



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 5, No. 1, June 2004

www.townbranch.org

OUR HOTTEST NEWS

• New KY Watershed Grant extends our Educational Mission

In March TBT, Inc. was awarded a KY Watershed Grant for \$2,500 to develop educational material for classroom use. We have a partnership with the Kentucky Science Teachers Association.

• **Van Meter Pettit** gave presentations at the Lexington Historical Museum and Kentucky Rails-to-Trails Conference this spring.

• NATIONAL TRAILS DAY AND THE LEXINGTON-BIG SANDY TRAIL

The first Saturday in June is National Trails Day and this year the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council and the Bluegrass Cycling Club joined forces on the Lexington-Big Sandy Trail. The LBS will be a 109 mile trail stretching from Lexington to near Ashland, Kentucky following the route of the old Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad. Segments are under construction or should be under construction soon in Lexington, Winchester, and Morehead. The LBS travels east from Lexington, nearly mirroring the Town Branch Trail which goes to the west from downtown.

This year's hike and bike trips were in Lexington and a little beyond. The hikers followed the path of the first mile of the Brighton East Trail from the new Pleasant Ridge Park trailhead to near Bryant Road. Funded by a federal transportation enhancement grant and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, this first link should be constructed this year with another mile perhaps to follow soon.

The cyclists followed a 55 mile road route paralleling the LBS trail alignment from Pleasant Ridge Park to Pine Grove, Colby, Winchester, Hedges, and back. The old beds of the Lexington and Big Sandy and Lexington and Eastern Railroads are often visible from the back roads. Imposing stonework for long gone bridges can be seen where the railroads crossed the creeks in the area.

More information about the Lexington-Big Sandy Trail and other projects is available from the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council -- on the web at www.kyrailtrail.org.

• SUMMERTIME EVENTS

The spring and summer seasons are always marked by outdoor festivities. This spring and summer Town Branch Trail made appearances at Arbor Day, Mayfest, and Founder's Day, educating the public about our mission, adding people to our mailing list, and recruiting volunteers. If you missed us at these events, look for our booth at the July 4th festivities or at the Farmer's Market on the 31st of July. If you are interested in volunteering during either of these upcoming events, please e-mail Kimberly at kimberly@townbranch.org, or leave a message at (859) 281 6434.

This year Town Branch Trail has a new way you can show your support, by purchasing a Town Branch Trail T-shirt, only \$10.00, available at our booth during the upcoming events mentioned above. It's a stylish, affordable way to get the word out about the trail! You can mail order a T-shirt by looking inside.



MayFest in Gratz Park



National Trails Day



Founder's Day at McConnell Springs

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

• **2004 KENTUCKY RAILS TO TRAILS CONFERENCE: Greenway Partnerships: Improving Quality of Life for Kentuckians**

This year's conference, sponsored by the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council and the University of Kentucky Prevention Research Center on May 14-15 in Louisville, emphasized the health benefits of physical activity and the contributions trails can make to a healthy lifestyle. The objectives for this conference were to:

- *Understand the health, environmental, economic, and community benefits of trails.*
- *Identify community partners to support trails projects.*
- *Highlight lessons learned from the trail projects in Kentucky and other states.*

Friday was devoted to various tours of trails in the Louisville area, while Saturday consisted of a number of workshops and presentations, including one on Town Branch by Van Meter Pettit.

The keynote speakers were Keith Laughlin of the National Rails to Trails Conservancy (NRTC) and Dr. David Allen of "Fit Louisville," an organization promoting physical activity to counter current epidemics of obesity, diabetes and other diseases. Check out Fit Louisville's web page at www.fitlouisville.com.

Laughlin talked about general trends, saying trails were being viewed like a new kind of front porch, a new place of social interaction where neighbors and friends are getting together. Drawing on the concepts of Smart Growth and Active Living, trails create healthier places for healthier people. He mentioned the ongoing fight over the Transportation bill and that the NRTC lobbying efforts had resulted in 100% of Democrats and 60% of Republicans supporting appropriating funds for transportation enhancements such as trails.

• **BIKE LEXINGTON**

May 22, a beautiful, not too hot day during "Commute Another Way Week," approximately 300 people gathered at Phoenix Park for "Bike Lexington." This rally to promote alternate transportation and safe bicycling was organized by the LFUCG, and sponsored by a variety of individuals and organizations. TBT sponsored and participated in the event.

• **TOWN BRANCH TRAIL RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Lexington's Town Branch Trail has recently received (April 2004) environmental authorization to proceed with construction. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), any project receiving Federal funds must undergo an analysis of potential impacts to the natural or human environment. After a survey of the

trail area by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – Division of Environmental Analysis, the Federal Highway Administration determined that the Town Branch Trail posed no significant impact to the environment (e.g., no federally listed endangered plant species such as running buffalo clover was found). As a result of this approval, the Town Branch Trail takes another step forward.

• **GREENWAY TRAILS IN NEIGHBORING CITIES**

Where do we stand in our efforts to provide Lexington with Greenway trails? As an ongoing feature of our newsletters, we will look at benchmark cities and compare our efforts with those of other cities around the country.

Lexington versus Chattanooga, Tennessee

POPULATION

Chattanooga	155,554
Lexington	260,512

Lexington is 67% larger

MEDIAN AGE

Chattanooga	36.8 years
Lexington	33 years

Lexington's population is 10% younger

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Chattanooga	\$32,006
Lexington	\$39,813

Lexington's income is 24% higher

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Chattanooga	21.5%
Lexington	35.6%

Lexington's percentage is 65% greater

TRAILS

Chattanooga: over 15 miles of paved trail with the largest trail being over 6 miles in length.

Lexington: approximately 13 miles of trail; 7 miles paved and 6 miles of grass trail. The largest continuous trail is 4 miles on grass at Masterson Station Park.

Despite the fact the Lexington is noticeably larger, younger, more prosperous, and better educated, Chattanooga, Tennessee has built more miles of trails and put together longer continuous distances.

To learn more about Chattanooga's success log on to: www.chattanooga.gov/cpr/greenways.htm

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 the 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 first settlers.
- \$ _____ *Other donation amount*

MAIL TO:



TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC.

155 CONSTITUTION ST.
LEXINGTON, KY 40507

WWW.TOWNBRANCH.ORG

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Comments _____

detach and mail

TOWN BRANCH T-SHIRT: \$12.00 (includes s+h) (\$10 at our booth)

Quantity

- Small _____
- Medium _____
- Large _____
- X-Large _____

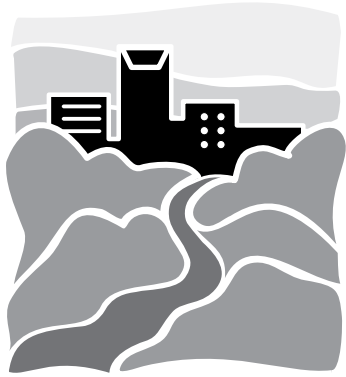
T-Shirt is 100% cotton with 3-color design. Cost includes shipping and handling.

Don't be caught this summer without your fashionable Town Branch T-Shirt!

Visit our booth on Saturday, July 3!



Thus far in 2004 our donations are up 100% from our total donations for 2003. Let's keep up the support! We appreciate your generosity!



OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2004

Kelli Barnett
Ray and Mary Barry
Charles Beal
Maria Braden-Clark
Rebecca and Greg Bryant
Biff Campbell
David & Karma Cassidy
D. Elbon
Adria Elskus
Dr. Jim and Ann Gay
Todd Geddes
Good Foods Co-op
Marion Graves
Rory Harris
Marcia Hopkins
Asa Humphries, Jr.
Nathan Klemperer
Keith MacAdam
Rob Magrish

Chris Manning
-Human Nature
Marty Marchaterre
Zina Merkin
Wallis Miller
& Frank Doering
Ben Newman
Helen Powell
Jim Rebmann
Ken Rose, Jr.
Joe Schum
Robert Sexton
Sarah Stevens
Meg Upchurch
Barbara Worful
Wes Zanone



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