

Kentucky River mouth watershed (051002-05-420)

Geography. The Kentucky River mouth watershed covers central Carroll County, and includes bits of Henry County. The land is in the hills of the bluegrass sub-region of the Bluegrass physiographic region, which is characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface runoff, and slow groundwater drainage. Unconsolidated silts, sands, and gravels occur along the flood plain of the river and on adjoining upland terraces. Beneath this, 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 clay content is low enough).

Waterways. This watershed includes the Kentucky River from the mouth of Eagle Creek at the Carroll County line to the mouth of the Kentucky itself, where it flows into the Ohio River at Carrollton. Among the creeks that feed the river within the watershed are Goose Creek, Whites Run, and Majors Run. Water from the Kentucky River below Frankfort, Eagle Creek mouth, and Mill Creek watersheds also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is almost 50% agricultural, more than 35% rural and wooded, and more than 10% residential and commercial. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for the municipal system in Carrollton. Eight businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed waters in this watershed include General Butler State Park Lake, which only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data indicating organic enrichment. 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>			
Low	Medium	Low	High	Low	IV

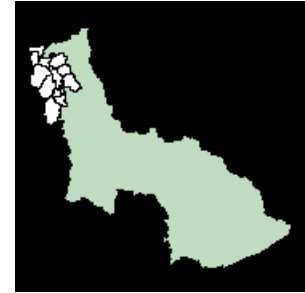
Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 36 square miles.

Carrollton discharges treated sewage into the watershed.

Aquatic life in General Butler State Park Lake is partially impaired by overenrichment and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

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