

Attractions at The Arboretum

Visitor Center and Courtyard—The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center opened in 2002. The courtyard was completed in 2006 and includes a sculpture by David Caudill.

Home Demonstration Garden—This 4-acre garden contains an herb garden, a trials garden for All-America Selections, a water garden, vegetable plots, a perennial garden, a butterfly garden, annual flowers, and fountains with sculptures. These gardens provide great ideas for landscaping.

Rose Garden—The Rose Garden contains over 1,500 different cultivars of roses, including climbers, polyanthas, floribundas, teas, hybrid teas, hybrid perpetuals, hybrid musks, Chinas, shrub roses, and miniatures.

Fragrance Garden—The Fragrance Garden contains roses and other flowers known for pleasant scents.

Kentucky Children's Garden—This garden for children ages 2-10, now under construction, will contain small theme gardens within its 1.85 acres. It is planned as a safe environment in which children can learn about their relationship with nature through special programs. It will include a small amphitheater.

Walk Across Kentucky—The Arboretum is home to one of the most unique native plant collections in the state. The 2-mile walk is a paved path that leads the visitor past native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers from seven physiographic regions of Kentucky. These regions include:

***Cumberland Mountain**—Kentucky's mountainous region is 120 miles long and ranges from less than 1 mile in width to up to 15 miles. Pine Mountain on the north is the state's longest mountain; Big Black Mountain is the highest at 4,139 feet; and Cumberland Mountain in the south forms part of the border between Kentucky and Virginia. The Cumberland Gap National Historic Park stretches along Cumberland Mountain.*

***Appalachian Plateau (eastern coal fields)**—The region's bedrock consists of sandstone, shale, and coal. Along the western margins, called the cliff section, limestone forms extensive cliffs and ravines. This section has perhaps the greatest concentration of rare species in the state, especially along rocky river corridors. Some of this area is protected as part of the Daniel Boone National Forest.*

***The Knobs**—This region is a transition from the Bluegrass to the surrounding plains and plateaus and contains floodplains, terraces, low foothills, rounded "knobs," and cliff-lined escarpments. The escarpments*

represent various stages of erosion of the younger rocks. Some of the Knobs are beautiful places to visit and are where pioneers first viewed the Bluegrass.

***The Bluegrass**—Its bedrock consists of limestone and calcium-like shale. Some bedrock has weathered to produce soils with high phosphate content and exceptionally productive vegetation that is attractive to wildlife and people. Pioneers first settled the Bluegrass because of its open woodlands, fertile soils, and salt springs. Lush pastures bloom with a lavender hue in spring, and from a distance the fields look blue—hence the name "Bluegrass."*

***Pennyrile**—The area's bedrock is also limestone and calcium-like shale, but in this region of rolling hills and plains the purer limestone forms a western and eastern plain. Its flat karst plains are characterized by having many sinkholes and cave systems. Those cave systems include Mammoth Cave, where acid groundwater has dissolved the underlying rocks, flowing through passages to springs and valleys at lower levels. Pioneers gave the name "barrens" to plains in this region that have extensive grasslands and little or no woody growth.*

***Shawnee Hills**—Its bedrock is similar to that of the Appalachian Plateaus, with much sandstone, siltstone, shale, and coal. This region is named after the Shawnee, who, along with other Native American tribes, were driven into refuges here after the first waves of settlement in the Ohio Valley.*

***Mississippi Embayment**—This region has relatively young sediments, including gravels, sands, silts, and clays. Most of the region has low hills, upland flats, terraces, and floodplains. Drainage is slow in many areas. The Native Americans developed towns and much farmland on fertile levees, and it was not until 1815 that the United States acquired these lands from the Chickasaw as part of the Jackson Purchase.*

***Arboretum Woods**—The Arboretum Woods is an optional trail that is part of the Walk across Kentucky. It is a 16-acre section of rare remaining Inner Bluegrass woodlands containing 18 native Kentucky tree species as well as more than 80 native Kentucky grasses and herbs.*

This brochure was created and published by the Friends of The Arboretum.

If You're Visiting

- No admission fee.
- Call 859-257-6955 to schedule a guided tour.
- Guided school tours—\$1/student.

Temporary closures due to special events will be posted on The Arboretum Web site.



Contact Us

The Arboretum
500 Alumni Drive
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: 859-257-6955

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum/>

The Arboretum is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center is open M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photos by Betty Hall Photography unless noted otherwise.

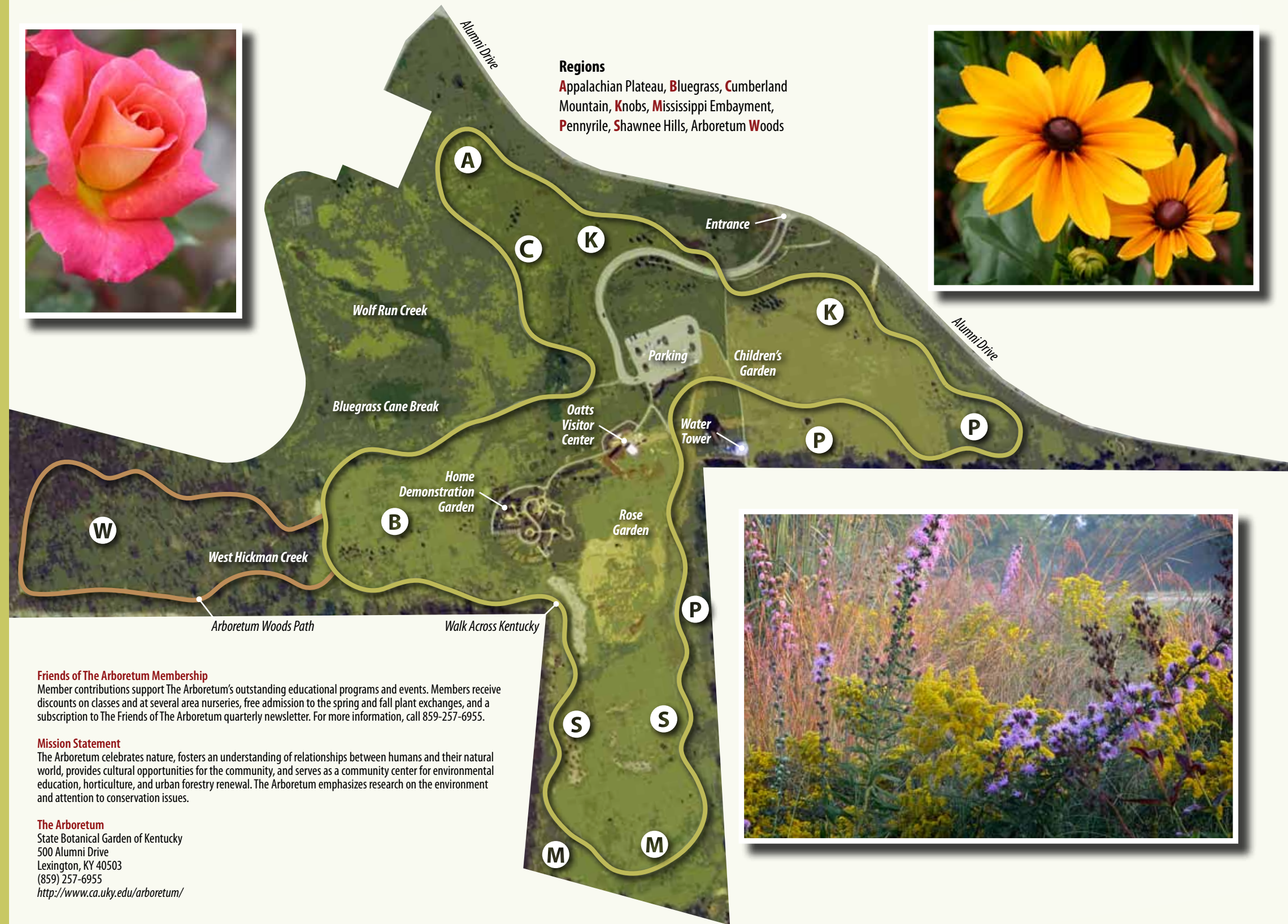
Welcome to The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

The Arboretum is a wonderful 100-acre state botanical garden. Its special attraction is the Walk Across Kentucky, a 2-mile walk which includes a unique collection of Kentucky native plants. The Arboretum is owned and operated by the University of Kentucky and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) in cooperation with the Friends of The Arboretum, a non-profit, member-supported organization. The Friends of The Arboretum helps ensure that The Arboretum remains a premier public botanical garden, outdoor classroom, and urban sanctuary.

History

In 1983 students and faculty of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the Department of Biology proposed an arboretum on UK grounds. One-hundred acres of land south of Alumni Drive was designated as the site. In 1986 UK and LFUCG joined forces to develop The Arboretum. It was designed to have 50 acres for "passive recreation," to be open to the public, to have a 12-member advisory committee consisting of six representatives each from UK and LFUCG, and to have maintenance provided by UK. In 1992, The Friends of The Arboretum was established by members of the Fayette County Master Gardeners Association, the Lexington Council of Federated Garden Clubs, and other Lexington and Kentucky citizens. Its purpose was to stimulate interest in The Arboretum, to encourage participation in its educational programs and recreational aspects, and to raise funds and solicit Friends members to assist in the development of The Arboretum. In 1998 the Walk Across Kentucky was completed and opened. It contains over 1,200 native species

that were planted from 1990 to 1998. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center was completed in 2002. It is named for a UK alumna who made a generous \$200,000 challenge grant to build the visitor center.



Regions

Appalachian Plateau, Bluegrass, Cumberland Mountain, Knobs, Mississippi Embayment, Pennyrile, Shawnee Hills, Arboretum Woods



Friends of The Arboretum Membership

Member contributions support The Arboretum's outstanding educational programs and events. Members receive discounts on classes and at several area nurseries, free admission to the spring and fall plant exchanges, and a subscription to The Friends of The Arboretum quarterly newsletter. For more information, call 859-257-6955.

Mission Statement

The Arboretum celebrates nature, fosters an understanding of relationships between humans and their natural world, provides cultural opportunities for the community, and serves as a community center for environmental education, horticulture, and urban forestry renewal. The Arboretum emphasizes research on the environment and attention to conservation issues.

The Arboretum

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