



TOWN BRANCH TRAIL

Town Branch Trail, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Town Branch Creek in Lexington, Kentucky. We propose a trail park that will provide environmental, recreational, and economic benefits to our community.

A trail through Lexington. A trail through history.

Newsletter: Volume 6, No. 1, September 2005

www.townbranch.org

TOWN BRANCH TRAIL DEDICATION

WHAT: A grand opening of the first section of the Town Branch Trail. Mayor Teresa Issac will lead the ribbon cutting ceremony. Family-friendly activities include chalk drawing, bike decorating, an environmental trivia contest and more. Free food will be provided; entertainment will be BillyBlues.

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 2005 10 a.m.

WHERE: Long Branch Lane in McConnell's Trace subdivision (across Leestown Road from Masterson Station Park)

WHY: Town Branch Trail will be an important connector to Downtown Lexington for commuters and tourists as well as an ideal route for walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

Look for stories about Town Branch in the Fall issue of Keeneland and BizLex!

• CALLING ALL PEDALLERS, STOLLERS, & SKATERS

The TBT dedication program will showcase a variety of trail users and we are looking for owners/riders of antique bicycles, recumbent bikes, skateboards, tricycles, roller skates, wheelchairs, unicycles, etc.

If you'd like to be involved, contact Zina Merkin at zina@townbranch.org.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by Mayor Teresa Isaac, then attendees will be released to explore the trail and enjoy a block party with free food and entertainment.

A variety of local businesses will be providing a sampling of light, healthy fare, and BillyBlues, a local band who specializes in bluesy mountain music, will entertain the crowd with songs from their three albums.

Lots of family-friendly activities will be hosted, including chalk drawing along the trail, bike decorating and bike safety programs and an environmental trivia game. All non-motorized wheeled vehicles, including bikes, tricycles, rollerblades, skateboards, big wheels, unicycles, etc. are allowed on the trail.

trail.

This event will be held at the start of the trail along Long Branch Lane in McConnell's Trace subdivision (across Leestown Road from Masterson Station Park). Map is on reverse side.

Bring your family out and celebrate with us!



• 2005 TOWN BRANCH DEDICATION

Walk this Way to the Town Branch Trail Dedication!

After four years of development, the Town Branch Trail is officially ready to open, and the entire Lexington community is invited to see the results. In fact, they'll be able to walk, run, bicycle, rollerblade or draw on it!

Opening in stages, Town Branch Trail, Inc. will dedicate the first half-mile section during a ceremony on Saturday, October 8, and walkers, runners and cyclists of all kinds will be able to explore it.



YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

• MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN CHANDLER IN DC

On Tuesday May 17 Congressman Ben Chandler met with Advisory Board Member Phil Holoubek and TBT President Van Meter Pettit at his Capitol Hill office to discuss Town Branch Trail. As an avid student of history, a walking enthusiast, and an advocate for the environment, Congressman Chandler expressed strong support for our efforts to date. We pledged to keep Rep. Chandler informed as we go forward and that we will look for opportunities to work with him in our future plans. The congressman said, "Working on big ideas like Town Branch Trail is the reason I came to Washington, D.C."

• TOWN BRANCH FIGURING STRONGLY INTO THE DDA DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

Over the past year the Downtown Development Authority has been creating a Downtown Master Plan with the assistance of Washington D.C. firm Ayers-St. Gross. After a year of public meetings, the process will wind up this Fall with a final draft. In the course of the Master Plan's evolution, Town Branch Trail has become a central figure as one of the main structural changes to the urban core.

A reconstructed stone channel symbolic of the buried historic stream is proposed to run between divided lanes in a reconfigured Vine Street corridor. The vine street linear park running above the historic creek will link Triangle Park with Thoroughbred Park via a continuous trail for bicycles and pedestrians. After a rousing presentation by Town Branch Trail Advisor Phil Holoubek, the planning committee of the city council has agreed to set up a task force to fast track this stand-alone urban section of the project. Three cheers for Phil for his tireless advocacy and vision.

• TOWN BRANCH TRAIL ENCOURAGES KIDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEXINGTON PASSPORT PROGRAM

During the Winter of 2004, TBT joined the Lexington Learning Cooperative (LLC) as a means of educating younger Lexingtonians about TBT and how it affects their community. Youths are encouraged to visit a site or participate in an activity designed by one of the participating LLC members and have their summer "passport" stamped. TBT distributed summer passports at spring and summer events where TBT had a booth, as well as Maxwell Elementary School and Joseph Beth's bookstore.

Participants in the Passport Program chose the activities they participated in - summer camp programs, stargazing, hikes, museum visits, archaeological digs, environment-related activities and crafts. TBT provided puzzles, find-a-word activities, coloring pages, and washable tattoos for participants.

• EXCITING EDUCATION PROJECT GROWS FROM A GRANT FROM THE KENTUCKY RIVER AUTHORITY

In 2004, the Kentucky River Authority gave Town Branch Trail, Inc. a \$2500 grant to create educational content for public school classrooms across the state using the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) content standards.

Our stated goals:

- 1) The educational content would be focused around Town Branch Trail.
- 2) The content would allow teachers to customize it to their own local area, encouraging students to understand the relationship of their community to local waters.
- 3) The target audience would be middle school students.
- 4) The content would be presented in multiple media, including reproducible handouts, on-line or digital files, and short videos.

We hired educational consultant Lonnie Harp to help us produce the specific plan and script for the educational material. Our central objectives have been to make the environmental education material pertinent to the Town Branch Creek and watershed yet invite comparison to watersheds in other locations, and to fashion the lessons in a way that would dovetail into the required public school curriculum as effectively as possible.

Mr. Harp developed a three lesson unit of study, which was refined in collaboration with members of TBT's board of directors. Mr. Harp solicited several middle school teachers from around the state to review the lessons and make suggestions to facilitate their integration with public school curricula.

Entitled *Exploring Town Branch: The History And Health Of Kentucky Streams*, the unit connects science, social studies, and health content built around a study of local Kentucky watersheds and stream ecosystems. Each lesson includes built-in assessment activities and suggestions for ways teachers could extend the lesson into projects for individual students or a class. The lessons also include background information and resources for teachers.

We are now ready to finalize scripts for the video segments and begin producing the supporting documents for these lessons. We will be seeking funding for actual production of the videos and packets in the near future, and look forward to wide distribution of the curriculum units. If you know of a grant or funding source that would be a good fit for our project goals please contact Jeannie Brewer at 266.2209 or jmbrew919@alltel.net.





TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC

- Proposed Phase III Trail Alignment: The McConnell Houses & Lexington's Historic Industrial Corridor
- Future Trail

2 Miles of Proposed Phase III Trail



1" = 350 ft
Sept 1, 2005
townbranch.org

TBT Membership

- \$25 - *The Cold Spring Society* - In honor of the many springs that feed Town Branch.
- \$50 - *Lexington Commons Society* - In honor of the historic core of Lexington.
- \$100 - *Old Woolen Mill Society* - In honor of the many industries that were established along the banks of Town Branch.
- \$500 - *James McConnell Society* - In honor of the oldest stone building still standing along the stream
- \$1000 - *Town Fork of the Elkhorn Society* - In honor of the original name of the stream bestowed by the first settlers.
- \$_____ *Other donation amount*

How can we reach you?

____ Yes I am interested. Please put me on the Town Branch Trail Mailing List and keep me informed about the project.

____ I support the creation of the trail but do not wish to receive mailings at this time.

____ I would like to become actively involved with the Town Branch Trail Project.

____ Notify me through email alerts and news

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Comments _____

TOWN BRANCH T-SHIRT \$14.00

- | | Quantity |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medium | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large | _____ |

T-Shirt is 100% cotton with 3-color front and 1-color back. Cost includes shipping and handling.

Makes a Great Gift!



MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC.

• TOWN BRANCH TRAIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Van Meter Pettit, President: TBT Founder and licensed architect, Van is currently a member of the Greenspace Commission and formerly served on the board of the MLK Neighborhood Association. He lives downtown, with wife Linda, sons Staige and Hale, and dog Sadie La Rue, in an 1818 brick townhouse that he is slowly restoring. It was built by Matthew Kennedy, the first architect in Kentucky.

Zina Merkin, Vice President: Trained and licensed as a Landscape Architect, Zina has had a lifetime interest in public space, recreation and the environment. On the original board of Friends of the Parks of Fayette County, Inc., she participated in building three Creative Playgrounds in town. She also has served on the Parks Master Planning Committee and the Masterson Station Master Plan committee. As a whitewater enthusiast who frequents Elkhorn Creek, she has a personal interest in the fate of Town Branch.

Kimberly Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer: Kimberly lives downtown, in a house built in 1902. As a frequent pedestrian she is interested in the walkability of the community as a whole, and is particularly excited about the recreational and historic preservation aspects of the trail. A new stay at home mom, she can be spotted most days on the sidewalks downtown with both her daughter Molly and her boxer Jake in tow.

Dave Elbon is a computer programmer with training in geography and letterpress printing. As a bicycle commuter and recreational cyclist in Lexington for many years, Dave has a long-standing interest in improving bicycle and pedestrian travel and livable cities and sustainable development in general. Dave is also a member of BPAC, a bike/pedestrian coordination group.

Marty Marchaterre is a senior environmental planner for AMEC Earth & Environmental and a member of the Infrastructure Hearing Board and Environmental Commission. He helped develop the environmental education sign project and samples Town Branch for the Kentucky River Watershed Watch. He represents Town Branch Trail with the Lexington Learning Cooperative, and conducts Town Branch Trail presentations for groups and conferences.

Boyd Shearer, a trained geographer, is a self-employed webmaster, graphic designer, documentary producer, and cartographer. He is responsible for most of our maps, print material, newsletter layouts, and website. He can usually be found in remote scenic locations with his dog, Pixel, taking GPS coordinates for a variety of mapping ventures.

• TOWN BRANCH TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD

Early in 2005, TBT took the step of instituting an Advisory Board of prominent local citizens, active in community life, who can bring our message to their constituencies and offer their expertise on various aspects of our endeavors. The formal purpose of the advisory board is:

- 1) To participate in a semi-annual review of TBT medium and long-range planning by offering questions, comments and critique.
- 2) To suggest project development and fundraising strategies.
- 3) To provide advice to the board of directors in dealing with political circumstances and as we work with local, state, and national decision makers.
- 4) To promote the Town Branch Trail project to other influential members of the community whose support for the project will be vital to its ongoing progress.

We are pleased to introduce to you, in alphabetical order:

Steve Austin

Steve Austin is President and C.E.O. of Bluegrass Tomorrow, a private, non-profit regional planning organization for the Lexington Metropolitan Area. Steve was formerly Director of Planning for the Georgetown-Scott County Planning Commission, whose tenure included the arrival of Toyota. The community's 1991 Comprehensive Plan received the Highest Honors Award from the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association. He currently serves on the LFUCG Greenspace Commission.

Steve holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape architecture from the University of Kentucky, where he received the National Honor Award for Excellence in the study of landscape architecture. Steve is senior Adjunct Faculty with the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Kentucky, where he teaches the 5th year regional planning class. Steve, his wife Meg and son Conley live in Lexington.

Phil Holoubek

Phil Holoubek is president and CEO of Steelhead Enterprises, a local diversified holding company. His real estate company,

LRC, is actively involved in the transformation of downtown Lexington, with projects including loft units and mixed-use development, with new retail and fitness space, and a downtown grocery store.

Phil earned his MBA from the University of Oregon in 1995, and since moving to Lexington four years ago, has been actively involved in a variety of civic organizations and ventures aimed at improving quality of life for Lexington's existing young professionals. Phil is the founder of a civic organization known as LYPA (Lexington Young Professional's Association), and has served on the boards of the Lexington Center, the Downtown Lexington Corporation, and several other local organizations. Phil was on Town Branch Trail's board of directors for our initial incorporation, and has been a strong supporter of the project from its beginning.

Phil is married and has two young daughters, Allison and Katie.

David Lord

David Lord is President of the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau. He is on the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus Foundation Board of Trustees, and has served in many positions for that organization. Currently a Board member of the Kentucky Tourism Council and Visit Kentucky USA, he has served as the President of the Kentucky Association of CVB's. David is on the advisory committee of the Downtown Development Authority.

David holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin. His experience in tourism issues and exposure to cities and ideas from around the world make him a valuable advisor. An early supporter of TBT, David arranged for the CVB to design and produce our first brochure, a donation worth several thousand dollars.

Sandy Shafer

Sandy Shafer, currently an Urban County Council representative for the 10th District, has been with Town Branch Trail from the beginning. Sandy has been active in countless civic activities, with a special emphasis on parks, recreation and youth issues. A founding member of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Sandy currently serves as Vice Chair for Government Affairs for that organization. She is active in the Kentucky Parks and Recreation Society, and on the board of Trustees for the National Recreation and Parks Association as the citizen representative for Kentucky. Founder and president of Friends of the Parks of Fayette County, Inc., Sandy encouraged TBT founder Van Meter Pettit to pursue his vision, and Friends of the Parks incubated the fledging organization until it was able to incorporate on its own.

Fran Taylor

Fran Taylor is Executive Director of Keeneland Foundation, which supports higher education, research, health and general welfare with a portion of Keeneland's racing and sales profits. Fran is very active in civic endeavors throughout the Lexington and Greater Bluegrass areas, currently serving as Chairman of the Board of the YMCA of Central Kentucky. She has supported the YMCA in many capacities over the years and sees it as fulfilling a vital role as a "community builder" in central Kentucky, making a difference in the lives of many people. Fran's other passions include preservation and animal welfare, and she is a member of the advisory council of the Woodford Humane Society. She also is on the 2005 Executive Committee of Commerce Lexington and the Board of Directors of the Kentucky World Trade Center.

She has already assisted us greatly by suggesting that Keeneland Magazine write a feature about Town Branch Trail. Watch for the Fall issue NOW!

Carolyn Murray Wooley

Carolyn Murray-Wooley is a noted historian, co-author of the book *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass* and co-founder of the Dry Stone Conservancy. The DSC was formally organized in 1995 with the overall purpose to preserve the structures and promote the craft of dry stone masonry. In 2000, the Dry Stone Conservancy gave a generous in-kind donation of a report documenting the condition of dry-laid walls along the Town Branch. In addition to founding the DSC, Carolyn is currently serving on their Board of Directors as Administrator, and is also on the advisory committee of Friends of McConnell Springs. Her book, *The Founding of Lexington*, published in Lexington's Bicentennial Year, helped launch citizen efforts to reclaim McConnell Springs from its hidden and neglected condition, leading to the wonderful resource we now enjoy.

• TOWN BRANCH TRAIL 2005 SUMMER EVENTS

Town Branch Trail, Inc. had a booth at events around Lexington during the spring and summer. Staffed by volunteers, the booth helps to spread the word about the trail and attracts more volunteers. We were at Arbor Day at the UK-LFUCG Arboretum in April, at Founder's Day at McConnell Springs Park and Mayfest in Gratz Park in May, and at the Fourth of July festival downtown close by the course of Town Branch on Vine Street. We were also a sponsor of the second annual Bike Lexington, a downtown bike rally for all ages held in May, which is National Bike Month. Stop by and say hello when you see us out.

Your next chance to catch us before the Oct. 8 trail dedication will be at the Explorium Museum-Go-Round on September 24.

Would you like to volunteer to help with our Dedication? Such as setting up tables, directing traffic, or other simple tasks.

Please contact Jeannie Brewer at 266.2209

Town Branch Trail has thrived and progressed rapidly thus far. We owe our success to the dedication and talent of our volunteers. We also owe it to the generosity of our contributors. As a result of this dramatic progress, our project needs more volunteers and financial support. We need individuals who are interested and able in the following areas:

- clerical & organizational
- marketing & public relations
- research & writing
- grant writing & fund raising
- graphic design & computer expertise

If you enjoy reading our newsletters or attending our special events, then help us keep up the momentum with your support. Please return the reverse side of this sheet for donations and to indicate that you would like to volunteer for Town Branch.

*Please send us your updated emails!
Send them to zina@townbranch.org*



TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC

155 CONSTITUTION ST.
LEXINGTON, KY 40507

WWW.TOWNBRANCH.ORG

Mark your Calendar! Join us for the
TOWN BRANCH TRAIL DEDICATION
October 8, 2005 at 125 Long Branch Lane

