

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



TOWN BRANCH
PARK

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Town Branch Park will play an important role in supporting a healthy environment amid our growing city. By converting almost 10 acres of asphalt to natural green space and restoring the streambed of Town Branch, the park will help improve air and water quality, decrease the urban heat island effect, and provide healthy habitats for humans, wildlife, and plants within our urban core.

Lexington was founded along the banks of Town Branch, which was once

TOWN BRANCH PARK WILL



Clean the air by adding a tree canopy and healthy vegetation in downtown Lexington.



Keep Lexington cooler by reducing the heat island effect caused by excess asphalt and service parking.



Save money on infrastructure by reducing stormwater management costs.

described as a “magnificent stream... whose green banks were hemmed with the brightest flowers.”* Despite its early importance, Town Branch was gradually polluted, covered by development, channelled into underground culverts, and largely removed from the public eye.

By peeling away these layers of concrete and blacktop, Town Branch Park will expose and restore the streambed and a piece of our history, making it the centerpiece of a new signature park for Lexington. Through award-winning design and programming for all ages, visitors will be able to view and appreciate a more ecologically productive waterway with thriving species of plants, insects, birds, and fish.

Lexington’s EPA Consent Decree with corresponding upgrades to the sewer system is already working to clean Town Branch. Once the consent decree



is complete, sewage overflows into the stream will be dramatically reduced. Town Branch Park is a crucial piece of visualizing this transformation. Although most of the consent decree work focuses on upsizing sewer pipes and creating storage tanks, the park will be the first piece of the water quality transformation that will be visible as a daylight and healthy stream channel.

**[George Washington Ranch, The History of Lexington, Kentucky (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co. 1872), 23.]*