



changing lives + landscapes

# Youth GreenCorps

Growing the future together...Engaging youth in the building of sustainable communities



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Spring & Summer 2007



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## What is the Youth GreenCorps?

**The Youth GreenCorps is an exciting new Lexington community initiative that engages youth in local environmental, horticultural and artistic hands-on projects.**

The Youth GreenCorps will provide youth opportunities to be of **service to their communities**. Youth from all ages will do hands-on work to:

- support existing urban gardens and create new urban gardens
- plant trees, create natural habitats and rain gardens
- build birdhouses, compost bins and raised beds
- create art installations from recycled objects and create public murals
- develop community green map designs
- perform exterior home repair for community elders
- cleanup parks, water systems and neighborhoods
- distribute compact fluorescent "spiral" bulbs
- and other work to beautify or **green-ify** the community.

The Youth GreenCorps will begin these projects in the **northeast** Lexington community with a vision of expanding throughout the city.

**Nurture the next generation of community leaders:** *engage young people as true partners in creating community while nurturing their artistic and leadership skills, environmental awareness, and commitment to community action.*

**Youth GreenCorps Spring 2007:** involved practical indoor activities: constructing bird houses and bird feeders from recycled material, constructing and painting raised beds , painting and distributing garbage cans, participating in design charettes for the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, cosponsoring Trash Cantina on Earth Day at Woodland Park with Green Thumb and TERRA, establishing a community garden on Nelson Avenue, participating in the Health Fair at Lexington Traditional Magnet School.

**Youth GreenCorps Summer 2007:** collaborated with the Mayors Youth Employment Program, Partners for Youth and Third Street Stuff. Summer 2007 work sites for the Youth GreenCorps included Third Street Stuff, LTMS, Saint James apartments, The Rock/La Roca Methodist Church garden, Nelson Avenue community garden, Cove Haven Cemetery, Westend Community Empowerment Project, Hill n' Dale Park naming ceremony, Bluegrass Initiative with Bidwell community meeting and the Lexington Community Garden Tour.

# Spring 2007

## When did the Youth GreenCorps begin?

The Youth GreenCorps began meeting in February on Saturday mornings 9am-12 noon and worked together through the end May.



The spring Youth GreenCorps activities were practical indoor activities and included: constructing bird houses and bird feeders from recycled material, constructing and painting raised beds, painting and distributing garbage cans, participating in design charettes for the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, co-sponsoring Trash Cantina on Earth Day at Woodland Park, establishing a community garden on Nelson avenue, participated in the Health Fair Lexington Traditional Magnet School.



### Birdhouses and birdfeeders.

We built birdhouses from the model designed by retired UK professor Wayne Davis

who is a YGC friend. Each youth participant built and took home a birdhouse and a bird feeder made from recycled plastic liter bottles.



**Trash Cans**

Painting metal trash cans was a favorite and fun activity. The youth could paint whatever they wanted although we encouraged themes that connected with the legacy of African American

jockeys at the Kentucky Association racetrack and ecological themes. We also recognized that their was need to do something practical to help keep trash off the streets and remind us of our recycling efforts. About ten garbage cans have been distributed around northeast Lexington on streets such are on Race St., 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut, 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut, N. Lime, Nelson Ave. and two requested by the ML King neighborhood association sit near the fire station on ML King Blvd.





**Raised beds..were** constructed and painted for backyard gardening. Several families took these home and are using them this summer to plant vegetables and flowers. The Nelson Ave. garden

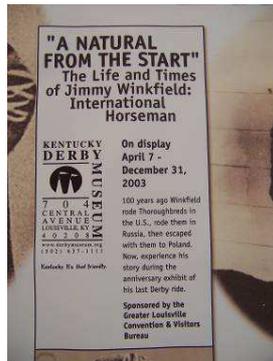
has several painted raised beds and others containers that were painted.



**Isaac  
Murphy  
Memorial  
Art Garden(IMMAG) design charette.**

The design committee of IMMAG held three community design charettes in February and one of those meetings was specifically geared towards the youth in the community. The Youth GreenCorps hosted this design gathering and created wonderful drawings from very creative ideas.





### Trash Cantina.

YGC cosponsored this event with TERRA and Green Thumb at Woodland park on Earth Day. This event included music, food

and collaborative efforts to paint trash cans, recycled containers, recycled plastic roofing material and other found objects. Some of these materials that were painted have been placed in the community garden on Nelson avenue. About 80-100 people participated in this fun and practical event.

# Summer 2007

**Program dates: June 18-August 3 2007.. YGC met Monday –Friday from 9am to 1pm.**

YGC gathered each morning at **Third Street Stuff** and then went to project sites.

## Youth GreenCorps

Hill'n'dale Park naming ceremony



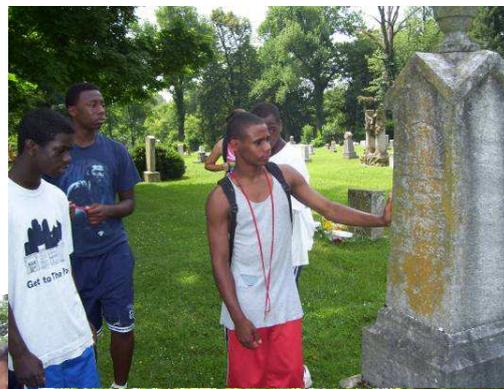
**Youth GreenCorps cleaned up the meditation space at LTMS  
Third Street Stuff area garden and art projects**



**Saint James apartments.. in a perennial garden in the inner courtyard**



Covehaven cemetery... cleaned graveston



Living Arts and Science Center Arts Program





WECEP... West End  
Community Empowerment  
Project... we worked with 70  
youth... we built internal  
using straw bale construction  
... we painted murals and  
found objects, we we  
established for small garden  
plots



La Roca church... we picked vegetables



Nelson avenue community garden .... we build raise bids painted art objects ... placed by bike art Sculpture and metal sculpture pieces, planting perennial flower gardens, interacted with 15-20 neighborhood youth and adults look after this community garden





MLKingf Neighborhood Association....requested garbage cans along MLKing Blvd.



**Lexington community garden tour** .. YGC helped organize this inspiring event. The youth gave presentations at three tour stops and helped promote and advertise the garden tour

**The Rock/La Roc a United Methodist Church**



1015 N Limestone; Gardens located behind Arlington Elementary (and gardens on Price Ave and Todds Rd)  
Rev. Aaron Mansfield; (859) 255-0712;

[therocklaroca@alltell.net](mailto:therocklaroca@alltell.net)



Members of The Rock/La Roca and the surrounding community planted their garden together in April. Their decisions for what to plant were based mostly on the preferences of the individuals that helped with the planting. Since the original work days dedicated to planting, the garden has been tended by neighbors from the community and in the spare time of those who work at and attend La Roca. The garden contains a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and beans. Church leaders often harvest the vegetables as they mature and distribute them to the neighbors, but community members are encouraged to harvest and use the vegetables themselves as well. Rev. Aaron and the congregation at La Roca invite other houses of worship to find God in the garden and to create Gardens of Eating

**Nelson Avenue Garden.**



318 Nelson Ave Contact: Bruce Mundy (859) 494-4883, Jim Embry, jgembrO@cs.com, (859) 312-7024 The Nelson Avenue garden was begun in April as a project of the Sustainable Communities Network's Youth Green Corps in collaboration with the Nelson Ave community. In the spring they worked together on the garden on Saturday mornings. Compost and mulch were donated by the Great Mulch Company on Midland Place and two pieces of art from recycled objects (and bicycles) were donated from local artists. Since the original planting and work days of the spring, the garden has been tended largely by community residents. Rakim Baker joyfully accepts the responsibility of cutting the grass every week. The garden contains a variety of different flowers, herbs, and vegetables in addition to various art projects and the recently added horseshoe

pit in the back. The Nelson Avenue garden is connected in spirit to the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden on Third St. and Midland, an idea that is still in the final design and capital funding stages but is intended to commemorate the contributions of Isaac Murphy and other African American jockeys to the history of Lexington and the horse racing industry, as well as be an active site for the community gardening movement in Lexington.

**Ballard Griffith Towers** travel west on Second St past Broadway and Jefferson, an turn left into the very next driveway, park in rear of building and come to the west side of th building.

300 West Second Street; part of Lexington Housing Authority  
Carolyn Smith, 859-281-5091

The garden at Ballard Griffith Towers was established around 1998 in conjunction with the building's most recent renovation. It consists of several raised beds and a very beautiful pond full of water lilies and other aquatic plants, as well as many large koi fish. The garden and pond are cared for by several of the Towers' residents, and the vegetables harvested from the beds are shared among the people who live there.



**West End Community Empowerment Project (WECEP)** Black and Williams Center 498 Georgetown St  
(859) 255-0926 Melvin Cowan, Dora Hudson

The Youth Green Corps teamed up with the 70+ youth of WECEP's summ\* program the week of July 9 to re-establish a community garden and create art projects on the grounds of the Black and Williams Center on Georgetown Street that houses the program. We planted flowers and tomatoes in existing beds and built some raised beds for more plants. Older students helped build a picnic table in the shape of a turtle using straw bale

construction, and another group painted murals on pieces of plywood and a mailbox. The design of the turtle was selected in our desire to connect with the Native American tradition of referring to the North American continent as Turtle Island.





**Lexington Senior Center**  
 travel out  
 Nicholasville  
 Rd and turn left  
 on Alumni Dr.  
 Nicholasville  
 Rd Robyn Pease and Bruce Burris (latitudearts@yahoo.com)



The garden at the Senior Center has been in place for 6-8 years. It is tended by the senior citizens who come to the center and the produce that is harvested from the garden is shared among them.



**Third Street Stuff North on Limestone, past Second St and Mechanic, turn left into parking lot before you get to Third Street  
 253 N Limestone**

(859) 255-5301; Pat Gerhard Owner been developing the area around Third Street Stuff and Coffee for years, but this summer the Youth Green Corps adopted the shop and neighboring parking lot as a working space. We built a fish pond near the building, planted trees and flowers, and constructed a peace pole that is still in the works. In the spaces more visible from Limestone, we built two wooden sculpture pieces from recycled and found objects, and built a bench using straw bale construction, which makes use of straw bales, chicken wire, cement, and sand. Special thanks to Tommy Neville, master stringer of many things, for the beaded tree, the newest installation of art in our garden.



