

KENTUCKY WATERSHED ACADEMY

MODULE 5: Urban Partners - Part 2

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Watersheds and Parks

- A park agency's role in local watershed management may vary based on:
- Common types of park agencies:
 - 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)



Watersheds and Parks

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





Watersheds and Parks

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



Watersheds and Parks

- 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



Watersheds and Parks

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





Watersheds and Parks

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

Watersheds and Parks

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



Watersheds and Parks



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

Questions?

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