

Name: Jensen Coonradt

Username: CapyBatman

School: Oswego East

08 October 2022

My plan

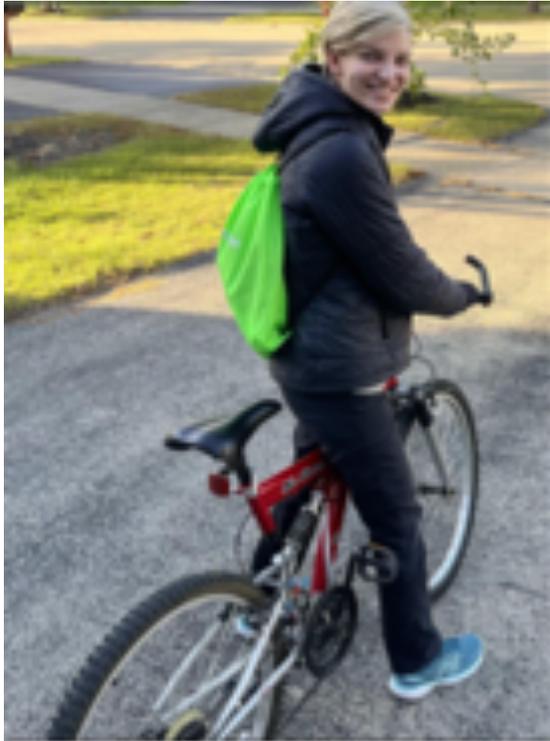
I love to go on bike rides around my community. I remembered seeing a dirt trail leading into a grouping of trees on previous bike rides. I decided to explore the trail, which is 2 miles away from where I live, for my adventure. My intentions were:

1. To determine if there was litter on the trail that I should organize a cleanup with my school's ecology team to remove
2. To satisfy my curiosity as to where the trail goes

I invited some friends to join me at the trail. My friends lived within walking distance of the trail so their method of travel was walking. I used my bike to get to the trail.

My bike is environmentally ethical as it produces no emissions and has been passed through my family to eliminate the environmental impact of purchasing a new bike. In the 15 years my family has owned the bike, it has been passed down from my father, to my brothers, and finally to me. When the bike breaks down, instead of purchasing a new bike, I repair it: I use tools to fix its sprockets and chains so it can continue to work. My other gear included a backpack that I made myself from ethically sourced materials. Making my own backpack from environmentally conscious materials not only was a very fun experience, but also had a much lower environmental impact compared to purchasing a non-environmentally conscious, mass





Me leaving my house for my adventure. You can see the backpack I created, my winter coat, and my bike. If you look closely you can even see duct tape holding together part of my bike.

produced backpack from the store. My attire included my winter coat. My winter coat is environmentally conscious because I bought it from a second-hand clothing store, saving it from entering a landfill and giving it a second life. I have now used this same winter coat for 5 years.

I also brought snacks and water for my adventure. To lessen my waste I used a steel

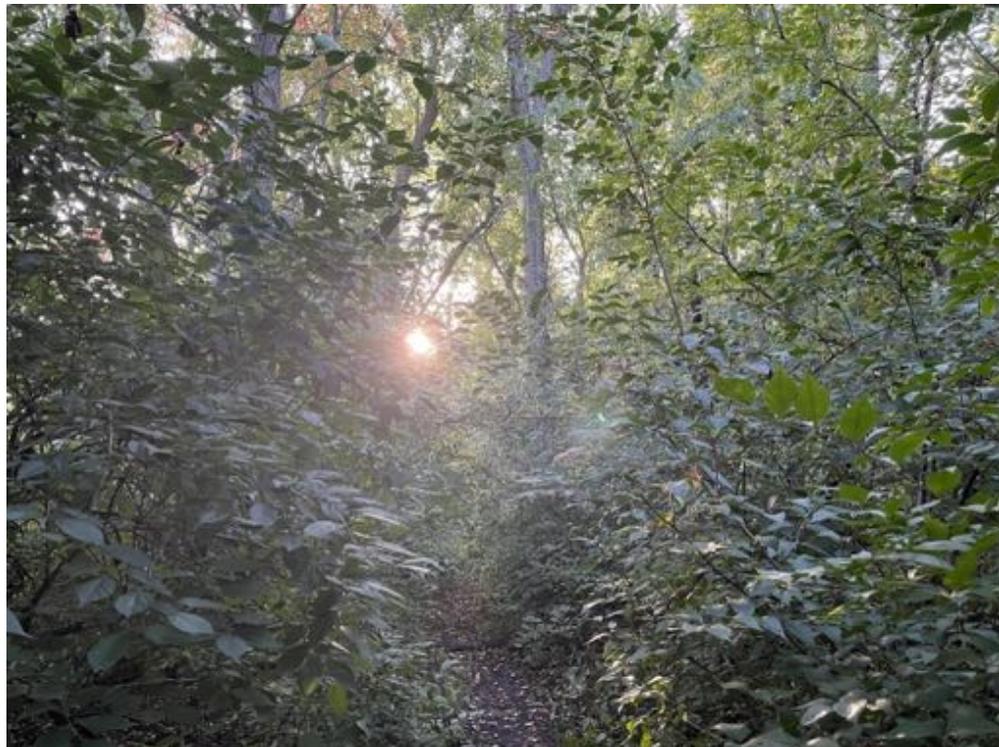


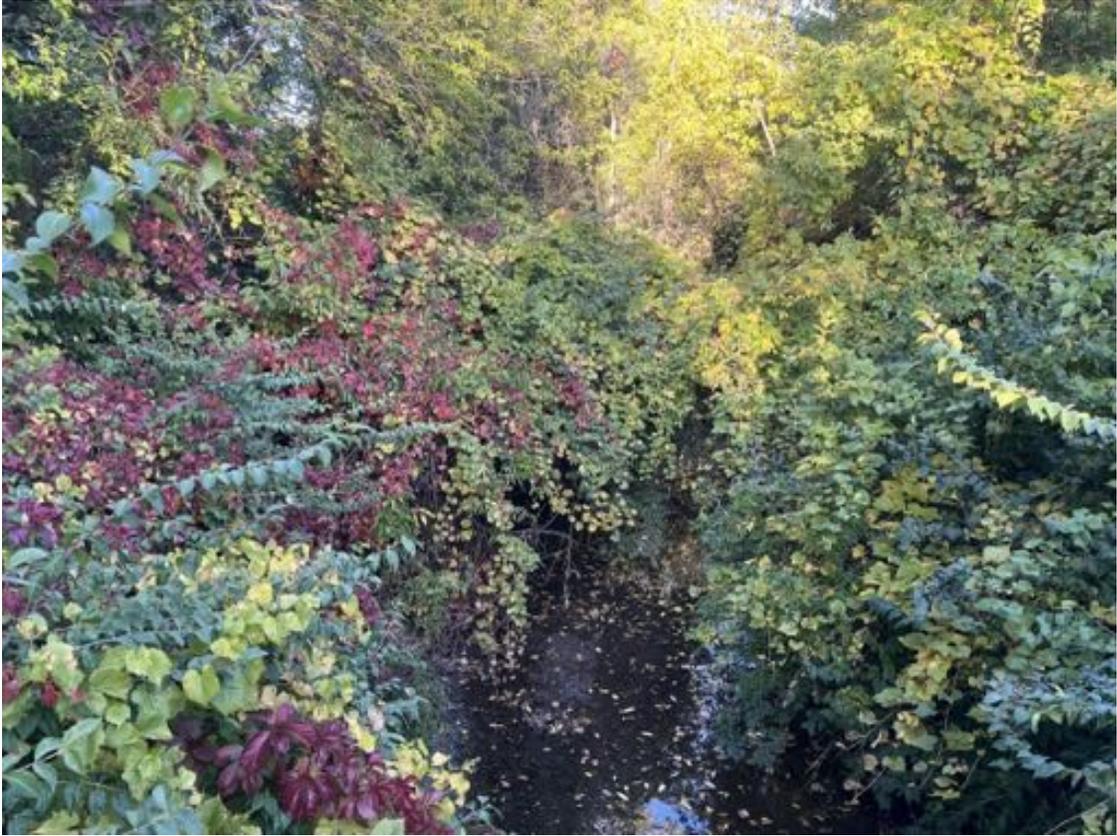
Snack time on the trail with my eco-conscious and delicious foods in reusable containers!

bottle to store my water and reusable tupperware containers to store my snacks. My snacks consisted of delicious organic raspberries and organic cashews.

My destination was on public property and open to visitors. No extra safety precautions had to be taken.

Photos from my adventure!





I saw a beautiful forest within my community that I had never explored before. The forest had amazing diversity in regards to both wildlife and plantlife. There was even a small stream running through the forest! I recognized native plant species such as the American Water-pennywort, the American Pokeweed, the Thicket Creeper, and Riverbank Grape. I also saw native wildlife such as the Eastern Gray Squirrel and the Great Blue Heron. I also witnessed evidence of American Beavers in the area from the distinctive beaver dams present in the stream and the trees chewed in the pattern particular to beavers. I would describe the environment as a beautiful sanctuary of nature and biodiversity within the developed suburbs.

Reflection

My pre-journey intention encouraged me to continue exploring until I reached the end of the trail and to search for litter along the trail. While I found no litter along the path, there was an abundance of litter within the stream running through the forest. I had a blast sticking to my plan throughout my journey. The experience made me feel more connected to nature and thankful for this small area of calm nature amidst the bustle of the developed suburban area surrounding it. Seeing the beauty of this forest reminded me of the importance of taking part in protecting our environment.

Social Media Post

Caption: I explored a small trail within our community and was amazed by its beauty. An area of tranquility within the bustle of the surrounding suburbia, I was inspired by and thankful for this area remaining despite surrounding development. The intention of my trip was to explore a local trail and determine if there was litter along the trail that I would need to organize a cleanup to remove. My plan for exploration included biking to the trail and eating delicious environmentally conscious produce while exploring. Through this experience, I learned the value of protecting

natural areas and am inspired to do my part to ensure that beautiful places like this remain! We need to all take a break from staring at our phones and get out and explore the outdoors!

@turninggreenorg @leavenotraceorg #pgc2022

