

# Lower Howard Creek watershed (051002-05-050)

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**Geography.** The Lower Howard Creek watershed is in southwestern Clark County. The land is in the inner subregion of the Bluegrass physiographic region, which is characterized by undulating terrain and moderate rates of both surface runoff and groundwater drainage. The watershed lies above thick layers of easily dissolved limestone that form carbonate aquifers. Groundwater flows through channels in the limestone, so caves and springs are common in regions with this geology.

**Waterways.** Lower Howard Creek empties into the Kentucky River at Lisletown. West Fork Lower Howard Creek feeds into Lower Howard.

**Land and water use.** Land in the watershed is about 85% agricultural, about 5% rural and wooded, and less than 10% residential. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for the municipal system in Winchester. There are no permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

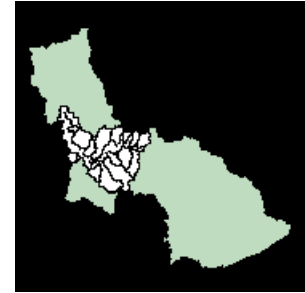
**Agency data assessment.** The assessed creek segment in this watershed does not support some or all of their designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. A variety of factors may contribute to the impairment of the stream. See the 2000 Assessment Report or 2000 305(b) list and the 2002 303(d) list of impaired streams for full details.

**Kentucky River Basin Management Plan, 2002.** Information is from the first basin cycle (1997-2002), including the 1998-1999 monitoring effort and the 2000 Assessment Report. See [kywatersheds.org](http://kywatersheds.org) or [www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds](http://www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds) for the complete Assessment Report and Management Plan.

Watershed Restoration Ranking			Watershed Protection Rank	Overall Watershed Rank	Framework Mobilization Category
<i>Observed Impacts</i>	<i>Potential Impacts</i>	<i>Combined Rank</i>			
High	Medium	High	Medium	High	II

## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 19 square miles.  
Contains a drinking water reservoir for Winchester.  
Part of source water protection zones 2 and 3 for Kentucky-American's Lexington intake on the Kentucky River.  
Aquatic life is impaired by overenrichment and by other, unknown, causes in Lower Howard Creek below the Winchester Reservoir (1st priority TMDL 2002).  
Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.  
Livestock density is substantially higher than the basin average.










Palisades Region



See the color map of this region on p. 133.

### LEGEND

- Area of this watershed 
- Sewage plants 
- Public water supplies 
- Other water withdrawals 
- Locks & dams 
- Cities and towns 
- Rivers and larger streams 
- Smaller streams 
- County borders 