

2010 OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

KENTUCKY

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**HORSE
COUNTRY**
an unbridled
experience pg. 10

**KENTUCKY
STATE PARKS**

Recreational, historic
and resort parks
have much to
offer pg. 30

**See, Sip
and Savor**

Taste your way
along Kentucky's
Bourbon Trail. pg. 18

**Big Thrills &
Blue Skies**

Kentucky is a land
of lakes, caves and
outdoor adventure. pg. 24

And Much More!

Themed reports, regional
itineraries and top events

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

Grassy, leafy, verdant and lush – notable green spaces are sprouting up across Kentucky and gaining notoriety thanks to the state’s own celebrity gardener.

GARDEN

GREAT GARDENS



One could argue, as naturalist John Muir did, that all of Kentucky is a garden. However, those looking for special gardens and parks have many to choose from.



Even the state’s urban areas are awash in green spaces. Lexington has three notable offerings: the formal, English-style garden at **Ashland Historic Home**; the **Arboretum** on the campus of the University of Kentucky, the state’s official botanical garden; and the grounds of **Lexington Cemetery**, which have been designated a national arboretum. Louisville, a city of celebrated gardens, has the 72-acre **Waterfront Park** on the Ohio River, whose centerpiece is a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, as well as four parks – **Central, Iroquois, Shawnee** and **Algonquin** – designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of New York’s Central Park.

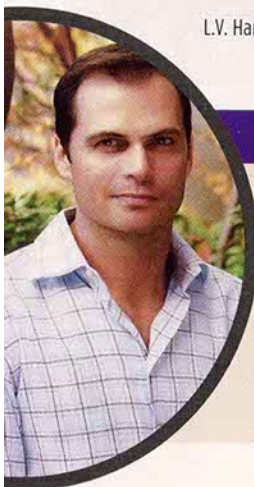
Owensboro’s Botanical Garden is known for its variety, ranging from Japanese gardens to those showcasing roses, irises and daylilies. Oldham County’s Crestwood is a small town, but it has a big garden in **Yew Dell**, one of 13 exceptional gardens in the U.S. recognized by the National Conservancy.

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, a nature preserve in Clermont also inspired by Olmstead, boasts a canopy tree walk 75 feet over the forest floor. **Lilley Cornett Woods** in Whitesburg is one of Kentucky’s few remaining virgin forests, with some trees pre-dating the Pilgrims’ landing at Plymouth Rock.

From top: The Jon Carloftis Family garden; L.V. Harkness Rooftop Garden, a Carloftis design, in Lexington.

“Of all the states I’ve ever seen, Kentucky is the greenest.” – naturalist John Muir

JON CARLOFTIS, MASTER GARDENER



Few states have bragging rights to their own celebrity gardener, but Kentucky does in Jon Carloftis.

Designer to the stars, Jon Carloftis has created gardens for celebrities like Edward Norton, Julianne Moore and Jerry Bruckheimer, but he has saved some of his best work for his native state.

His signature garden is at **Rockcastle Trading Company**,

the family home/business in Rockcastle County.

This year he embarks on one of his most high-profile projects to date when he begins work on the landscaped courtyard for **The Kentucky Experience**, part of the World Equestrian Games coming to the Kentucky Horse Park in the fall of 2010.

