

Lexington's Segregated Park System, 1916-1956

source: Lexington City Archives;
1929 and 1947 Recreation Maps

These historic parks composed the fabric of Lexington's segregated recreation and leisure spaces. They are mapped onto a 1996 road coverage for the city to illustrate a core historical geography and to locate these parks today. To explore historic images of leisure in these parks, visit the The Daily Aesthetic website:

<http://www.uky.edu/Projects/TDA/fayette/fayette.htm>

Three black parks existed in 1929:

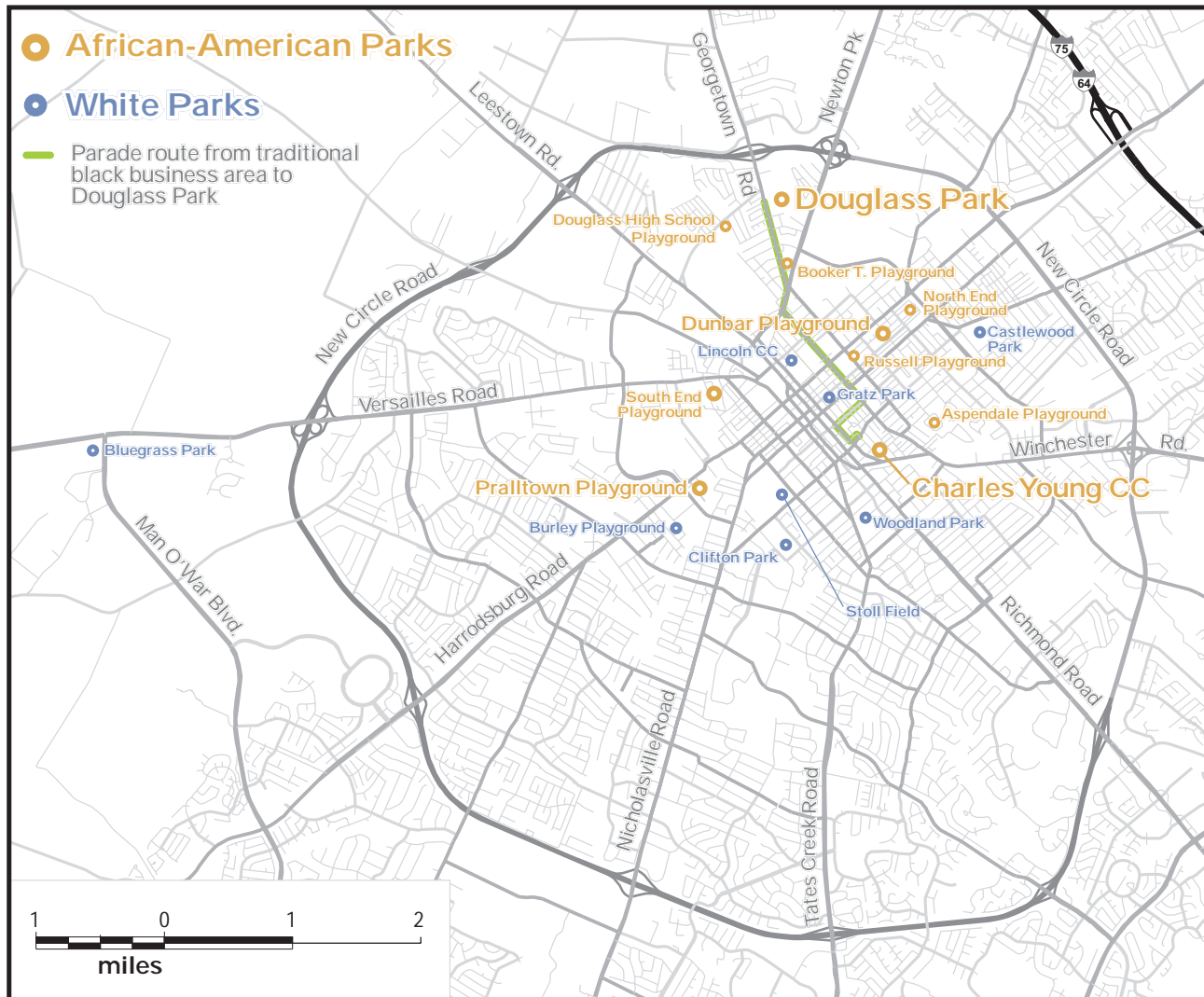
Douglass Park,
Douglass High School Playground,
and
Carver Playground.

In 1998, all black parks still exist, except Douglass Playground, which closed during integration.

South End Playground was initially called Derodes Playfield.

Lexington had the largest and most extensive collection of black parks in Kentucky, and even surpassed some larger Southern cities, including Atlanta Georgia (compare to Baylor, 1996).

Although this map represents all of the black parks in Lexington prior to integration, it does not show all of the corresponding white parks. Those white parks listed here were the largest and most popular during the period. Only Woodland Park, Castlewood Park, Burely Playground, and Gratz Park still exist today.



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