



EMERGENCE

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TREE CANOPY INCENTIVES ADDED TO LFUCG WATER QUALITY GRANTS



Geomancer founder Nachie Braga presents the proposal to the Water Quality Fees Board.

For the last decade, much of the environmental advocacy in urban Fayette County has revolved around Lexington’s Stormwater Quality Projects Incentive Grant Program and the funding it makes available as part of efforts to address the City’s violations of the Clean Water Act.

Eligibility for these grants has traditionally been calculated on the basis of a reduction in impervious surface area such as pavement, which is a limiting framework through which to approach the repair of our fractured urban water cycle. At the beginning of this year we presented a proposal to Lexington’s Water Quality Fees Board that would amend this program to include additional incentives for the establishment of new native tree canopy.

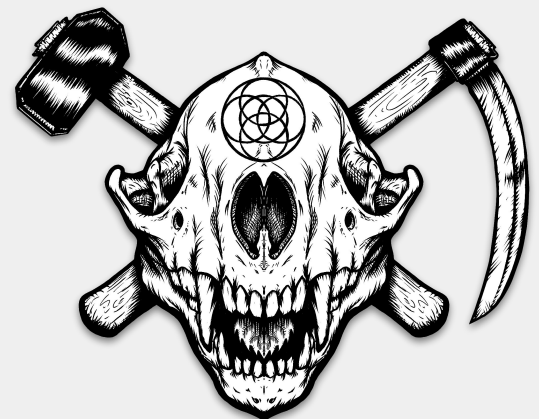
On February 16th the Board approved these amendments, and we have already seen an increase in the inclusion of tree planting elements in new applications this year. In time we should be able to quantify this impact in terms of square footage, which will then allow us to track the success of this new policy.

The linking of a statutorily mandated water quality utility fee to funding for urban tree canopy improvement is a nationally significant win for our public policy efforts, and we are grateful to all those who contributed to this effort.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SUMMER YOUTH JOB TRAINING PROGRAM SEES GREAT SUCCESS

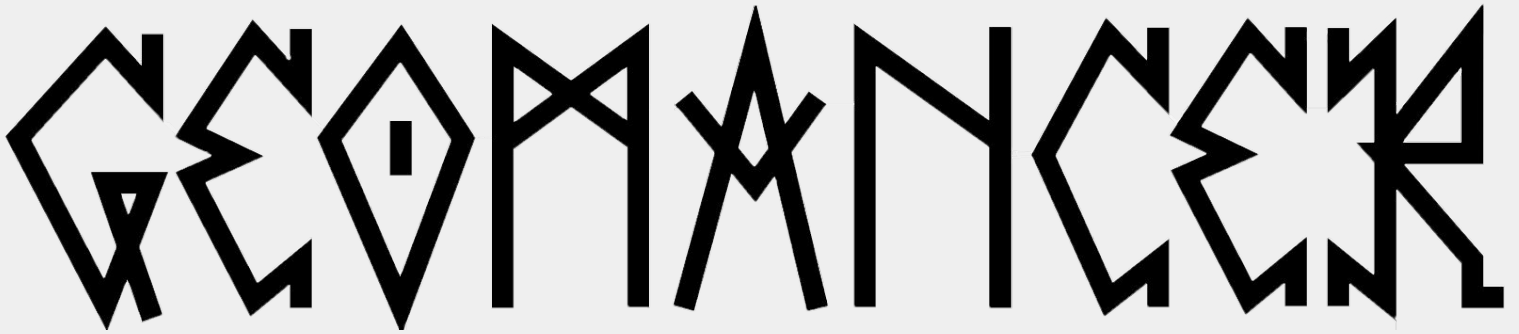


High school students Joel and Jedidah spent the summer working with Geomancer through the Partners For Youth Summer Youth Job Training Program. As part of the program, this brother/sister team was paid by the City of Lexington while learning about ecological land management at Geomancer work sites.



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ECOLOGICAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR THE END TIMES

SITE PREP CONTINUES AT KILRUSH FOOD FOREST LARGE PLANTINGS ANTICIPATED THIS OCTOBER



The University of Kentucky's Engineers Without Borders help on site.

Several years of work clearing invasive woody plants and navigating the bureaucratic pitfalls of municipal encroachment permits and utility easements are finally starting to bear fruit as we prepare for mass plantings at the Kilrush Food Forest this fall and into next year. Establishing this site as a model for urban agroecology will remain our focus for the foreseeable future.

The work to maintain this new urban forest farm as an ecological restoration site will be ongoing, but we are close to shifting the bulk of our activity towards planting and detailed management. Particular care has been taken on this project to preserve and document any beneficial native species already managing to survive on site. As such, we have tagged for preservation several young oaks, cherries, and dogwoods that might otherwise have been lost, and are planning to spread the existing passion flower throughout the site.

APPLYING PERMACULTURE TO PUBLIC POLICY: ASYMMETRICAL APPROACH YIELDING EARLY RESULTS

One of the key things that has always distinguished Geomancer from other businesses is the extent to which we seek to use ecological indicators on the landscape to determine where we should be focusing our efforts rather than limiting ourselves to the confines of what funding opportunities already exist.

As a necessary component in this strategy, we have for several years now participated actively in the civic process in Lexington. These efforts have culminated in the appointment of Geomancer founder Leandro "Nachie" Braga to the City's Infill & Redevelopment Steering Committee, among other roles.

In all of our public interventions we strive to present an unapologetically revolutionary perspective that focuses on the need for material changes in our management of the landscape. It is only because of your support that we are able to pursue this strategy.



Advocating for visionary climate adaptation language in city policy