



A P R I L 2 0 2 1

# Pensacola Park Post

A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Distribution  
Find us also on the web @ [www.PensacolaPark.org](http://www.PensacolaPark.org)

## Interurban Line by Lisa Riddle

Have you ever wondered where Suburban Court got its name? “Suburban” means the outer edges of a city, and Pensacola Park is not suburban today, but when it was developed it was on the edge of the city of Lexington.

By the late 1800s, city-dwellers here and across America had developed a romanticized notion of life in the country, where the slower pace, fresh air, and the unfortunate bigotry of living away from other ethnic and racial groups were considered better for one’s health and well-being. At the time, only the wealthy could afford the extra expense of living far away from the city center, but two developments in the early 1900s changed that: light rail lines began stretching farther away from downtown, and the more affordable “bungalow” style and kit houses became fashionable. Suddenly suburban life was in reach of the middle class.

A streetcar system was moving people around Lexington in the late 1800s. By 1910 it was joined to the new light rail “interurban” lines that had developed along Georgetown, Paris, Versailles, and Nicholasville Pikes (see map). This light rail expansion prompted builders to build this new style of modest homes along those rail lines, sparking the suburban development of Lexington.

If you were an early resident of Pensacola Park, you could walk to the interurban stop, ride to the closest streetcar stop at the main gate of UK, and switch to the streetcar to get to downtown work, shopping, and entertainment. Afterward you could return to your idyllic suburban home.

Soon after Pensacola Park was established, Lexington witnessed a rapid shift from rail to automobile transit. Streetcar ridership peaked in the mid-1920s, and by the late 1930s the streetcars and interurban were replaced with the buses and automobiles that still stake their claims to Nicholasville Road.



Map of Interurban Line



Lexington – Nicholasville Interurban Line Passengers



142 Goodrich Ave backyard looking at what is now Southland

## **CRIME ALERT**

There has been a rash of criminal activity in the neighborhood (Particularly on Suburban and Penmoken). Please keep an eye out and remember:

- Report break-ins, theft, harassment, and destruction of property to the police. Our neighborhood association can send out neighborhood notification about criminal activity, but we are not the police, and cannot enforce law.
- Don't leave things unlocked

**Earth Day:** In 1970, Denis Hayes and Senator Gaylord Nelson spearheaded a celebration of the earth – Earth Day. An estimated 20 million folks in the U.S. participated in festivities that first year. Now going on its 6<sup>th</sup> decade, Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Arbor Day:** In 1872, Arbor Day was first celebrated in the Nebraska Territory. By 1920, 45 states had designated a day devoted to planting and tending trees. Now all states celebrate National Arbor Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of April; this year that's April 30<sup>th</sup>.

For the 2021 **Reforest the Bluegrass**, free tree seedlings will be available for Fayette County residents on April 9-11, April 16-18, and April 23-25, starting at noon. The location nearest our neighborhood is Good Foods Coop on Southland Drive.



Sustainable Growth Task Force

In 1958, Lexington became our country’s first city to establish an urban growth boundary (UGB). Expanding or maintaining the USG has long been contentious. So, in 2019, the City Council established the Sustainable Growth Task Force (SGTF) to provide guidance to the Planning Commission, help manage growth via data, and create a framework for Comprehensive Plan updates. The task force is charged with identifying land that can be developed and when expansion may be necessary. Scenarios being considered are no policy changes, Imagine Lexington, and maximum efficiency. Imagine Lexington encourages greater densities, restores funding for affordable housing, and protects vulnerable neighborhoods. The maximum efficiency scenario focuses on aggressive policy changes aimed at intensified new development, infill, and redevelopment.

Within the USG, 1045 acres of vacant land have been identified. Theres about 1000 acres of commercial, 1000 acres (2122 parcels) of residential, and 3000 acres of agricultural properties.

Water and wastewater are limiting factors for development. We have ten water basins (Pensacola Park is in the Wolf Run basin) and two treatment plants (Town Branch and West Hickman). The work in our neighborhood was part of EPA-required remedies to Lexington’s sewer overflow problem. If Lexington builds a 20 million gallon storm water storage tank, new sanitary sewer connections can be added – but only within the area of the tank. The Remedial Measures Program should be completed by 2026, at which time development will not be so constrained by sewer capacity. If you’re interested, a public database, [ctims.lexingtonky.gov](https://ctims.lexingtonky.gov), shows capacity in different areas of the city.

**Heads up: in September 2021, the task force will be presenting the Expansion Criteria and User Guide along with the Implementation Framework report.**

Poison Hemlock Identification

Heads up Pensacola Park, there may be some poison Hemlock in the neighborhood. Some suspicious plants have been spotted around the utility strips near Wabash and Lackawanna. Do you know how to identify poison Hemlock? It is often confused with two other plants: Yarrow and Queen Anne’s Lace. Hemlock is best identified by the purple spots on its stem, and the formation of its flowers, which look like an exploding cluster; whereas the other two have flowers in a flat formation. Queen Anne’s lace is popularly identified by a simple rhyme, “The Queen has hairy legs”, so look for fine hairs along the stalk to identify this plant. Yarrow is best identified by its leaf structure, which is often described as hairy and fuzzy, & spirals up along the stalk, with its largest leaves at the base. While Yarrow is benign and Queen Anne’s Lace is considered mildly toxic, touching poison Hemlock is akin to touching poison ivy and ingesting it can be fatal.



Hemlock Flower



Queen Anne's Lace



Yarrow Flower



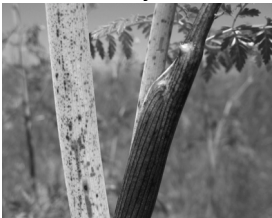
Hemlock Leaf



Queen Anne's Lace



Yarrow Leaf



Hemlock Stalk



Queen Anne's Lace



Yarrow Stalk


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- Flag. Comes in three colors: Black, Green, Red
- Metal Plaque. Comes in two sizes: 5x5 and 3x3
- Stickers. Comes in eight different colors

HOW TO DONATE TO PENSACOLA PARK

All donations to Pensacola Park Neighborhood Preservation Society go 100% back into the community and are tax deductible! We also receive donations from Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards if you choose us as your charity! We accept donations 1 of 3 ways:

- Cash or Check (which you can drop off to our GREEN mailbox at 107 Lackawanna Rd.)
- Paypal. We have a paypal link on our website at [pensacolapark.org](http://pensacolapark.org). Or you can send it through your paypal to: [pensacolapark@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolapark@gmail.com)
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ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at [www.pensacolapark.org](http://www.pensacolapark.org), and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Preservation Society.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at [pensacolapark@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolapark@gmail.com). If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put “stop post” in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.