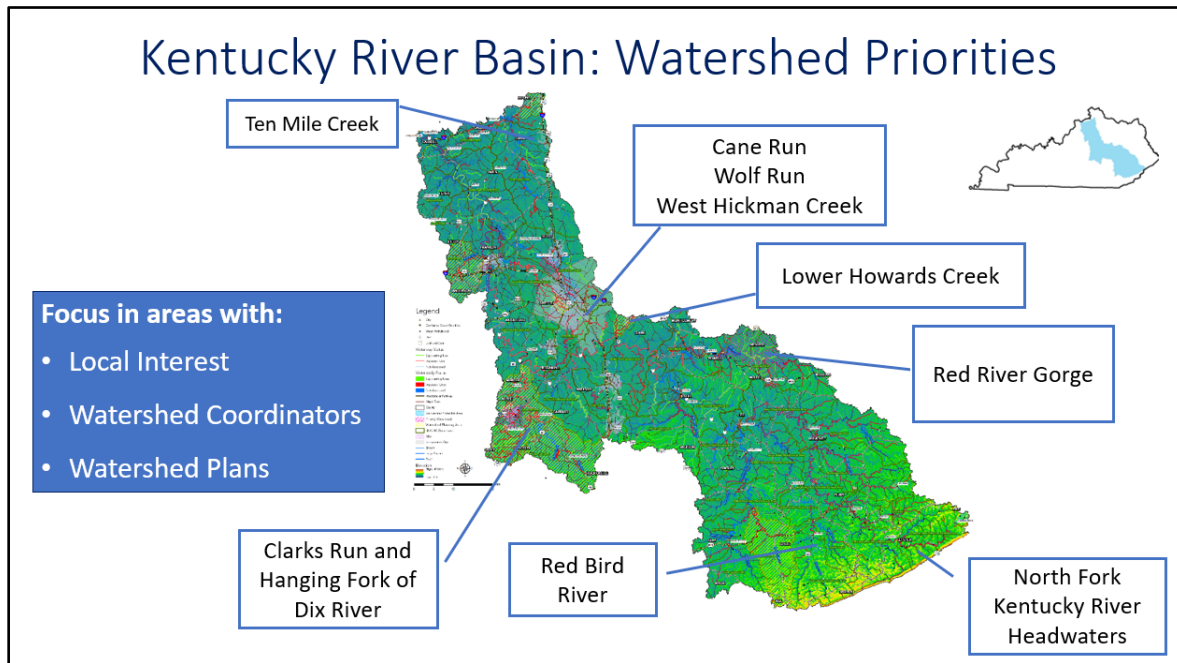


## **Basin Status Report Summary: Kentucky River Basin**

*During the forum, a representative from each of Kentucky's seven major river basins provided insights about current focus areas, challenges, and needs and opportunities. Basin Coordinator Malissa McAlister provided the Kentucky River Basin report.*



### **Focus Areas:**

Kentucky River Basin Team and Coordinator focus on priority areas where we have watershed management plans and watershed coordinators in place.

- Clarks Run/Hanging Fork of Dix River (Bluegrass Greensource)
- Upper North Fork of Kentucky River (Headwaters, Inc, Whitesburg)
- Red Bird River (US Forest Service, Red Bird Mission)
- Red River Gorge (US Forest Service and Kentucky Waterways Alliance)
- Wolf Run (Friends of Wolf Run, LFUCG)
- Cane Run (LFUCG, Third Rock Consultants, Bluegrass Greensource, University of Kentucky)
- Lower Howard's Creek (City of Winchester)
- Ten Mile Creek of Eagle Creek (Northern Kentucky Health Department)

### **Watershed Challenges:**

- Failing septic systems and independent wastewater treatment plants, straight pipes
- Livestock trampling of streambanks and manure runoff
- Litter, litter, everywhere

- Lack of riparian buffers and public awareness of their importance
- Increased imperviousness causing flooding, erosion, sediment loading
- ATV use and roads and trails through streams
- Invasive species
- Tracing pollution in karst groundwater systems
- Streambank erosion
- Historic mining impacts

**Kentucky River Basin Successes:**

- Number of watershed plans (8) and management projects
- Kentucky River Watershed Watch volunteer sampling network (approx. 150 active samplers)
- Kentucky River Authority's Watershed Grant Program
- Lexington's Stormwater and Incentive Grants Programs
- Lincoln County Septic Education and Repair Program and Sewer Project with Homeowner Assistance Grants
- Eden Shale Demonstration Farm for agricultural best management practices
- Kentucky River Basin Team

**Needs & Opportunities:**

- Better onsite wastewater management options and oversight
- Additional incentives for farm best management practices beyond Farm Bill programs
- Increased engagement of small communities in stormwater management
- Additional incentives for establishment and maintenance of riparian buffers
- More funding and support for Watershed Watch citizen sampling organization
- Sustainable funding for watershed coordinators
- Assistance with lake assessment and management guidance
- Increased recreational access to rivers and streams
- More funding assistance for water quality improvement initiatives, possibly through a dedicated state fund