

# Landmarks along the Trail

Since 2001, **Town Branch Trail, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, has been awarded local, state, and federal grants, and tax-deductible contributions. **TBT, Inc.** has committees meeting on a regular basis, an extensive website, and a periodic newsletter.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution or have any questions please visit our website:

[WWW.TOWNBRANCH.ORG](http://WWW.TOWNBRANCH.ORG)

or write to us at:

**Town Branch Trail, Inc.**  
155 Constitution St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

Made with  post-consumer fiber

Town Branch flows 12 miles northwest of Lexington into the South Fork of the Elkhorn Creek. Town Branch is part of the Kentucky River Watershed.



James McConnell House circa 1790



Masterson Station



William McConnell House circa 1790



McConnell Springs



Lewis Manor circa 1800



Woodward Heights Park



Mary Todd Lincoln House circa 1810



Cheapside



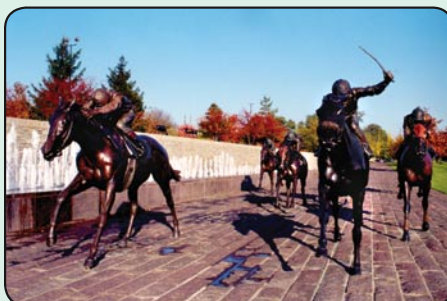
Old Woolen Mill circa 1820



Farmer's Market



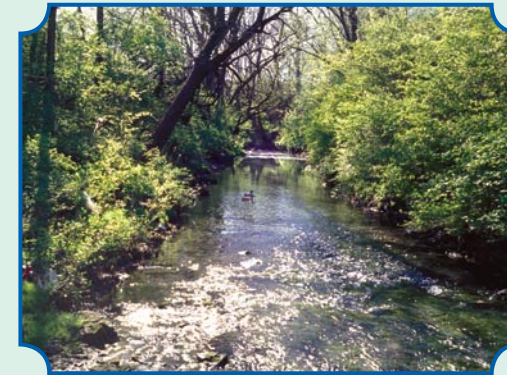
Spring Hill Farm circa 1850



Thoroughbred Park

# TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC

*a greenway trail along Lexington's historic waterway*



**Town Branch Trail (TBT)** is a proposed 'shared-use' greenway trail (paved route for pedestrians and bicyclists) that will connect Downtown Lexington with area neighborhoods, parks, and historic sites as it follows the westward course of Lexington's historic waterway, the Town Branch of Elkhorn Creek. The trail is a significant component of Lexington's newly adopted Greenway Masterplan (a broad network of 'shared-use' routes planned for Fayette County). TBT seeks to transform neglected or underutilized urban areas along our historic creek into a landscape trail that will serve among other things: recreation, commuting, the environment, tourism, and business.

## Town Branch Trail Benefits



### Recreation, Health and Alternative Transportation.

- Envision a shady scenic trail where people of all ages can take in fresh air and exercise at their own pace. A pastoral greenway free of the hazards, noise, or pollution of automobile traffic. A pleasant route where commuters can enjoy their trip to work or school on foot or bicycle.

### History and Education.

- Envision standing at the banks of a spring where settlers gathered during the American Revolution and named this frontier land for the Battle of Lexington. Admire National Historic Landmarks built by pioneer Kentuckians. Take a walk with your children and learn first hand about Lexington's past. Dry-laid stone settlers' houses (circa 1790), an old stone mill (circa 1820), an historic rail line (circa 1830), an historic farmstead (circa 1850), and a former bourbon distillery are all still present beside the creek. The trail will reconnect Lexingtonians with the rich and varied history that still remains along the banks of Town Branch.

### Environment and Education.

- Envision yourself listening to the soft gurgle of Town Branch as it winds through healthy masses of native vegetation. Enjoy watching for birds and other native

wildlife that have returned to their restored habitat. Follow interpretive signs that explain the natural history and ecology of the creek corridor. Town Branch Trail will help us all to restore Town Branch Creek. When the creek becomes a popular public asset, the pollution that has made the Town Branch one of the state's most degraded waterways will no longer be tolerated. With everyone working together, we can restore the creek to better serve wildlife, water quality, and flood control.

### Community and Economic Development.

- Envision shopping in a creek-side market filled with the goods of local artisans and farmers. Imagine dinner at an outdoor café beside restored dry-laid stone creek banks. Town Branch Trail will provide a scenic venue for shopping, dining and entertainment, fostering a more vibrant pedestrian tourism in Downtown Lexington. The trail will attract visitors and local citizens, providing a vital component in Lexington's urban renaissance. The trail will help to transform urban industrial areas and older neighborhoods that have witnessed decades of decline. By investing in an attractive shared-use greenway trail, Lexington will provide the necessary catalyst for the reinvestment and redevelopment that much of the creek corridor needs.



# TOWN BRANCH TRAIL

## A New Kind of Park in the Bluegrass



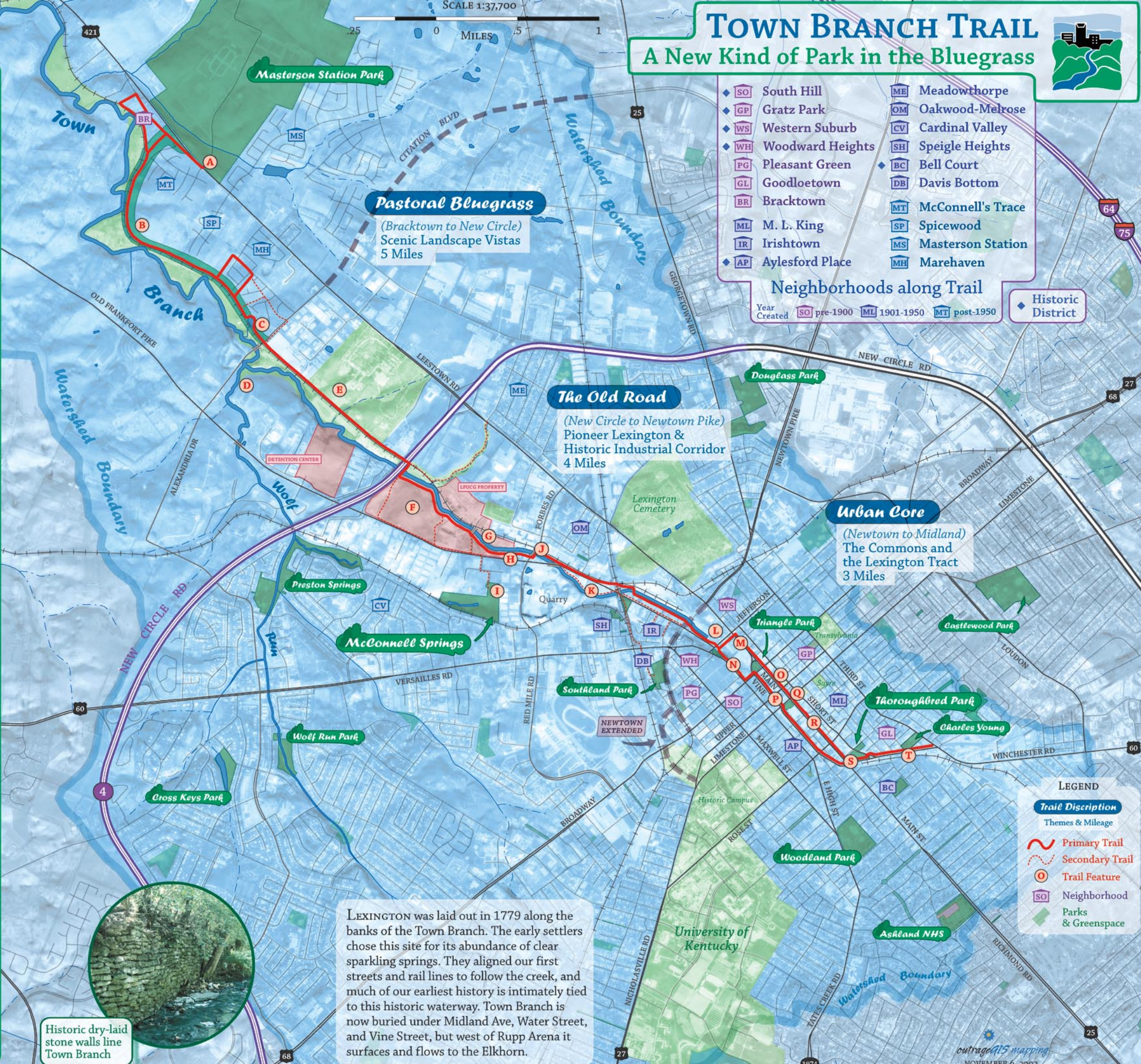
### Features along Town Branch Trail

- A Masterson Station Park.** Lexington's largest park, once pastures for Kentucky's first Methodist Church built in 1787. Rambling park offers equestrian facilities, a dog run, soccer fields, bird nesting areas and ample greenspace.
- B Town Branch Greenway.** Phase I and II of the trail have been planned, funded and await construction. This initial two mile segment runs from Bracktown and the entrance of Masterson Station to Lewis Manor and Alexandria Drive.
- C Lewis Manor.** Federal-style national register home built at the turn of the 19th century by Col. Thomas Lewis, a Revolutionary War veteran. Home is adjacent to historic spring that feeds Town Branch.
- D Wolf Run Creek.** As a tributary to Town Branch Creek, Wolf Run provides a potential link for a trail into the Cardinal Valley neighborhood.
- E Veterans' Hospital.** Handsomely landscaped campus of stately Colonial Revival medical buildings that have served the Bluegrass since 1931.
- F Former City landfill.** This site is undergoing extensive environmental clean up. Like Raven's Run, it has the potential to provide vital reclaimed greenspace.
- G Old Woolen Mill.** Built circa 1820, this large stone ruin is the oldest remaining industrial building along Town Branch. The mill later served as a jail and city work house. It is owned by the urban-county government.
- H Spring Hill Farm.** National register Greek Revival farmhouse and outbuildings circa 1850 encircled by a rock fence. It is owned by the urban-county government.
- I McConnell Springs.** Site of the founding of Lexington in 1775. A recently dedicated city park with an engaging interpretive trail. The Blue Hole spring and lofty bur oaks afford a pleasant stroll through our unique karst topography.
- J McConnell Houses.** William and James McConnell, pioneer founders of Lexington, built two dry-laid stone houses circa 1790 along Town Branch Creek. These are among the oldest structures remaining in the Bluegrass.
- K James E. Pepper Distillery.** Home to "Old 1776." One of the earliest sites for bourbon making in the Bluegrass pulled water from a neighboring spring. Large buildings used in bourbon-making remain beside Town Branch Creek.
- L Town Branch Creek.** At this location the creek 'daylights' from underneath the Downtown. Despite a century of neglect, dry-laid stone creek banks that date back to Lexington's early history still line the stream.
- M Mary Todd Lincoln House.** The childhood home of one of Lexington's most famous citizens is now a beautifully restored house museum with a formal garden.
- N Lexington Civic Center and Heritage Hall.** A premiere state venue for conventions, athletics, and entertainment. In Triangle Park a 300-foot long cascading fountain is a favorite gathering place on summer evenings.
- O Old Courthouse and Cheapside Park.** The Old Courthouse was built in 1899 on the site used for Fayette County Courthouses for 200 years. Cheapside Park has been the scene of a wide spectrum of community history from slave auctions, early schools and markets to political speeches and public riots.
- P Farmer's Market.** On Saturday mornings during the growing season Lexingtonians can find the finest local and regional produce at this vibrant outdoor marketplace. Site of former 1879 Lexington City Market House.
- Q New Courthouse Plaza and Phoenix Park.** New public urban spaces stand in the midst of art galleries, theatres, restaurants, and a dramatic five story Foucault Pendulum and Clock in the central library.
- R Bank One Plaza and the Kentucky Theater.** This Main Street park is a favorite outdoor spot for a picnic lunch from the various nearby restaurants. Across the street is Lexington's historic Kentucky Theater, a 1922 ornate movie house restored as a favorite venue for live performances and movies.
- S Thoroughbred Park.** A linear fountain anchors elegant stone work and superbly rendered bronze sculptures of racing thoroughbreds. A rose garden awaits the winner.
- T Charles Young Park and Goodloetown.** Here the Trail will link to another of Lexington's historic African-American settlements and to one of the city's older neighborhood parks, named after an African-American veteran of WWI.

Historic dry-laid stone walls line Town Branch



LEXINGTON was laid out in 1779 along the banks of the Town Branch. The early settlers chose this site for its abundance of clear sparkling springs. They aligned our first streets and rail lines to follow the creek, and much of our earliest history is intimately tied to this historic waterway. Town Branch is now buried under Midland Ave, Water Street, and Vine Street, but west of Rupp Arena it surfaces and flows to the Elkhorn.



**Pastoral Bluegrass**  
 (Bracktown to New Circle)  
 Scenic Landscape Vistas  
 5 Miles

**The Old Road**  
 (New Circle to Newtown Pike)  
 Pioneer Lexington &  
 Historic Industrial Corridor  
 4 Miles

**Urban Core**  
 (Newtown to Midland)  
 The Commons and  
 the Lexington Tract  
 3 Miles

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ SO South Hill       | ◆ ME Meadowthorpe      |
| ◆ GP Gratz Park       | ◆ OM Oakwood-Melrose   |
| ◆ WS Western Suburb   | ◆ CV Cardinal Valley   |
| ◆ WH Woodward Heights | ◆ SH Speigle Heights   |
| ◆ PG Pleasant Green   | ◆ BC Bell Court        |
| ◆ GL Goodloetown      | ◆ DB Davis Bottom      |
| ◆ BR Bracktown        | ◆ MT McConnell's Trace |
| ◆ ML M. L. King       | ◆ SP Spicewood         |
| ◆ IR Irishtown        | ◆ MS Masterson Station |
| ◆ AP Aylesford Place  | ◆ MH Marehaven         |

**Neighborhoods along Trail**

Year Created  
 ◆ SO pre-1900 ◆ ML 1901-1950 ◆ MT post-1950

◆ Historic District

**LEGEND**

**Trail Description**  
 Themes & Mileage

- ◆ Primary Trail
- ◆ Secondary Trail
- Trail Feature
- ◆ Neighborhood
- ◆ Parks & Greenspace