



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 3, No. 2, November 2002

www.townbranch.org

OUR HOTTEST NEWS

PRIDE GRANT

The LFUCG just received a \$7,000 grant from Bluegrass Pride to do water quality testing on Town Branch.

CLAYS MILL MEETING

Please support Clays Mill bike lane design.
December 3, 2002, 1:30 pm 2nd Floor Council Chambers, UCG Building, 200 E. Main Street.

• ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON WHY LEXINGTON NEEDS TOWN BRANCH TRAIL:

It is a vital asset for attracting and retaining the workforce of the new creative economy.

What is driving the growth of the nation's most successful communities today?

According to Richard Florida, a Carnegie Mellon Economics Professor who recently participated in Lexington's IdeaFestival, the driving force behind the nation's dynamic growth is creativity in our economy and society. No longer driven by traditional trade routes or smokestack industries, the U.S. economy is now being fueled by a constant process of invention and innovation. The "Information" or "Knowledge" based economy in which we now live and work is growing and changing constantly due to the dynamic influence of a category of people whom Florida calls the "Creative Class". This creative sector of the population has grown dramatically over the last few decades to where it currently accounts for over 30% of the work force.

Most important, however, is the fact that this category of creative professionals is now responsible for the vast majority of growth in the U.S. economy. The highly educated and highly skilled individuals whom Florida defines as the "Creative Class" are professionals in core areas of Science, Engineering, Architecture, Design, Education, Arts, and Entertainment, and in the supporting fields of Business, Finance, Law, Health Care, and Management. It naturally follows that the places experiencing the greatest economic growth in the nation are

communities with a high concentration of this "Creative Class". What is surprising, however, is that this "Creative Class" is not staying in the traditionally largest or most populous locations. It is migrating to areas of the country where the quality of life is highest. These are locations that have strong educational institutions, ample outdoor or recreational amenities, and vibrant arts and cultural venues. These are places that are open, diverse, and tolerant of a variety of religions, cultures, and ethnicities.

Why does this relate to Town Branch Trail?

Because the creative individuals that Lexington wants to attract and retain for its economic and cultural prosperity are people who use trails. Florida describes in his book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, how over the last 40 years the demand for physical exercise has grown enormously for individuals who use their minds for a living. There is a close correlation between trail users and creative professionals. Data compiled by the Iowa Department of Transportation reflect that trail users are on average more educated and have higher incomes than average Americans. A brief survey of the most dynamic communities in the nation will show that greenway trails are an essential ingredient in making these new centers of prosperity attractive to the "Creative Class" responsible for their success.

How does Lexington rate as a creative city?

For metropolitan areas of between 500,000 and 250,000 people, Lexington ranks #9 out of a listing of 63. For more information go to www.creativeclass.org and <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/trails/>.

• KEEPING THE PROMISE OF CLEAN WATER FOR KENTUCKY

October 18, 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Three decades ago, our government promised us clean and safe rivers, lakes, and coastal waters for our kids and our communities. In a remarkable display of bipartisan unity in Congress, Republicans and Democrats crafted a landmark piece of environmental law later known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), over

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YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



WHAT A SUMMER FOR TOWN BRANCH TRAILERS!

It was a busy summer for the volunteers of Town Branch Trail promoting the Trail project. We had an Arbor Day display at the Arboretum, a perfect place to meet people interested in nature, the environment, and recreation. We attended Founder's Day at McConnell Springs, a park whose existence and history inspires us. At the May Fest at Gratz Park we signed up many of you now reading this newsletter. We again marched in the Fourth of July parade and had our booth on Vine St. This summer our President, Van Meter Pettit, spent time at the Farmer's Market and at the wonderful new summer event, Jazz Alley. Thanks to all of you who stopped to talk to us about Town Branch Trail and support our work.

• SHARKEY DEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDES TRAIL SEGMENTS

Residents of Meadowthorpe subdivision just off Leestown Road a mile and a half west of downtown will miss the old Sharkey farm across the street, the largest undeveloped tract of land inside New Circle Road, now rezoned and soon to be transformed from rolling fields and lines of trees to a multi-use commercial-residential development.

But the good news is that developer Dennis Anderson has agreed in a deed of restrictions with the neighborhood association to "dedicate land for and construct a shared use trail from Leestown Road to a location near the southerly property line, which can be connected to the proposed Town Branch Trail." As currently planned, the trail will begin at the entry to the new development, pass through the retail business and residential areas, curve through the greenspace sector (a grove of trees, a spring, and the remnants of an old quarry will be preserved) to the boundary line. Eventually, it will connect to the proposed Town Branch Trail, some day enabling walkers, runners, and bicyclists to head for downtown or the Masterson Station Park area via a scenic greenway trail.

Another important feature of the shared use trail is its integration into the Sharkey development's neighborhood business area. The trail is planned to pass through the heart of a new "main street village," bringing with it potential customers and an innovative merging of cars, bikes and pedestrians. The next challenge will be to find a way to allow this new design concept to be approved, given Urban County Government's current zoning regulations.

• GREENWAY PLAN ADOPTED

Lexington has taken a major step in planning for its future, though the occasion passed with little fanfare. The following was submitted by Cynthia Deitz, LFUCG

Greenspace Planner.

This June, the Urban County Planning Commission adopted the Greenway Master Plan as an element of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan, providing a blueprint for improving the physical form and function of our city along with increasing aesthetic appeal and expanding opportunities for healthful recreation. The Greenway Master Plan recommends a county-wide system of interconnected greenways that, as green infrastructure, will become an integral component in the Community's fabric, helping to address needs of flood prevention, transportation, recreation, water quality and wildlife habitat protection, among others. The proposed Greenway System comprises nine conservation greenway corridors, twenty primary greenway trail corridors, a system of secondary and tertiary trails, a system of rural on-road bicycle routes, and three water-based trails.

Conservation Corridors

The primary focus of the conservation greenway corridors is the preservation of floodplains in rapidly developing areas and restoration of floodplains in older developed sections of the Community. These corridors aid stormwater management by providing needed temporary storage. In addition, the corridors improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and provide access to the Community's stream resources.

Greenway Trails

Greenway trails may be located in conservation corridors or manmade corridors, such as rail-trails, utility corridors, or urban and rural roadways. The greenway trail system radiates from the Downtown hub, linking to major destinations and to counties beyond. These corridors provide a basic framework for alternative transportation, recreational, health, economic and educational opportunities.

Next Steps

The Plan recommends that LFUCG create a Greenway

Program and a Greenway Coordinator position to ensure successful implementation of the Greenway Master Plan. The visionary Plan will require short-term and long-term efforts by both the public and private sector. Next a Greenway Ordinance and Greenway Manual should be developed, with regulations covering topics such as the roles of key participants, procedures for acquisition and funding, and standards for design, construction, maintenance and operations of greenways.

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• KATY CATFISH TO PATROL CENTRAL KENTUCKY WATERSHEDS

Katy Catfish, a native channel catfish, has come to help the citizens of Central Kentucky protect our precious local waters and native plants and animals. She will be assisting the LFUCG Division of Engineering with a program called Operation Upstream, to identify polluters and educate citizens on how to keep harmful substances from entering our storm sewers and our streams. Katy will be pictured on thousands of markers which will be placed next to storm drains throughout the urban county. These markers will identify the watershed into which each storm drain flows. David Gabbard, Municipal Environmental Engineer, notes that by looking at the markers “you can walk down the street and know when you pass from one watershed to another.”



All of the markers will be placed by volunteers. Town Branch of the Elkhorn is a largely urban stream and will require many, many markers. If there is interest, we can organize a day for a large group of us to put down the medallions. All materials will be provided, but the weather does need to be dry and above 45 degrees.

For more information about Operation Upstream, contact David Gabbard at 983-4751 or davidg@lfucg.com

If you are interested in being contacted for a workday putting Katy Catfish at storm drains in the Town Branch watershed, please email zina@townbranch.org or sign up at our Annual Progress Report meeting on November 12.

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Clean Water—from page 1

then-President Nixon’s veto. Congress stated very clearly that the goal was “To restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

To achieve this goal, we would eliminate the discharge of pollutants by 1985, we would clean up waterways to make them fully support aquatic life and safe for swimming and boating by 1983, and the discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts into our waters would be prohibited.

Town Branch Trail would like to gratefully acknowledge the recent generous contributions of the following:

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Helen Alexander | Ray and Mary Barry |
| Jessica Bell | Jeffrey Birkenstein |
| Eleanor Bohacek | Maria Braden-Clark |
| Claire Carpenter | Helen Chenery |
| Joseph Conwell | Lynda Cook |
| Gay & Bob Cotter | Timothy Edwards |
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| Shug Graves | Jan Harman |
| Michelle Harr | Phyllis Hasbrouck |
| Peter Hrabak | Human Nature, Inc. |
| Asa Humphries, Jr. | Phyllis Jenness |
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| John Schoen | Robert Sellin |
| Robert Sexton | Sandy Shafer |
| Katherine Stone | Lucy & Mark Thomas |
| H. H. Thomas | Nora Warman |
| Clara Wieland | Wes Zanone |

Many thanks to you all for helping make the Trail a reality!

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• ATTEND OUR ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Mark your calendar for 6:30pm Tuesday, November 12, to attend our annual public meeting. We will discuss the progress of Town Branch Trail over the past year and our plans for next year and beyond. Highlights include news about the construction on Phase I of the trail and other exciting developments along the corridor, particularly the Newtown Pike extension project. The Bell House is on Bell Court, off East Main Street near Downtown Lexington.

Despite some important successes, we are far from achieving the Clean Water Act’s goals of clean and safe water for everyone. During October and November of 2002, groups across Kentucky and the nation are joining together as a part of the Clean Water Network’s 30th anniversary campaign, to educate the public, the press, and elected officials about the need to defend and strengthen our clean water protections. For more information go to the Kentucky Waterway Alliance’s Web site at www.KWAlliance.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TOWN BRANCH TRAIL ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
BELL COURT'S BELL HOUSE
6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM**

Learn the status of our TEA-21 grant to connect Alexandria to Masterson Station Park. Join us at the Bell House at 6:30 for presentations followed by light refreshments. We will have maps and other information on display. *Read more inside...*



TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC

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WWW.TOWNBRANCH.ORG