# KENTUCKY WATERSHED ACADEMY

#### MODULE 5: Urban Partners - Part 2

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- A park agency's role in local watershed management may vary based on:
- Common types of park agencies:
  - o Municipal
  - Independent Park District
  - Park Foundations/Non-Profit
- Variations in focus/mission:
  - Recreation only with no natural resource management
    component
  - Heavy natural resource management focus with primarily outdoor activities; nature education, etc.
  - Blend (ex. Lexington Parks and Recreation)



- Water quality improvement benefits to parks
  - $\circ\,$  Improved water quality
  - Greater plant & animal diversity
  - Reduced mowing/expenses
  - Volunteer partnerships



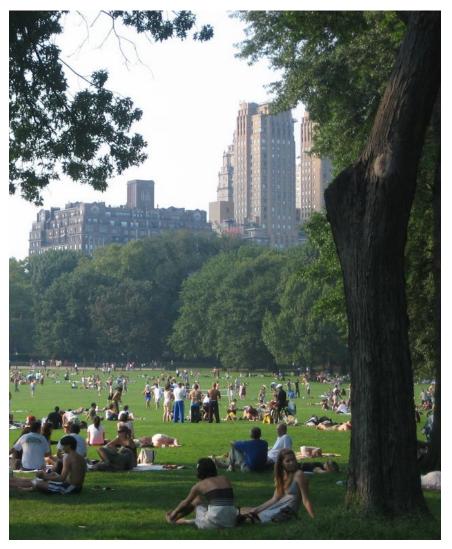


- Challenges of watershed management in Parks:
  - Quantity
  - Size
  - Degradation
    - $\circ$  Existing
    - $\circ$  New
  - Balance of land use
  - Lack of resources
  - Public perception





- Community resistance
  - Aesthetics; turn of the century "great lawns"
  - Perceived fears: insects, "wild" animals/reptiles, human dangers
- Park Professionals
  - All of the above PLUS
  - Change is scary
  - 'Front line' for complaints
  - Clean Water Act unknown
  - Unprepared; untrained





- Successful BMPs in parks
  - Tree & streambank plantings
  - Native plant displays & managed prairies
  - Fore bays / stilling basins / solid waste interceptors
  - New: Restoring soil structure





- When and How to Approach Parks Department
  - Before 'choice limiting' decisions
  - Chances of success = preparation
    - o General region/county/city research
    - $\circ$  Site specific research
    - o Talk to stakeholders
    - Develop concept
    - Cite similar successes
    - o Include a maintenance plan
    - $_{\odot}$  Find and suggest funding sources
    - Be open to non-cash resources/assets



- Lessons learned
  - Signage is not foolproof
  - Contractor / Staff Education
  - Volunteer "field days"







- Success stories from Lexington
  - Reforest the Bluegrass
  - Wolf Run Watershed Council
  - Citizens Environmental Academy
  - Bring Back the Bluegrass

## **Questions?**

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