

McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Association Newsletter



Established 2000

A Deed Restricted Community

March 2010

Events and Announcements

Neighborhood Association Semi-Annual Meeting

**The next semi-annual meeting of the MCTNA will be Thursday, April 22, 7 PM at the Bracktown Baptist Church*

**Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3, 1PM*

**Trail Walk, Friday, May 28, 6 PM*

**Neighborhood Picnic, Saturday, June 19, 6 PM*

**Neighborhood Garage Sale, Saturday, June 26, 8 AM to 2 PM*

**See article inside*



Who's That Man and What's He Doing In my Yard?

Did you know that in Lexington, our ash trees are under attack? The attacker is the Emerald Ash Borer. This is a nasty little bug that bores into the ash tree and lays its eggs. Eventually the new insects kill the tree as they eat around the inside of the trunk. In McConnell's Trace, we have 381 street trees that are some variety of ash.

"But I don't have an ash tree in front of my house!" you're thinking. Yes, but some of your neighbors do. And if we let these trees die, it will affect the property values of every home in our neighborhood. We all want to have our homes be worth as much as possible, and having mature street trees is a huge asset to a neighborhood.

In addition, each homeowner is, by city ordinance, responsible for any street tree planted in front of their property. That responsibility is for the maintenance required for the tree, and, should that tree die, the tree must be replaced with one approved by LFUCG and of at least a 2-inch caliper. If you have ever bought one, you know that a tree is a very expensive item.

With those issues in mind, our neighborhood association has decided to have these trees treated as a benefit to the homeowners. The treatment will start in about a month or so. When you see someone tending to one of those 381 ash trees, he is treating to keep the Emerald Ash Borer from winning the tree battle. The frequency of treatment needed may vary according to tree size, so you may see the same trees being treated again in the next few years, too. This will continue until the borer is no longer a threat to the trees---like other pests, they will eventually move on to other areas.

Our neighborhood association is treating street trees only. If you have ash trees in your yard, you may be offered a chance to have them treated at your expense by the same company. The treatment of yard trees will be up to the individual homeowner.

So now you know when you see someone working on that street tree—he's defending our trees against attack!



Supporting Your Neighbors....

Hello, fellow neighbors! My name is Kerri Hardin. My husband William and I have been long-time residents of McConnell's Trace neighborhood. As some of you may or may not be aware, recently both of our children were diagnosed with a rare genetic disease called Ataxia Telangiectasia. What is A-T? Imagine a disease that combines the worst symptoms of muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, immune deficiencies, and cancer. Children with A-T are usually confined to wheelchairs by age 10 and only half of them survive their teens. Because A-T is a multi-system disease, scientists believe that A-T research will help more prevalent diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, and cancer.

We have been very lucky in that so far Mason and Sadie are doing very well and are quite healthy. They have a wonderful support system and many friends in the community. However, the only way for us to help them live a long life is to find a cure or treatment for A-T. This June, my husband William and my brother Brett are going to participate in a triathlon called HyVee in Des Moines, Iowa. Their goal is to raise funds that will go toward valuable research that will hopefully someday result in a cure. This will no doubt be just one of many fundraisers that we will have going for our beautiful kids! We will never give up on our hope for a treatment or cure for them.

If you would like to contribute in our quest for a cure for Mason and Sadie, please visit www.communityatcp.org/teamwilliam. Or, if you would just like to find out more about Ataxia Telangiectasia, visit a great website at www.atcp.org. We thank all of our wonderful neighbors who we are proud to call our friends and who have been such a great support.

Thank you,

The Hardin Family

President's Message

As McConnell's Trace continues to grow and change, I thought it might be helpful to review the neighborhood watch program that has been in place for some time now.

At its outset, the program was designed to deter burglaries and other criminal activities and mischief in our neighborhood. But it is important to remember that this program is a process and will only be effective if we have strong participation by all members of the Association.

The key to making our efforts successful is **observation and communication**. Most every street in our neighborhood has a Block Captain. These are your neighbors who have agreed to serve their individual streets as Block Captain.

If you observe something suspicious, call your Block Captain to discuss it or report it to the Division of Police at 258-3600. Your Block Captain is an important resource in discussing and reviewing the information being reported. They also help facilitate the dissemination of information if residents prefer anonymity or aren't sure if what they observed amounts to a reportable event.

It must be emphasized that neighborhood watch is not a substitute for law enforcement efforts. It serves to enhance law enforcement by providing valuable information that can be compiled and acted upon. Descriptions of suspicious people, locations and times help our local police tremendously.

For information on who your Block Captain is, please visit our neighborhood website, mctna.org, or consult this newsletter (page 7).

We continue to get calls regarding homeowners who are not being as responsible as they should be in taking care of their pets. Their lack of attention is creating problems for their neighbors. The following has been taken from the [LFUCG Good Neighbor Handbook](#).

Dog litter: (owners should not allow dogs to deposit droppings in public places or on the property of others (Section 423.1). When you walk your dog, make sure you take something with you to clean up after it. Make sure to clean your dog's droppings in your own yard, too, so they don't accumulate and create a health hazard (Section 4-32.2 and 11-6). Be sure to double bag the droppings or put them in a container before placing them in the Herbie (Section 16-8) and never dispose of dog litter in a creek or storm sewer.

Semi-Annual Meeting April 22, 2010 at the First Baptist Church Bracktown, 7 PM

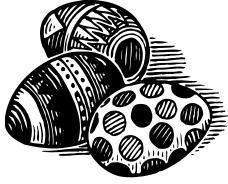
Please plan on attending our semi-annual meeting and find out what is going on in the neighborhood. It is also a great time to express any ideas or concerns you have regarding the Association.

In conclusion, please remember that your Board of Directors is comprised of us, your neighbors. We serve out of obligation, volunteering to help ensure that our neighborhood remains safe, beautiful and a great place to live.

I encourage you to communicate freely with any of us.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Russell-Tutty
MTNA President
secureins@insightbb.com
859-233-2940



McConnell's Trace Easter Egg Hunt

It's time to mark your calendar for the annual McConnell's Trace Easter Egg Hunt! This McConnell's Trace tradition will be held on Saturday, April 3 at 1 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for the kids to have some fun and the adults to meet their neighbors. The hunt will be in the grassy area at the end of Long Branch Lane (near the Trail entrance). Feel free to invite family and friends.

To encourage young people to learn about water conservation, five eggs will contain certificates good for a free rain barrel.

Be on time! We will begin at 1 PM sharp. Our kids are quick, and if you miss the start of the hunt, you will miss out on the goodies!



Semi-Annual Meeting

One of our speakers for the semi-annual meeting is Mr. David O'Neill from the Fayette County PVA Office. He will speak on property values and trends in our area and the Homestead Exemption Act.



Our second speaker is Amanda Gumbert, Extension Water Quality Liaison. She will address residents' responsibilities in the proper use and care of the greenway and its impact on local watersheds. She will also give away a free rain barrel to a lucky resident.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 22 at 7 PM at

First Baptist Church Bracktown



Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale

Could you use a few extra bucks and a lot less clutter? If you answered "yes", then mark your calendar for the Annual McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Garage Sale. This year's sale will be on Saturday, June 26, between 8 AM and 2 PM. Signs will be posted and an ad placed in the Lexington Herald-Leader.

This will be the only garage sale sponsored by the Neighborhood Association in 2010.



Greg Hurr

Raymond Wells



The Greenway Grows Trees

If you have not noticed this winter, you will when spring arrives. The Long Branch Greenway, stretching between McConnell's Trace and the trail, is sporting 60 new trees on its side borders. The funding for the trees was a result of a Mayor's Environmental Grant for \$1,500.00 matching grant funds, which DG Gridley, Greenway Chair, applied for and received.

In October, DG took on the job of scouting local nurseries for native Kentucky trees to plant. Fortunately, she was able to claim grant credit for the cost of the trees and the endless hours it took her to find the right trees at the right price. The remainder of the credit came from the volunteer hours on Saturday morning, October 24, 2009. Will Harden, McConnell's Trace resident and landscaper, voluntarily picked up and delivered 60 trees in one- and two-gallon containers to the very spot where they were needed at the bottom of Long Branch on the McConnell's Trace Trail. From 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, in the rain, eleven volunteers dug through rock and gravel to plant 15 yellowwood, 2 golden chain, 2 tulip poplar, 7 black gum, 17 elm, 4 red sunset maple, 3 bald cypress, 1 shumard oak, 2 rotundaloba sweet gum, 1 autumn blaze maple, 2 saw tooth oak, 2 sweet gum, and 1 maple (variety unknown). Those volunteers were Steve Burnside, John H. Roberts, Raymond Wells, Greg Hurr, Bob Russell-Tutty, Keith Lovan, Nathan Lowe, Jacob Gridley, Russ Turpin, DG Gridley and Kay Blues. Everyone was exhausted, but on Saturday, December 12, Nathan Lowe, Keith Lovan, Greg Hurr, DG Gridley and Kay Blues went back to the site for two additional hours and placed ground mats and tree protectors around each tree. MCTNA thanks you all for the time and effort you donated toward the beautification of the greenway. We hope you like the event pictures published in this newsletter.



Bob Russell-Tutty



Kay Blues and DG Gridley

The Greenway Grows Trees (cont'd.)

This was the second time trees were planted on this greenway using grant funds, but this was by far the larger planting. The trees will not only contribute beauty and shade, but will also aid in erosion control. Hopefully, this is only the beginning, as the committee still is waiting for the city's intervention. It all began in the fall of 2008 when the City requested input from the McConnell's Trace Community in planning and implementing a project with trees, flowers and grasses that would beautify and conserve the White Oak Trace and Long Branch Greenways, their primary objective being to decrease /eliminate the cost of maintaining the appearance of the two areas. It is two years later, and the Greenway Committee is still waiting, but not so patiently, for the city to materialize their part of the proposal and money. Project funding seems to be at a standstill. In spite of this fact, Keith Lovan has set a date in the coming month to report back to the committee after his consultant has completed a survey and can make recommendations that will: 1) provide a grading design to show areas of disturbance and where native vegetation will need to be planted, and 2) include a design for a trail in each greenway.

Keith Lovan, LFUCG Engineer, and Tom Blues, District 2 City Councilman, have continued to exert their support by pushing for a time-line and budget for the development of the greenways. Keith and Tom were responsible for the group's nomination for an Environmental Commission Award. Although the group did not receive one of the awards, the Greenway Chair and Secretary felt proud when they were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Annual Greenway Breakfast.



Your McConnell's Trace Street Representatives

The MTNA Board is still looking for "Street Captains" for some of the streets below. By establishing "Street Captains", we have increased your accessibility to reaching the board and making your voice heard. The Street Captain is your point person in the association. A Street Captain's responsibility is to hear/address your concerns and convey them to the board. If your street is not listed, we have not recruited anyone yet. If you are interested, please contact Bob at **859-233-2940** or secreins@insightbb.com.

Gauley Lane – Eddie Wesley 523-3069 229 Gauley Lane edwes12@email.uky.edu

Long Branch Lane – Robert Ybarra 850-619-3121 3012 Town Branch Road ryb6202@aol.com

McConnell's Trace Blvd. – Pam Russell-Tutty 255-8144 104 McConnell's Trace pamrusselltutty@insightbb.com

Town Branch Road – Kay Blues 246-0664 3017 Town Branch Road kblues@insightbb.com

Town Branch Cove – Cheryl Goldfarb 335-9357 105 Town Branch Cove sgcar54@oal.com

Angel Falls Drive – Joyce Everly 388-9890 105 Angel Falls joeverly9890@yahoo.com

Caddis Lane – Matt Hill 312-2220 3008 Caddis Lane matthill@insightbb.com

New River Place – Molly Pepper 351-5028 3060 New River Place mcbutter2007@yahoo.com

New River Court – Melissa Grassle 621-9500 216 New River Court missyg7@aol.com

White Oak Trace – OPEN

Ocoee Court – Barbara Stucker 389-8331 129 Ocoee Court barbara@lexmark.com

Old Woolen Mill Lane - Lauren Holman 257 Old Woolen Mill Lane 859-481-5770 laurenaholman@gmail.com

Yamacraw Place – Lisa Martin 948-8365 129 Yamacraw Place lisaquintet@insightbb.com

Leatherwood Lane - Bennie Pointer 252-1741 177 Leatherwood Lane thepoynterfamily@gmail.com

Trailwood Drive – Mike Poynter 608-7058 3009 Trailwood Drive mp@mikepoynter.com

Blue Heron Place – OPEN

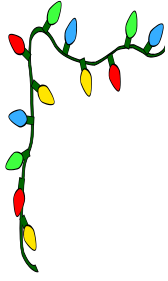
Black Water Lane – Tony Lancaster 608-7304 220 Blackwater Lane tonyblancaster@yahoo.com

Burnt Mill Road – Bryan Schallner 2877 Burnt Mill Road 918-798-4606 bschallner@yahoo.com

Briggs Place – Nathan Lowe 309-3697 2944 Briggs Place nate.lowe@yahoo.com

Peaks Mill Drive – Nathan Koerber 2892 Peaks Mill Drive 859-552-9325 n.koerber@insightbb.com

Bracktown Road – OPEN



And the Winners Are....

This past holiday season marked the second annual McConnell's Trace Holiday Lights Contest and once again we had many beautiful displays. The judging was TOUGH to say the least! In the end, we had two houses that were judged to be the most unique and festive. The winning residences were 140 Leatherwood Lane and 105 McConnell's Trace Blvd. Congratulations!

An honorable mention goes out to the street that had the most participation: Briggs Place. This street was truly festive from one end to the next.

Now let's all start planning our 2010 displays!



PAWS...for Thought....

"We got troubles" says Andy, the dog from McConnell's Trace. "What kind of trouble?" asks Clover, Andy's pal.

"Can you believe people are walking their dogs all over our great neighborhood, and some of those dog owners do not pick up their animal's poop."

Clover says, "That is so rude, dude!"

It is a responsible and respectful thing to do if you are a good neighbor.

Clover says, "DON'T BE RUDE, DUDE...PICK IT UP!"



It's time to "pull for the Ronald McDonald House®"! Please bring your collections of aluminum "pop tabs" to the MCTNA Semi-Annual Meeting (April 22, 7 PM at Bracktown Baptist Church). If you are unable to attend this meeting, please drop off your pop tab collections to 256 Long Branch Lane (across from the entrance to the trail...leaving them in a sealed container on the front porch is fine). Thank you in advance for helping MCTNA assist in furthering the mission and programs of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass and making a difference in the lives of the families and children they support.

MCTNA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President: Bob Russell-Tutty 104 McConnell's Trace Blvd 859-233-2940 secureins@insightbb.com

Vice President:

Treasurer: Ryan Guntle 168 Long Branch Lane 859-309-3788 rguntle@gmail.com

Secretary: Mike Poynter 3009 Trailwood Drive 859-608-7058 mp@mikepoynter.com

Board Members:

Lisa Martin 129 Yamacraw Place 859-948-8365 lisaquintet@insightbb.com

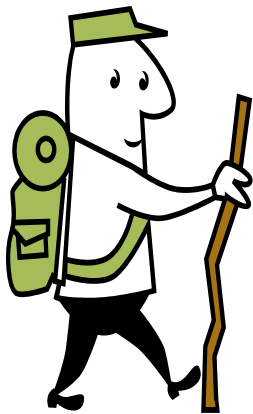
Barbara Stucker 129 Ocoee Court 859-389-8331 barbara@lexmark.com

Raymond Wells 233 White Oak Trace 859-381-8580 wellsr@insightbb.com

Angela Miller 245 White Oak Trace 859-258-9822 angela@teator.com

Social Club Chair: Lisa Martin **Newsletter Chair:** Barbara Stucker **Greenway Chair:** DG Gridley

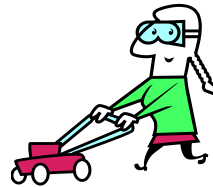
Garden Club Chair: Will Hardin **Block Captain Chair:** Kay Blues



Trail Walk

Not one to walk by yourself? Then come and join our walking group as we take a stroll along Town Branch Trail. We will be meeting at the trail entrance across from Masterson Station Park on May 28 at 6 PM. Hopefully this will become a recurring group activity among neighborhood residents. Don't forget to bring your water bottle and let's enjoy the trail that we are so fortunate to have running right through our neighborhood!

Lawn Care 101



By Ryan Guntle

Spring is in the air and for most of us, this means more time outside enjoying the weather. A plush green lawn is an added bonus and now is the time to put in the work to reap the benefits. A healthy lawn helps the value of your own home as well as the neighborhood. I have listed 5 helpful tips from David Beaulieu at [www. about.com](http://www.about.com) to get us all started:

- 1) Thatch – this is very similar to raking and removes dead grass blades that accumulate over the mowing months. This build-up can be a barrier for new growth in your lawn.
- 2) Aeration – over the years the ground becomes compacted with normal settling and traffic. In order to bring life back into the ground, aerating is recommended. Aeration is the process of “plugging” the ground and is done with a machine that can be rented at your local rental store.
- 3) Fertilizing – this can occur naturally with organic compost or with any mulching mower. If you want to go to the next step, visit your local hardware store and pick-up a bag of fertilizer. I prefer Scott’s as there is a schedule for the entire season and it lists when and how to apply.
- 4) Pre-emergent Herbicides – start the attack early on weeds and crabgrass with application of pre-emergent herbicides. Nothing kills the appeal of a lawn quicker than weeds and crabgrass.
- 5) Lawn Mower Tune-up – after years of hitting rocks and other objects, the blade takes a beating and will begin to “tear” the grass rather than “cut”. A simple blade sharpening can resolve this problem. I recommend taking the mower to your local lawn equipment service center for a full inspection to keep your mower in top shape. Otherwise, you might be finding yourself buying a new mower sooner than you expected.

I hope these tips help us all in our fight for a greener lawn.

Trash, an Ongoing Battle

Every day when I pick up my mail or take a walk in the neighborhood, I can't help but notice small trash items that are dirtying up our neighborhood streets. Some days it is an empty water bottle or smashed soda cans, others it may be rubber bands at the mailbox or a candy wrapper. And sadly, things such as 2X2 with nails, large plastic jugs and even a soiled diaper have been spotted along the trail. This both saddens me and angers me. We should all be taking pride in our neighborhood and doing our part to keep it clean. If we all take just a few moments to pick things up, or even better yet, ensure that trash isn't littering our streets, we all benefit from a more beautiful environment. Let's be sure our children know that they too play a part in keeping our streets clean. Often hot afternoons lead to water bottles and soda cans being left behind at the end of a long play day. I know I am committed in doing my part to keep my neighborhood looking beautiful and trash free. Are you?

A Concerned McConnell's Trace Resident



How to Clean Oil Stains From Driveways and Streets

A big oil spot in the middle of your driveway can make the most meticulously maintained home look dingy. Even the slightest automotive oil leak can lead to a grungy-looking buildup on your home driveway, particularly if you tend to park in the same spot every time. These well-weathered grease and oil stains are very hard to clean up, but they can be removed with some heavy scrubbing and a cleaning solution that contains trisodium phosphate. Liquid dishwasher detergent is a common and handy trisodium phosphate source.

Step 1: Pour about 1/2 cup of liquid dishwasher detergent into a clean, empty bucket. Add roughly 1 gallon of cold tap water. Stir the solution well using a plastic spoon with a long handle.

Step 2: Take the bucket and brush outside to the driveway. Make sure that the stained areas are clear of vehicles and debris.

Step 3: Dunk a stiff brush into the soapy solution. Scrub the oil and grease stains well. Alternate the direction of your scrubbing every so often to loosen the set-in oil. The trisodium phosphate in the dishwasher detergent will help to loosen and absorb the stains faster than many other commercial cleaners.

Step 4: Continue scrubbing all of the stained areas until it appears that the stains have been completely cleaned. If an area is covered in soap suds after being scrubbed, just wipe away the suds with your hand to see underneath and evaluate the cleanliness.

Step 5: Pour out the remainder of the soapy solution either on the driveway or down an indoor plumbing drain. Rinse the bucket with water to wash away the remaining soap, and then fill the bucket with water. Slowly pour the clean water over the soap suds on the driveway to wash them away.

Remember, it takes us all to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful!!!

13 Things your Burglar Won't Tell You

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom---and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there, too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at www.faketv.com.)

Eight More Things your Burglar Won't Tell You

1. Sometimes I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll ride or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs www.crimedoctor.com and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book, [Burglars on the Job](#).



Saturday, June 19, 6 PM

Mark your calendars for the fifth annual neighborhood picnic! This is a wonderful time to get out and meet and greet your neighbors.

The site for this year's picnic will be Masterson Station Park. Just look for us at the shelter close to the dog park! The Neighborhood Association will be providing hot dogs, chips, barbeque sandwiches and drinks. Please bring a side dish or desert to complete the menu. Hope you can make it to the fun and games!

What is a Watershed?

By Amanda Gumbert, UK Extension Specialist for Water Quality

Each day we all live, work and play in a watershed. A watershed is nature's boundary for water. It includes all the land that drains water to a specific stream, river, or lake. A watershed may be as small as a few acres or as large as several states. For example, the Mississippi River watershed includes 1.2 million square miles and contains thousands of smaller watersheds.



Watersheds work on a building block principle. The land in the watershed for the creek or stream nearest your home becomes part of the watershed for the river or lake it joins, which in turn may become part of the watershed for a larger river or body of water.

Become familiar with the watershed where you live. Begin by finding out where the water that drains from your yard goes. Like a street address, we all have a watershed address. And remember, whatever is on the ground is in your water.

To look for watersheds in Lexington, visit <http://app.lexingtonky.gov/MapIt.aspx> and type in your street address. The information on the right should include your watershed.

This article is part of a water quality and greenways education project funded by the Kentucky River Authority.

McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Assoc.
c/o Maggard Properties
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Lexington, KY 40508