



Clays Spring Park Spring Restoration

Clays Spring Park, Lexington, KY
October, 2017

It began with a search for water that disappeared from the landscape.

We were looking to uncover and restore a historic spring that was once part of the Henry Clay estate. This had been the namesake for Clays Spring Park. The project began with a group of neighbors who remembered the park's spring and wanted to revive the most significant feature on this property. Funding was provided by Lexington's 5th Council District Representative Bill Farmer to restore the spring.

The first phase was finding where the water was. When the subdivision was developed, concrete pipes were run through the park to convey stormwater drainage from surrounding streets and properties. Small seams and gaps between these pipes were allowing some of the spring water to enter and flow through the stormwater system. City utility workers were able to run a robotic camera through the pipes to detect the area where groundwater was flowing in. We followed this information with auguring a series of holes to visually detect water, then measure its elevation and flow. With this process we also found remnants of a cement basin had been filled in many years ago. We knew we were close. The moment of truth came when we excavated the area, removed a section of storm drains and pulled out the concrete.

After finding the spring next came building a structure that would allow the spring to flow in as well as the existing storm drain to convey rain through. A dry stack limestone wall was the method of choice that allowed the hydraulic criteria, as well as fitting with the materials and means that best represent what the spring would have looked like in Henry Clay's days. The project was a success and has been much appreciated by the community.

