

# FCR 15

Office of the President

December 2, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

## EXPAND ARBORETUM VISITOR CENTER – DESIGN PHASE CAPITAL PROJECT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Expand Arboretum Visitor Center - Design Phase capital project.

Background: Pursuant to Governing Regulation II.G.3, the Finance Committee reviews and recommends to the Board of Trustees any capital project with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 or more.

This project will initiate the design phase of the expansion OF the existing Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center located at the Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky for the Martin–Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment. This project will expand the multi-purpose space, renovate restrooms, improve wayfinding and make site improvements adjacent to the existing building, all of which will enhance and improve the visitor experience. The project will also include upgrades to the mechanical, electrical and fire safety systems.

The design phase will also address other improvements to the Arboretum, including but not limited to pedestrian access and safety enhancements, expanded parking areas, improved operations and maintenance facilities, an education center and overall improvements to the Walk Across Kentucky trail system.

This \$3,000,000 project, authorized by the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly, is well within the total legislative authorization of \$10,000,000 and will be funded with a combination of agency and private funds.

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Action taken:      ☒ Approved      ☐ Disapproved      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



