



PASSPORT JOURNAL





KENTUCKY GARDEN TRAIL



KENTUCKY

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| 2. Mahr Park Arboretum | 6. Waterfront Botanical | 10. Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve |
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What is Kentucky Garden Trail

Embark on an enchanting botanical journey along the Kentucky Garden Trail, meandering through nine diverse communities in Kentucky. Uncover 12 of Kentucky's most breathtaking gardens and arboreta, each with its own unique charm and allure. Whether you're a seasoned garden enthusiast or a first-time explorer, the Kentucky Garden Trail has something special for everyone. Our personalized passport program allows you to record your journey, collect stamps, and document the stunning landscapes, native flowers, and historic sites you encounter. Get your hands on the Kentucky Garden Trail Passport Journal and dive into this inspiring adventure by visiting any participating garden or local tourism office. It's time to immerse yourself in the natural wonders of the Bluegrass State and create lasting memories along the way.

Be sure to check out the Kentucky Garden Trail website for Trip Planning Ideas!

kentuckygardentrail.com



12 unique gardens in
9 Kentucky communities!





MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY



Location

Doran Arboretum
300 Hickory Drive
Murray, KY 42071

Visit

Free admission
murraystate.edu

Doran Arboretum at Murray State

The Doran Arboretum, on the campus of Murray State University, is a fully accessible horticultural display, public garden, and educational laboratory. Visitors come for a peaceful walk around the one-mile path that is surrounded by a diverse collection of plants. The arboretum features a scenic view of a small lake surrounded by pollinator plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Through the honeycomb windows of the apiary, visitors can watch bees buzzing in and out of their hives. Kids can play upon play-pockets that incorporate educational components about nature.

Passport sticker here

Scan for More Info:



Hours:

The park is open from dawn to dusk daily





Location
Mahr Park Arboretum
55 Mahr Park Rd
Madisonville, KY 42431

Visit
Free admission
mahrparkarboretum.com

Mahr Park Arboretum

Mahr Park Arboretum, spanning 265 acres in Madisonville, Kentucky, was generously donated to the city by Dr. Merle and Glema Mahr in 2009 and officially opened in 2016. It offers a diverse natural landscape abundant with wildlife, native flora, and recreational amenities. Visitors can explore trails, a Nature Play Area, fishing ponds, a kayak launch, pedal boats, a dog park, disc golf courses, and picnic pavilions. The park also boasts two event barns and the historic Mahr Home. With features like native plant gardens, a 7-acre pollinator garden, a wetland area, and a community garden, it achieved level II arboretum status in 2023, showcasing over 100 woody species. The park's history dates back to the Mahrs' arrival in 1953, their love for the land, and their philanthropic contributions to the community, culminating in the establishment of this cherished arboreal sanctuary.



Scan for More Info:



Hours:

The park is open from dawn to dusk daily





Location

Western Kentucky Botanical
2731 West 2nd
Street Owensboro, KY 42301

Visit

Kids under 18: \$2
Adults: \$8
Veterans/ Seniors 65+: \$5
wkb.org

Western Kentucky Botanical

The Western Kentucky Botanical Garden grows in Owensboro, Kentucky. It is currently the only dedicated botanical garden in the Tri-State Region. The garden has become a center for not only horticultural excellence, but is also a hub of educational programming, various meeting locations and a venue of entertainment events for all occasions- both for youth and adults! The over half-mile paved pathways are accessible to everyone where there is much to teach and learn among the thirteen themed gardens, several significant art sculptures, and, now also included, a historic home from the 1840's. With photo opportunities on every corner, The Western Kentucky Botanical Garden is sure to cultivate beautiful memories as well as enhance each individual's relationship with plant life.

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Scan for More Info:



Hours:

March - October:
Monday - Saturday: 9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday: 12 PM - 4 PM

November - February:
Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM



Location

Baker Arboretum
4801 Morgantown Road,
Bowling Green 42101

Visit

Free admission
Donations accepted
jerrybakerfoundation.org

Baker Arboretum

The Baker Arboretum at Downing Museum, established in 1992 by Jerry Baker, spans 115 acres in Bowling Green. Designed by landscape architect Mitchell Leichhardt, it showcases a diverse array of trees, including dogwoods, magnolias, conifers, and Japanese maples, alongside sculptures and water features. With over 600 species and 1500 varieties, it offers year-round attractions, including spring blooms, summer foliage, fall colors, and winter conifers. Visitors can also explore the Downing Museum, featuring works by Kentucky artist Joe Downing and regional talents, free of charge. Noteworthy collections include 80 species of conifers, 100 types of Asian maples, and 150 species of Kentucky native plants, including endangered ones. Recognized with certifications like Monarch Waystation and American Conifer Society Reference Garden, the arboretum supports collaborative research and a university internship program, ensuring continuous growth and activity.

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Scan for More Info:



Hours:

Apr – Oct : Tue – Sat: 10am – 5pm
Nov – Mar : Tue – Sat: 10am – 4pm
Sun – Mon: CLOSED
Closed all national holidays



Location

Bernheim Forest & Arboretum
2075 Clermont Rd
Clermont, KY 40110

Visit

Members are Free
\$15 recommended donation
bernheim.org

Bernheim Forest @ Arboretum

Bernheim Forest & Arboretum is 16,000+ acres of pristine, wild forest in Clermont, Kentucky. Founded by Isaac W. Bernheim in 1929, our mission is connecting people with nature. Nestled in the heart of Bourbon country, Bernheim has something for everyone. Explore more than 40 miles of trails. Let the kids run wild in our 17-acre natural playground. Enjoy the lakes, gardens and plant collections found throughout our Arboretum. Be inspired by art in our natural landscapes. Take an outside chance, and explore our wildness.



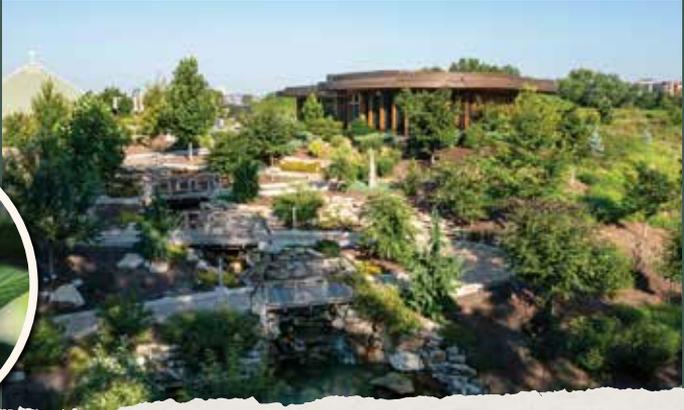
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Hours:

Bernheim: 7 AM – Sunset
Isaac’s Café: 10 AM - 4 PM
Visitor Center: 10 AM - 4 PM





Location

Waterfront Botanical Gardens
1435 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206

Visit

Free Admission
\$10 recommended donation
waterfrontgardens.org

Waterfront Botanical Gardens

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens originated from Botanica, established in 1993 to engage, entertain, and educate the local community about the natural world. In 2001, a bequest from member Helen Harrigan catalyzed Botanica's transformation, leading to the creation of Louisville's Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The Gardens officially opened to the public in 2019. As an urban botanical garden, Waterfront Botanical Gardens is a necessary green space for recreation and relaxation. Their programs and events promote cultural exchange, community connection, and highlight the importance of nature. The Gardens serve as a welcoming space for all, urging collective action to cultivate a stronger, more unified community.

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Scan for More Info:



Hours:

March – October:
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Thursday: 10am - 7pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

November – February:
Closed Monday - Thursday
Friday, Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm



Location

University of Louisville
Belknap Campus
North Information Center
2000 South First Street
Louisville, KY 40208

Visit

Free Admission
tammy.lawson@louisville.edu

University of Louisville

The University of Louisville's Belknap Campus may be located in an urban area, but the 309 acre, park-like campus has more than 1,100 trees representing a multitude of species. The campus offers the ease of self-guided touring with easy-to-find identification plaques to assist you in discovering the most significant and interesting species among them. The full tour is roughly a 1.75 mile walk and takes only an hour and a half, and will have you feeling like an expert arborist.

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Hours:

North visitor center operates 7:45 am – 4:00 pm Monday-Friday. UofL Arboretum is located in a public university, the tree tour can be walked before or after hours and on the weekends.



Location

Cave Hill Cemetery & Arboretum
701 Baxter Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204

Visit

Free Admission
cavehillcemetery.com

Cave Hill Cemetery

Cave Hill, a Victorian-era Cemetery and arboretum in Louisville, Kentucky, boasts a rich horticultural heritage dating back over 175 years. Initially situated on the outskirts of Louisville, it has evolved into a stunning landscape under the guidance of visionary leadership. Recognized for its beauty and historical significance, Cave Hill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Notably, it houses both the Cave Hill National Cemetery, with over 5,500 military graves, and the city's sole accredited arboretum. The cemetery serves as the final resting place for diverse figures including Mary Ann "Tip" Saunders, Patty and Mildred J. Hill (composers of "Happy Birthday"), Muhammad Ali, Colonel Harland Sanders, Mia Zapata, and Paul Hornung. With over 500 tree and shrub species, including state champion Yellowwood, Cave Hill is renowned for its arboreal diversity.

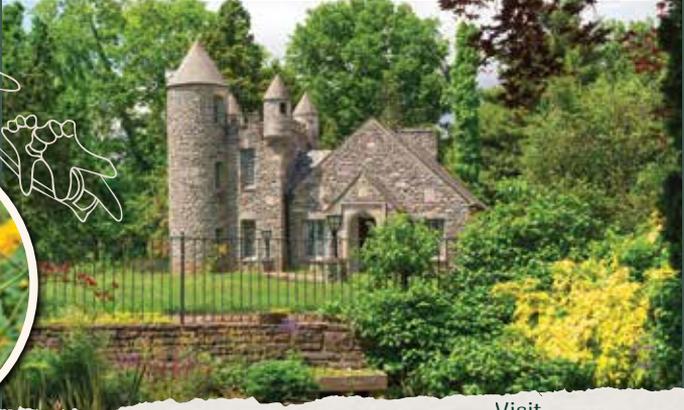
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Scan for More Info:



Hours:

Sunday-Saturday: 8 AM – 4:45 PM



Location

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens
6220 Old Lagrange Rd
Crestwood, KY 40014

Visit

Members: Free
Kids 5 and under: Free
Adults: \$9
Seniors 65 + & Kids 6-17: \$5
yewdellgardens.org

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

Situated in Oldham County, Kentucky, Yew Dell is renowned for its extensive gardens, plant research, and education - nestled within a National Register listed property. Its varied display gardens ensure year-round blooms surrounding a blend of historic and modern, award-winning architecture.

Features:

15+ Themed Gardens, Educational Workshops, Historic Buildings, Children's Programming, Hiking On Woodland Trail, Community Events, On-site Café, Online Plant Market, Plant Research & Nursery, Summer Concert Series, Garden Gift Shop, Fairy Forest, and Award-winning Architecture

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Hours:

Regular Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday 12 PM - 4 PM

Winter Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 4 PM



Location

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve
12501 Harmony Landing Road,
Goshen, KY 40026

Visit

Free admission
creaseymahannaturepreserve.org

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve is a visitor-supported public charity that serves as a vital and important resource for the greater region with thousands of annual visitors. There is no admission to access the scenic rolling hills and meadows at this family-friendly destination. Creasey Mahan is open 365-days a year from dawn to dusk.

Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve was dedicated by Virginia Creasey Mahan and Howard Mahan to enrich all members of the community through conservation, education, and community enjoyment. We are bringing nature and community together in a beautiful setting, with equal access for all.



Scan for More Info:



Hours:

Open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.





Location

Liberty Hall Historic Site
202 Wilkinson Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Visit

Garden admission free
Open from dawn to dusk, daily.
libertyhall.org

Liberty Hall Historic Site

The Liberty Hall Historic Site in Frankfort, Kentucky, is a National Historic Landmark along the Kentucky River, featuring two houses built by U.S. Senator John Brown: Liberty Hall (1796) and the Orlando Brown House (1835). Both houses display original Brown family furnishings and artifacts. The site offers various tours, exhibits, educational programs, and a museum store. The nearly five-acre grounds boast public gardens maintained for over two centuries, including a four-square garden behind Liberty Hall with historical features and a Mothers' Garden honoring maternal figures.

Newer additions include Euphemia's Butterfly Garden, a food forest, and a pollinator garden. Notable trees on the grounds include Catalpas planted by the Browns in 1800 and subsequent generations, along with sycamores and Kentucky native species, providing a habitat for diverse birdlife. The site also holds historical significance as the location of the first Sunday School west of the Allegheny Mountains.

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Scan for More Info:



Hours:

Open daily from dawn to dusk. Guided Tours of Liberty Hall & the Orlando Brown House are offered Monday-Saturday at 11:30am and 1:30pm



Location

University of Kentucky
500 Alumni Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

Visit

Kentucky Children's Garden: See our website
for pricing information
Donations accepted
arboretum.ca.uky.edu

The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, is a 100-acre arboretum and public garden located on the campus of the University of Kentucky in the heart of Lexington, Kentucky. We receive over 500,000 visitors annually who can enjoy and learn about our three main features, the Walk Across Kentucky, the Horticultural Gardens, and the Kentucky Children's Garden.

The Walk Across Kentucky features wild-collected native plants from the seven physiographic regions of Kentucky. The Horticultural Gardens include the Home Demonstration Garden, the Perennial Teaching Garden, and the Flight 5191 Memorial Rose Garden. The Kentucky Children's Garden is a place for children and their families to connect with and learn about plants and the environment.



Scan for More Info:



Hours:

Grounds: Open daily from dawn to dusk, except for UK Football home games.
Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center: open seasonally, check our website for details.





KENTUCKY GARDEN TRAIL



Get Rewarded for Exploring!

Discover the Kentucky Garden Trail, an immersive experience designed to introduce you to the diverse array of botanical gardens and arboreta spread across Kentucky's landscape. As you embark on this Trail, you are not only visiting gardens but also weaving through the rich tapestry of communities that these gardens call home. The Trail invites you to engage in mindfulness and appreciation of nature as you explore each of the 12 gardens.



Upon starting your journey, you can obtain a Passport Journal from any participating garden or local tourism office. Each garden along the trail promises a distinct encounter, complemented by a custom passport sticker depicting a plant found within its unique landscape. Upon visiting 6 gardens, you can present your Passport Journal to an employee at the 6th garden to sign, get your sticker, and a Garden Trail Gift as a token of your progress.

Continue your exploration to all 12 gardens, collecting 12 stickers. As you do so, you will unravel the beauty of rare plants and trees, partake in moments of reflection on garden benches, and wander the serene trails that connect these natural havens.

Upon your journey's completion, visit the 12th garden, present your Reward Form for signing, and capture a photo of the completed Reward Form to upload on the website to claim your well-deserved Kentucky Garden Trail Grand Prize by mail. This grand prize is a tangible memento of your immersive journey through Kentucky's diverse and captivating gardens and communities. Choose from an official Kentucky Garden Trail Tote or T-shirt!



Kentucky Garden Trail Prize Form

6th Garden Employee Signature

Name of Garden

12th Garden Employee Signature

Name of Garden

You will receive your 6th Garden Gift directly from the 6th garden with your Passport Sticker!
For your 12th Garden Grand Prize, submit this COMPLETED form by email to Director@TourOldham.com, or upload form online at KentuckyGardenTrail.com.



