

FCR 4

Office of the President
April 21, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

CONSTRUCT CHILDREN'S GARDEN AT THE ARBORETUM

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve initiation of the construction of the Children's Garden in the Arboretum.

Background: The Arboretum was created in 1991 as a joint effort between the University of Kentucky and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The Arboretum was designated as the Official State Botanical Garden of Kentucky in March 2000. The Arboretum consists of 100 acres of natural gardens that provide year-round activities and serves as a community center for environmental education, horticulture, and urban forest renewal, provides cultural opportunities for the community, and emphasizes research on the environment and attention to conservation issues.

The Children's Garden will be a safe 1.85 acres outdoor environment designed to help children two to 10 years old learn about plants and the environment. There will be an integrated combination of various "child-scaled" theme gardens, garden-like elements for experiential play, and gardens planted and maintained by children. There also will be a small amphitheater and shelter for presentations; interactive educational exhibits including a child-scaled log cabin; a miniature train; inter-connecting paths; and comfortable benches. Similar to the greater Arboretum, the Children's Garden will incorporate several geographical features found in Kentucky including rock escarpments, a woodland, a meadow, and a stream flowing into a pond.

The scope of this project may ultimately reach \$2,200,000 and will be funded with gifts and pledges. The initial phase, using \$630,000 of gifts received, will construct the geographical features including rock escarpments; the stream and pond; and some of the walks and plantings. Other enhancements will be constructed as funds become available. Contingent upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the University will request interim authorization for this project from the Council on Postsecondary Education at its May 22, 2009 meeting and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee at its May 19, 2009 meeting.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____