

Paint Lick Creek watershed (051002-05-100)

Geography. The Paint Lick Creek watershed lies along the line between Madison County and Garrard County. The upper reaches of the watershed are situated in the outer subregion of the Bluegrass physiographic region, which is characterized by undulating terrain, moderate to rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The lower part of the watershed is in the hills of the bluegrass subregion of the Bluegrass physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface runoff, and slow groundwater drainage. Parts of the watershed lie over interbedded shales and limestones (these are 20% limestone; water conduction is poor because of the clay content of the shale). Other areas lie over interbedded limestones and shales (>20% limestone, allowing groundwater flow where the clay content is low enough).

Waterways. Paint Lick Creek empties into the Kentucky River at the juncture of Fayette, Madison, and Garrard Counties. Among the creeks that feed it in Garrard County are Walnut Meadow Branch, White Lick Creek, Frog Branch, Lowell Branch, Broadus Branch, Long Branch, and Back Creek. Gilead Branch, Dog Walk Branch, Wheeler Branch, and Sledd Branch are among its Madison County tributaries.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about 85% agricultural, about 15% rural and wooded, and less than 3% residential and commercial. Four businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed creek segments in this watershed include one segment that only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Pathogens from agricultural sources contribute to the impairment of the streams. 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 or 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>			
Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	III

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 109 square miles.

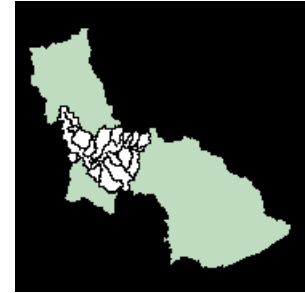
Part of source water protection zones 1, 2, and 3 for the Lancaster water system.

Pathogens partially impair contact recreation in Paint Lick Creek from its mouth to Back Creek (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.

Livestock density is substantially higher than the basin average.

The Garrard County portion of the watershed is in the PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 101 straight pipes or failing septic systems in that part of the watershed.











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 