

## Cedar Creek watershed (051002-05-310)

**Geography.** The Cedar Creek watershed covers southern Owen County and parts of northern Scott and Franklin 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. The watershed lies over interbedded limestones and shales (>20% limestone, allowing groundwater flow where the clay content is low enough).

**Waterways.** Cedar Creek empties into the Kentucky River at Monterey, just below Lock and Dam Number 3. Among the creeks that feed it are Hall Branch, Elm Fork, Plummer Branch, Kays Branch, Indian Creek, McDowell Branch, Elk Lick Creek, Morgadore Creek, Bowen Branch, and Sawdridge Creek.

**Land and water use.** Land in the watershed is almost two-thirds agricultural and about one-third rural and wooded. No businesses or organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

**Agency data assessment.** The assessed segments of Cedar Creek and Sawdridge Creek in this watershed only partially support their designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Organic enrichment, siltation, and alteration of stream banks, streamside vegetation, and other aspects of the habitat contribute to the impairment of these 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](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>			
Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	IV

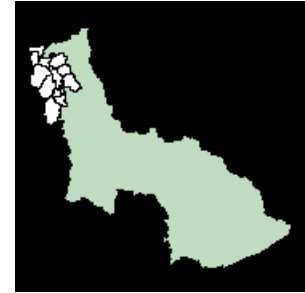
## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 64 square miles.

Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation and over-enrichment in Cedar Creek between Sawdridge Creek and Indian Creek (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation and over-enrichment in Sawdridge Creek from its mouth to Elk Lick (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

The potential for agricultural erosion is substantially higher than the basin average.



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

