

Flat Creek watershed (051002-05-300)

Geography. The Flat Creek watershed is in northwest Franklin County, with corners of Shelby and Owen counties. The land 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. Much of 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. Other 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). Still other areas are underlain by interbedded limestones and shales (>20% limestone, allowing groundwater flow where the clay content is low enough).

Waterways. Flat Creek empties into the Kentucky River at the Franklin County-Owen County line, near Polsgrove. Among the creeks that feed it are Marshall Creek, Goose Creek, and Little Flat Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is more than 60% rural and wooded and almost 40% agricultural. No businesses or organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed creek segment in this watershed only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Siltation and habitat alteration 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.

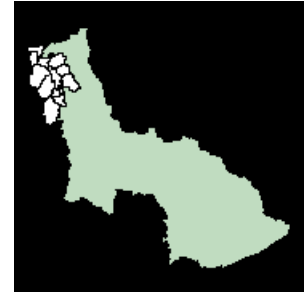
Kentucky River Basin Management Plan, 2002. Information is from the first basin cycle (1997-2002), including the 1998-1999 monitoring effort and the 2000 Assessment Report. See kywatersheds.org or www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds for the complete Assessment Report and Management Plan.

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

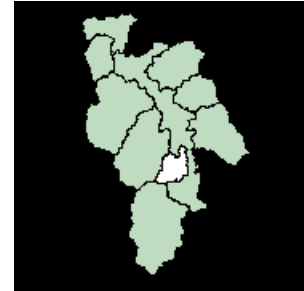
Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 23 square miles.

Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation and habitat alteration in Flat Creek from its mouth to Marshalls Branch (2nd priority TMDL 2002).











Lower Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 137.

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
