

# Skeletal remains found along Fox River identified as Aurora man who went missing in 2015

Trey Nathan Key Soesbe was 27 years old when he went missing in Aurora in December 2015. (Aurora Police Department)

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Skeletal remains found along the Fox River Saturday were identified as coming from an [Aurora](#) man who has been missing since December 2015.

The remains were positively identified as coming from Trey Nathan Key Soesbe, according to a news release from the Kendall County Coroner's Office.

Aurora police said Soesbe was last seen by a family member on Dec. 29, 2015, when he was dropped off at Hesed House, a homeless shelter in Aurora. He never registered and did not spend a night there. He was 27 years old when he went missing.

The investigation is ongoing and will continue with the assistance of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, the Aurora Police Department and Loyola University.

The remains were found on an island in the Fox River between Montgomery and Oswego by a kayaker doing a Fox River cleanup over the weekend.

**['I pulled and pulled ... and then I saw leg bones inside'; Fox River kayakers make shocking discovery »](#)**

Ryan Dowd, executive director of Hased House, said the home's database said Soesbe stopped in for lunch once, but that was the extent of his involvement at the facility.

"I never met him myself, but we talk to a lot of families with loved ones that struggle, and this is obviously the greatest fear for many of those family members," Dowd said. "It's always heartbreaking when this fear comes true. His family is in our thoughts and prayers because this is what we are always working to prevent. We, as the system, failed in a sense in this case."

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-Oswego) said she met Soesbe and his father in the summer of 2014 while she was out campaigning. Soesbe had previously served as a specialist in the [Army National Guard](#) and held a master's degree in political science from Northern Illinois University, she said.

Soesbe was looking for a job in the political science field after he was let go from his previous job.

"He mentioned he was a veteran and we had a great conversation about military service," Kifowit, a [U.S. Marine Corps](#) veteran, said. "He had mentioned he didn't have a job, which is a common occurrence among struggling veterans so I recommended him to come by my office."

Kifowit said she received emails from Soesbe's father after Trey disappeared that shed light on his struggles with bipolar disorder and alcoholism. She said she hopes the discovery of his remains can bring some closure to his family, but said the event is a reminder of the struggles veterans have.

"Veterans, especially those who have gone through traumatic experiences, have a hard time assimilating and become despondent," said Kifowit, who served as the co-chairwoman of a statewide task force to prevent suicide among veterans.

"They self-medicate through drugs and alcohol to numb the pain," she said. "We need to be there for our veterans and do so much more for our veteran community."

Kendall County Coroner Jacquie Purcell had said her office reached out to experts to help with the identification of the remains.

Purcell said a skull, several vertebrae, a pelvis and two femurs, as well as a tibia, fibula, ribs and clavicle, were recovered from the site. She said they also recovered tarsals and metatarsals which are a group of bones in the feet.

Aurora police spokesman Dan Ferrelli said the department will not discuss the case further out of respect for the family's wishes.