



LEX GROW TREES

Heather Wilson, Urban & Community Forestry Section Manager

Lauren Gawthrop, Impressions Marketing

Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

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Framework

- What is Urban Forestry & How Trees Benefit Lexington
- Lexington's Urban Forest Today & Future Goals
- Lex Grow Trees Campaign – \$1.5 Million for Trees
 - Framing Our Values
 - Funding Programs, Planting Roots
- Tree Attitudes Survey & Focus Groups
- Support & Moving Forward





What is Urban Forestry & How Trees Benefit Lexington

■ Environmental

- Stormwater mitigation
- Reduce heat island effect
- Remove airborne pollutants
- Sequester carbon

■ Human Health

- Reduce hospital stays
- Reduce rates of cardiac disease
- Improve mental health & reduce stress
- Improve our immune systems



■ Social

- Reduce rates of crime
- Encourage community engagement & connectivity
- Decrease aggression & violence

■ Economic

- Reduce costs of city services
- Increase property values
- Reduce energy bills
- Support tourism

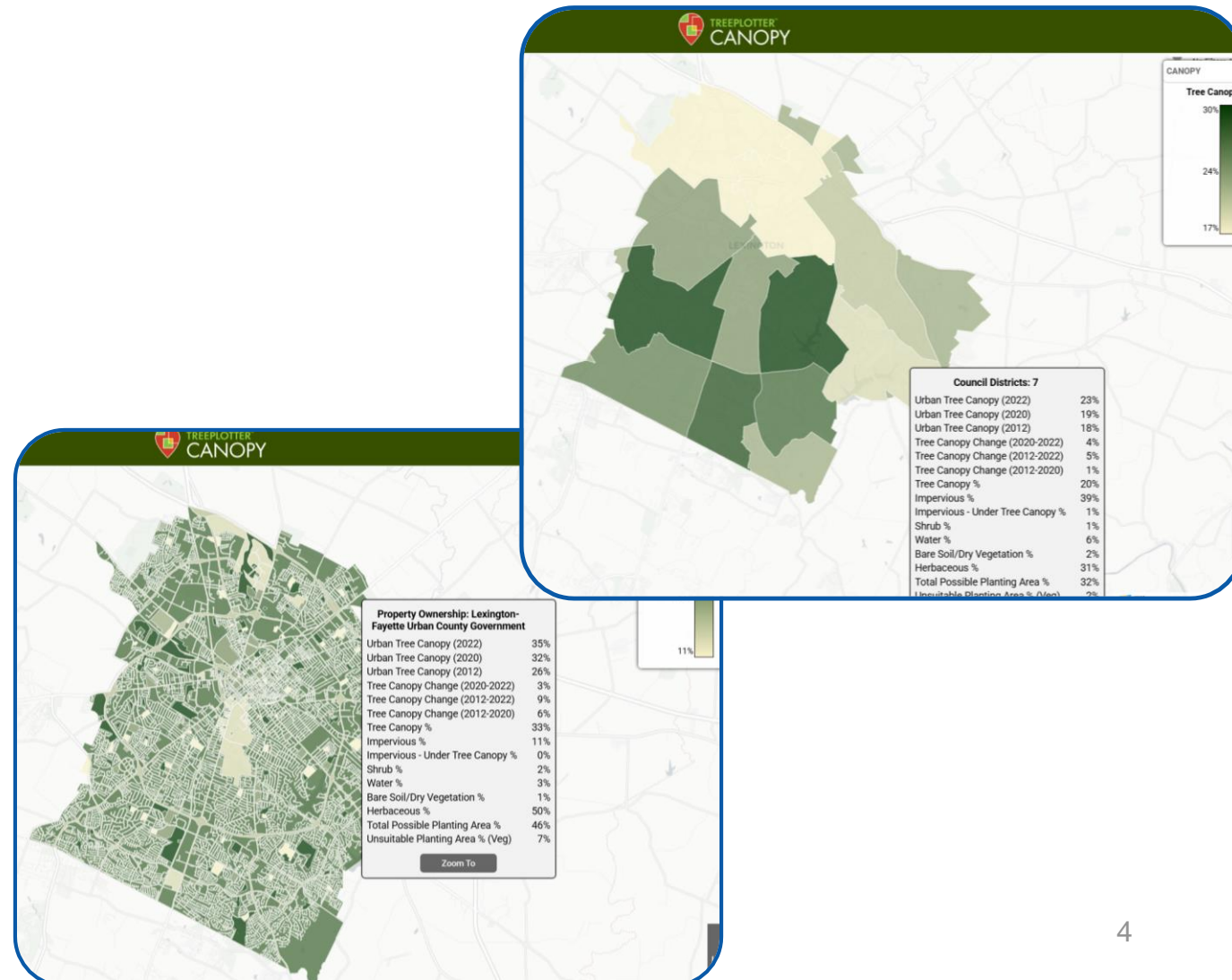




Lexington's Urban Forest Today & Future Goals

Urban Tree Canopy Coverage 2022

- **Baseline Goal = 30%**
- Overall = 25%
 - LFUCG-owned properties – 35%
 - *Private property* – 27%
 - *Other tax-exempt properties* – 22%
 - *Rights-of-Way / Medians* – 18%
 - *UK* – 15%
 - *FCPS* – 12%





Lex Grow Trees Campaign - \$1.5 Million for Trees

Background

- Administration recommended and Council approved funds from Budget Stabilization Funds (2021)
- Funds were placed with Environmental Services
- Tree Canopy Ad Hoc Committee created to set guardrails
- Tree equity is our driving factor
 - Timing with Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
 - Timing with recognition of tree equity needs across the country



LEXINGTON- FAYETTE

Tree Canopy Snapshot



Land Acres: **54,055**
Residents: **322,570**

Urban Tree Canopy



2012: **10,914** acres
2020: **12,649** acres

Ecosystem Benefits

Annual Benefits:
\$6,504,332

Stored Carbon Benefits:
\$111,512,171

Urban Tree Canopy % by Council District

District 1: 19%
District 2: 18%
District 3: 26%
District 4: 28%
District 5: 30%
District 6: 20%
District 7: 19%
District 8: 27%
District 9: 27%
District 10: 28%
District 11: 23%
District 12: 23%



Framing Our Values

August 2022 retreat to formulate our guiding principles

Determined target areas for funding

- Communication / Marketing
- Education for Awareness and a Cultural Shift in the Value Attached to Tree Canopy
- Community Engagement / Mobilization of Tree Advocates and Stewards
- Tree Planting
- Tree Infrastructure / Maintenance





Funding Programs, Planting Roots

Infusion to the Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program

- Clear backlog (\$150K)
- Additional funds to provide 100% grants for low- to moderate-income homeowners (\$50K)

Telling Our Story: Impressions Marketing (\$144K)

- Branding our message
- Reaching into the community
- Targeting our impact
- Project tracking
- Showcasing long-term impacts





Funding Programs, Planting Roots

3 Pilot Projects (\$63K)

- Geomancer Permaculture, LLC
- Seedleaf, LLC
- Trees Lexington!

389 Trees Planted!

Targeted Goals Addressed

- Education and Community Engagement
- Tree Care Education
- Tree Care Maintenance
- Tree Planting
- Work Force Training





Grants – Round 1

Application Window March-April 2024

- Grant Applications Submitted: **22**
- Total Funds Requested: **\$2,809,727.96**
- Total Funds Available: \$500,000



applicant	requested \$
Andover Forest HOA (All Points)	\$100,020.00
Andover NA (All Points)	\$100,000.00
Andover Village Place HOA	\$25,005.00
Beaver Creek Hydrology	\$90,000.00
Bluegrass Greensource	\$100,000.00
Bread & Circuses Media	\$13,000.00
Eastland Parkway NA	\$18,500.00
Friends of the Parks Fayette County	\$64,433.48
Friends of Wolf Run	\$97,935.00
Hartland HOA	\$94,166.00
Headley Green HOA	\$26,500.00
J&R FLP - National Ave	\$443,000.00
Lake Crossing HOA	\$9,781.38
Lexington Community Land Trust	\$52,500.00
LSC Stadium Co	\$600,000.00
Midland Townhomes OA	\$16,520.10
Opera House Square TH Corp	\$3,074.00
Parkers Landing HOA	\$900.00
Pensacola Park NA	\$6,000.00
The Commons	\$750,000.00
Trees Lexington!, Inc.	\$99,761.00
UKRF - Arboretum	\$98,632.00
	\$2,809,727.96



Grants – Round 1

Awarded June 2024

- **9** grant recipients
- **\$494,131.55** total awarded
- **800+ Trees (Being) Planted!**
 - Restoration of historic greenspaces & neighborhoods
 - Community engagement
 - School beautification
 - Improved tree equity in underserved areas of Lexington



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2024

Contact: Lauren Gawthrop, Impressions Marketing – Lauren@BeVeryImpressed.com | (859) 363-6441



LEXINGTON



LEX GROW TREES

Lex Grow Trees awards nearly \$500,000 in grants to grow Lexington's tree canopy

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Lex Grow Trees is thrilled to unveil the recipients of their inaugural grants, which will aid the initiative's efforts to bolster Lexington's tree population and foster community engagement in urban forestry efforts. Of the 22 applications received totaling \$2.8 million in requested funds, nine organizations were awarded a combined \$491,131.55 in this first round of large project grants. Funding came from an allocation of \$1.5 million set aside for Lexington's tree canopy by the Urban County Council.

"We were encouraged to receive so many strong applications for this first round of the Lex Grow Trees grant. These grants will contribute to our mission of enriching Lexington's urban environment, enhancing community well-being, and fostering a deeper appreciation for trees among our residents," said LFUCG 3rd District Councilmember Hannah LeGris, who co-chairs the committee in charge of Lex Grow Trees. "Together, we are committed to maintaining, supporting, and expanding Lexington's tree canopy. We're excited to see these projects come to fruition!" Funded proposals include:

Andover Forest HOA - Granted \$100,000 to plant 350 trees, enhancing the tree canopy in Council District 6, with a focus on creating shaded community areas and engaging residents in tree care.

Friends of Wolf Run - Awarded \$97,935 for the "Large Trees for Private Lands" project, aiming to plant up to 175 large trees in high-need areas within Council Districts 3, 10, and 11.

Bluegrass Greensource - Granted \$95,312.50 for a two-year project enabling residents to plant trees and learn to maintain them, with a focus on equitable distribution in underserved areas identified by the 2022 Tree Canopy Study.

Trees Lexington! - Awarded \$86,655 for a comprehensive program focusing on tree planting, maintenance, and educational initiatives in historically underrepresented areas.

Hartland HOA - Granted \$76,785.20 for the "Growing Together: Trees for a New Generation" initiative, aiming to restore and expand the urban forest by planting 284 trees within the Hartland community and by hosting a community-wide Hartland Arbor Day event in April 2025.

Eastland Parkway Neighborhood Association - Awarded \$18,271.85 for a project to enhance the historical entrance walls with additional trees and to add street trees along Eastland Parkway.

Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association - Granted \$6,000 to counter the loss of mature trees in their historic neighborhood by planting new ones and increasing the tree canopy by 7% by September 2025.

Bread & Circuses Media - Awarded \$6,000 for an oral history project to engage and educate the youth in Lexington's 6th District about the importance of tree maintenance and the tree canopy's impact on community health.

Friends of the Parks - Granted \$4,172 for a tree planting project at Clays Mills Elementary to improve the canopy of the school's green spaces.

Lex Grow Trees, managed by the volunteers and government employees who comprise the city's Tree Canopy Ad Hoc Committee, aims to address tree canopy inequities in Lexington and promote the numerous benefits trees offer to our environment, society, economy, and health. The initiative is informed by the 2022 Urban Tree Canopy Study, identifying areas most in need of tree canopy expansion. That study, as well as an interactive map, can be explored at LexingtonKY.gov/Trees.

This round of grants marks the first of two, with the second application period opening in the fall. Interested parties are encouraged to visit LexingtonKY.gov/LexGrowTrees for updates on when the application window opens, as well as information about the initiative, its partners and the benefits of trees.

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Grants – Round 2

Application Window October-November 2024

- Grant Applications Submitted: **21**
- Total Funds Requested: **\$1,265,413.21**
- Total Funds Available: ~\$375,000

	Council	
	District of	
applicant	proj location	requested \$
Andover Neighborhood Association, Inc.	7	\$100,000.00
Ashland Neighborhood Association (Replace Tree) (2)	5	\$15,000.00
Ashland Neighborhood Association (Treatment/Hemlock)	5	\$3,500.00
Beaumont Park Townhomes Owners Association, Inc.	10	\$43,777.99
Beaver Creek Hydrology	2	\$92,000.00
Bluegrass Greensource	1,2,5	\$98,666.00
Crawford Middle School PTSA	6	\$9,855.78
Garden Meadows HOA	2	\$96,036.00
Harrodsburg Square Condominium Association	11	\$100,000.00
Headley Green Homeowner Association, Inc.	11	\$25,652.00
Kentucky Horse Park Foundation	12	\$93,375.00
Meadowthorpe Pelican Association	11	\$7,129.75
Springlake Towne Homes Association, Inc.	8	\$21,420.00
The Village at Rabbit Run Condominium Association, Inc.	10	\$63,281.99
The Vineyard Neighborhood Association	8	\$19,080.00
Trees Lexington	1,2	\$99,143.50
University of Kentucky Research Foundation/Arboretum	3	\$95,912.00
University of Kentucky Research Foundation/Sena-Cagle	1,2,3	\$92,789.00
Urban Forest Initiative	3	\$21,423.20
Westmorland Neighborhood Association	12	\$100,000.00
Woodfield Homes Association, Inc.	12	\$67,371.00
Total Request		\$1,265,413.21





Grants – Round 2

Awarded January 2025

- 6 grant recipients
- **\$392,985.28** total awarded
- **1,000+ Trees (Being) Planted!**
 - Creation of Tree Stewards
 - Community engagement & education
 - School beautification
 - Improved tree equity in underserved areas of Lexington

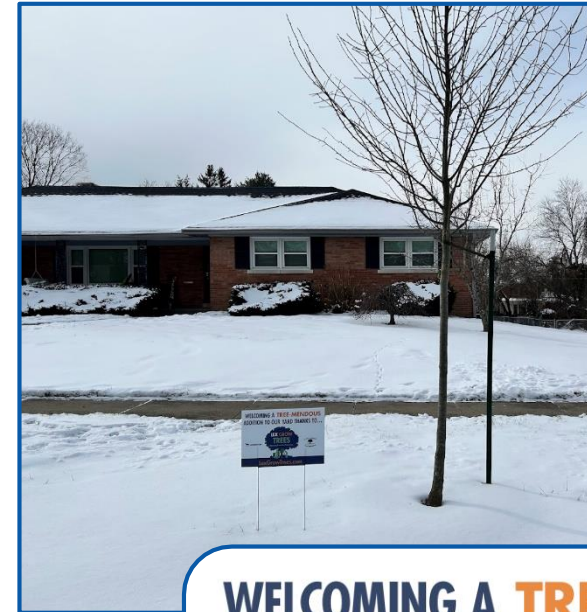




Beyond Grants

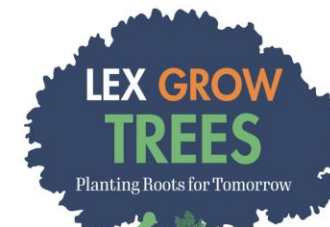
Trees for Private Property

- Available to all properties in Lexington
- Partnered with local ISA-Certified tree care company
- **261 properties requested 742 trees**
- Properties receiving trees = 155
- **209 Trees (Being) Planted!**
 - 95 trees in priority CDs 1, 2, & 7



Planting Sites

WELCOMING A **TREE-MENDOUS**
ADDITION TO OUR YARD THANKS TO...



LexGrowTrees.com





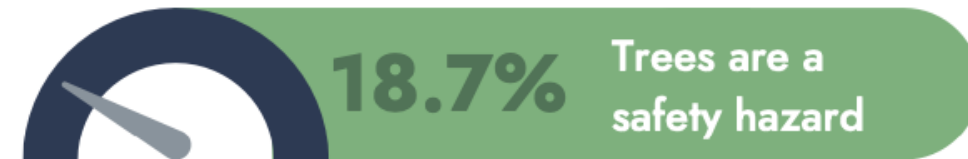
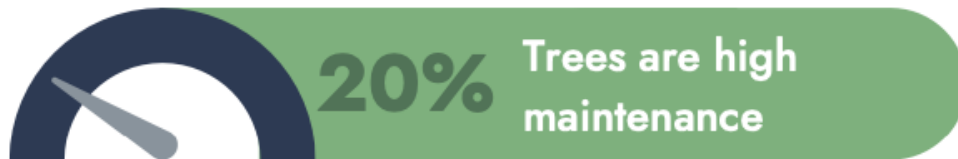
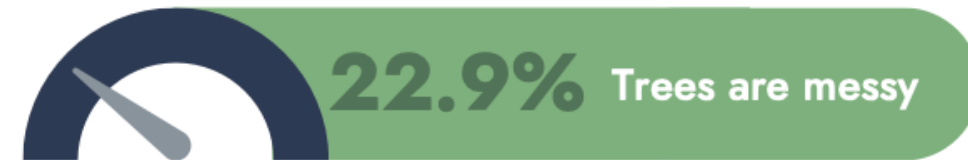
Tree Attitudes Survey – Fall 2024

- **454 online surveys completed** representing all Lexington zip codes, including **170 from priority districts**
- **37 survey questions** with a combination of open-ended questions and ranking exercises to assess their feelings and perspectives on trees





What Lexington said...





What Lexington said...

63.27%

I wish there were
more trees in my
neighborhood.

34.51%

I think I have the right
number of trees in my
neighborhood.

2.21%

I wish there were
fewer trees in my
neighborhood.





What Lexington said...

Which image shows a tree that has been properly mulched?



40.13%

Selected the
"Donut" method



27.77%

Selected the "Up to
the bark" method



7.38%

Selected the
"Volcano" method



9.76%

Selected the "No
mulch" method



14.97%

were unsure

This suggests that while a significant portion of people understand the correct mulch method, there is still confusion about tree care practices.





Tree Focus Groups – March 2025

- 7 groups, 54 participants
- Groups divided by those with yards/land and those without
- Priority recruiting for Districts 1, 2, & 7
- Analysis currently in progress





What Lexington said...

“If I was moving into a new neighborhood and there were two houses that were pretty similar, and one street had all nice trees, and the other didn't, I would definitely go with the neighborhood that had the trees.”

– District 2 Resident

“As the climate keeps getting hotter, the cities are getting even hotter and planting trees—even if they're little now—in 50 years, the city is going to be a much better place to live for my kids and grandkids.”

– District 4 Resident





Click Here for Video ...





What's Next?



Questions?



LEXINGTON

