



# McConnells Trace Greenway Improvements Lexington, KY November, 2011 - January, 2012

The purpose of this project was to restore water quality in The McConnells Trace Greenway Improvements project offers a new perspective on incorporating a healthy ecosystem into our neighborhoods. McConnells Trace is one of Lexington’s most recent, high-density neighborhoods. The subdivision was built with bands of greenspace to serve as utility corridors, storm sewer drains and detention basins. In many neighborhoods, greenways are often considered a liability rather than an asset. Because of safety hazards and ongoing maintenance costs, neither builders, homeowners nor municipalities want to be held responsible for a parcel that has little development value. Often these areas are abandoned, neglected and considered a “no man’s land”.

The purpose of this project was to turn an eyesore into an asset. The city had taken ownership of the property and had reached out to the community. Homeowners and local volunteers had planted trees along the site’s perimeter. However, significant erosion was washing out gullies and filling the detention basin with sediment. EcoGro was awarded a bid to stabilize drainage areas and build the base for a spur trail from Town Branch Trail through the greenway.



*Before: eroding channel, bare soil, construction debris and sediment.*



*Left: Limestone used to stabilize drainage channels, provide natural creek habitat and build plunge pools below storm water outfalls. Above: Large stone benches along the trail offer a destination within the greenway.*



*After: Educational sign along new wood chip trail and riparian buffer planted with Kentucky native trees, wildflowers and grasses.*

### Key Features:

- Wood chip trail to Town Branch
- Stabilized natural rock channel
- Water quality improvements
- Educational signs
- Riparian buffer
- Native trees, grasses & wildflowers

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