



2300 Richmond Road  
Lexington, KY 40502

P 859.268.6333  
F 859.268.6327

[www.kentuckyamwater.com](http://www.kentuckyamwater.com)

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

Kentucky American Water brings national resources to our local management of the water systems in Fayette and portions of ten other counties in Central Kentucky. As such, we bring local, regional and national perspective to both community improvement and environmental stewardship. From that unique vantage point, we strongly support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and the application for TIGER grant funding.

Like many other cities, Lexington has an aging sewer infrastructure. Another contributing factor to its sanitary sewer overflow is inflow and infiltration from rainwater entering and overwhelming the system. More than \$600 million will be spent to improve the sanitary sewer system in the next 10 years as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency consent decree. The Town Branch Watershed, which contains this project, is targeted for 10 projects totaling \$156 million.

A key element in the Town Branch Commons Corridor project is a series of bioswales and rain gardens, which will effectively and responsibly manage rainwater as an alternative to the already-taxed storm-sewer system. They will not only provide much-needed greenspace in the heart of the city, they also can be shaped to create pockets of slow space within the promenade and protect walkers and bicyclists from surrounding vehicular traffic. Greenway gardens will collect, filter and slow stormwater runoff. Combined with the transportation infrastructure improvements, the project will create safer, more environmentally responsible spaces.

As a company committed to protecting the environment, we work to prevent pollution, promote sustainability and enhance the natural environment. The Town Branch Commons Corridor project will be a key component to helping Lexington and Kentucky American Water achieve our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Nick. O. Rowe  
President

