Horticultural Gardens and Displays
In addition to the native plantings that make up the Walk Across Kentucky, Horticultural Displays line the path from the Visitor Center to the Horticultural Gardens. The Kentucky Utilities (KU) Ornamental Tree Collection and the Fruit and Nut Collection are located on the perimeter of the area.

These gardens and displays showcase a large and diverse variety of ornamental plants—annuals, perennials, roses, trees and shrubs—that thrive in the Bluegrass region. We partner with horticultural clubs, University of Kentucky faculty and staff, and plant breeders to provide visitors with year-round color and change throughout each season.
The Walk Across Kentucky and The Arboretum Woods

The Walk Across Kentucky is more than two miles of paved and secondary paths that wind through 65 acres of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that represent those found in the seven physiographic regions of Kentucky. The Arboretum Woods, a 15-acre remnant Inner Bluegrass Woodland, contains more than 90 plant species, some rare, and is often used as a site for research and education. Volunteers and staff have contributed thousands of hours of time to make the Walk Across Kentucky a living representation of the flora of Kentucky.

Getting around at The Arboretum

The Arboretum has multiple types of pavement and paths that visitors may use. Motorized vehicles are restricted to the entrance roadway and the parking area. On the paved Walk Across Kentucky and garden paths, walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers share the right of way. Secondary paths are not paved and thus may be difficult for those with accessibility issues to navigate. Bicycles, skateboards, inline skates, and scooters are not allowed on the Walk Across Kentucky or garden paths, but they are allowed on roadways and shared-use connectors.

The Physiographic Regions of Kentucky

Physiography, also known as geomorphology, is the study of the form and shape of the earth. The physiographic map of Kentucky closely resembles the geologic map of Kentucky, since the weathering and erosion of rock are what create the features of our landscapes. These physiographic features affect the soil type, hydrology, and climate which, in turn, determine and influence the plants found in each region. Plants from each of the seven regions of the state are represented in the Walk Across Kentucky at The Arboretum.