

Funded by



**'Plant
for the Planet'**



Horse Cave Receives 'Plant for the Planet' KU Matching Grant

The city of Horse Cave was notified of its receipt of a matching grant from KU in the amount of \$3,126.00 toward purchasing 50 trees for the Maple Street Park Improvement Project.

The City of Horse Cave currently owns and maintains 4.69 acres bounded by Maple Avenue, Mary Thomas Avenue, and directly behind three residences and a church on Cave St. The north is bounded by City owned property (historic Thomas House) along Main Street and downtown Horse Cave. Public hearings show that all residents within the area have expressed their approval of developing a family oriented park in this urban space of Horse Cave yet rural area of Hart County, KY.

The City proposes to make improvements to the area including the construction of a walking trail, a picnic pavilion with restrooms, a natural play area, and the planting of native small, medium, and large trees in what is currently a minimally tree covered space. "This grant will help us provide a beautiful canopy of trees for the new park", noted Mayor Randall Curry.

The city of Horse Cave realizes the importance of trees to our community. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day and one acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. Trees can also be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism and commercial retail areas are more attractive. The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams. (USDA Forest Service)

As part of our tree planting effort, the City will engage local students to plant the first tree while explaining correct tree locations and the importance of planting native Kentucky trees. Other community tree planting efforts will engage the city's volunteer beautification committee, the volunteer park committee, the Mayor and Council, and others community members who may wish to honor or remember family or friends.

"Trees will be purchased and planted in the fall of 2015, allowing a better chance of survival and less maintenance during the first summer", commented Ken Russell, park project coordinator.

Fifty native trees to include Dogwoods(20), Redbuds(12), Willows(2), Maples(12), and Pin Oaks(4) have been chosen to complete the tree planting project.

For more information on the park and how you can support the project, go to www.horsecaveky.com click on drop down box 'boards and commissions/park committee.