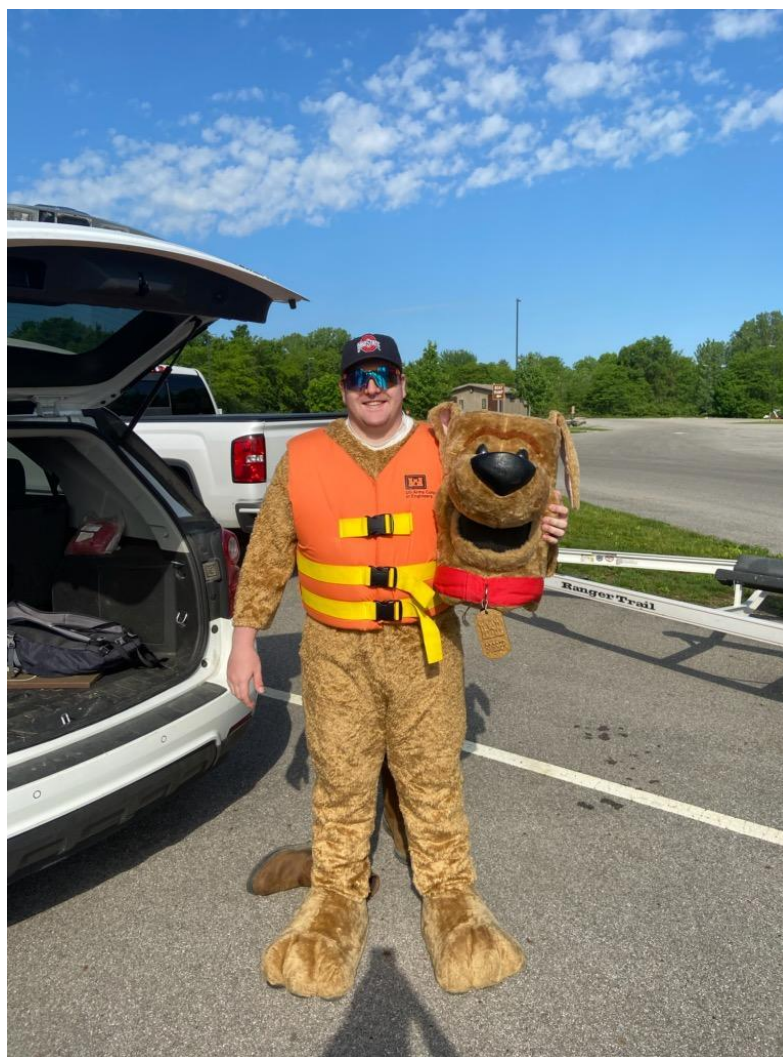
The Army Corps tackles so many different tasks throughout their day and I was lucky enough to be a part of some of those. One of their main tasks is flood management, they regularly make dam operations to control the level of the lake and to ensure local areas do not flood.

Another important task that they handle is invasive species management. There are many invasive species growing here in Ohio, and a main goal is to remove them and to plant native species.

Interpretive programs are also an important part of their tasks. They educate people on their local surroundings and environmental issues.

One of the last tasks I got to be apart of was vessel inspections and patrolling. This is more of the law enforcement side, enforcing park rules and regulations. These are very important aspects that help the park to run smoothly and to ensure that everyone remains safe and has

## Getting ready to film an Interpretative video!



## How I found the job:

Last year there was a career fair for students and geared toward environmental students. One of my professors and talked about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all the jobs they offer so I decided to check out their booth. I was able to give them a copy of my resume and two weeks later I was called in for an interview. After that I was selected for the position and got to start my internship.

## Myself and the other SCA intern at the Visitor Center



## On the job:

Throughout this internship I was able to do a lot of work independently and some big projects with the help of others.

One of my daily duties was to patrol the park and inspect Army Corps controlled areas. Everyday we would inspect the playgrounds to make sure they were safe and accessible for everyone. We would also inspect the bathrooms, cleaning any mess and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces. We made sure these steps were taken to help stop the spread of the corona virus.

Another one of my duties was trail inspection. This was done to make sure the trails were clean and that there were no obstructions. We had a lot of visitors walking the trails this summer so making sure they were clean and usable was a priority.

Invasive species management was another aspect of my daily tasks. We went out and removed teasel, multiflora rose, and many other invasive plants.

Vessel inspection and park rule enforcement was an important task that we did. Vessel inspections were done in order to make sure everyone stayed safe while on the water and had the correct equipment. Park rules enforcement were done so that all visitors could have a good experience.

One of the biggest parts of my job was to create and help create interpretative programs. These came in forms of videos and in person presentations. This was one of my favorite parts of the internship because I was able to be creative in making videos and programs. They were fun to make and was a new way to reach people during the pandemic.

One of the biggest projects I got to be apart of was the planting of a large sensory garden in front of the visitor center. We planted over 400 plants to give visitors a sensory experience when they arrive. It was also done to promote the planting of native species instead of non-native species.

## Starting the removal of Invasive Teasel in the fields



## Finished removal of Teasel in a section



## Consideration for this Internship:

If you are considering an internship with the Army Corps of Engineers or one through the SCA, I would highly recommend it. This internship was through both and I really enjoyed working for them. The SCA has a lot of internships and makes it easy for you to find something that interests you. The Army Corps of Engineers will provide a lot of insight into future careers with the federal government. They also give you some great field experience and connections. Overall, both are great paths that you can consider and have a good experience.

## Advice:

For those who are considering a position with the Army Corps of Engineers, I would say be ready to get out of your comfort zone and have fun. I was able to do things that I have not done before and I gained good experience from it. Be ready to think and work on your own. You will have some freedom in your work and ideas and allowed to be creative.

## Reflection:

This internship showed me what I would like to do for my future career. I really enjoyed working with the Army Corps of Engineers and I will continue to seek future employment from them.

As for my next internship, I plan to apply for the next step, student park ranger. My experience this summer showed me that being a park ranger is something that I want to do. The job is complex and one day is not the same as another. This diversity is something that I am looking for and have found with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Overall, I am very happy with my internship this summer. I was able to make some new friends and some great connections. Everything that I needed to do was very clearly laid out easy to understand. I got to work independently on projects and create things based on my ideas. I am looking forward to continuing down my career path.

## Our visitor center pet, Snoop Frog!

