

Our Top 20 Accomplishments in 20 Years

Since 1993, we've come a long way toward providing better protections for our water – Kentucky's most precious natural resource.

Below is a list of some of our many accomplishments in the last 20 years. Many of these are ongoing projects that are still active today!

- ◆ Coordinated thousands of volunteers in river and stream cleanups across the state, and removed hundreds of tons of trash from our waterways.
- ◆ Successfully fought to keep a cold water habitat designation for 16 Kentucky streams, which protected their use as trout streams.
- ◆ Set a national precedent on antidegradation that helped provide better protection for over 90% of Kentucky's waterways.
- ◆ Established and managed the Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund, created to provide a sustainable source of funding for aquatic ecosystems in Kentucky.
- ◆ Provided aid to over 50 watershed groups across the state, including thousands of hours of staff time and re-granting over \$300,000 to support their efforts. Many of these groups are still active today, and we continue to work with and support a number of them.
- ◆ Led community groups across Kentucky to develop watershed plans that protect and restore local rivers and streams.
- ◆ Played a lead role in the formation of 8 large watershed groups across the state, covering each major river basin – collectively known as Watershed Watch. In the past 16 years, Watershed Watch has trained thousands of Kentuckians to sample their local waterway and provide a much needed snapshot of Kentucky's water quality.
- ◆ Won an 8 year long court battle to ensure there will be no more valley fills from coal mines under generic nationwide permits.
- ◆ Served as a watchdog over permits that discharge pollutants into Kentucky's waters by reviewing, commenting, and in some cases challenging, bad permits. Over the past 12+ years, KWA staff has reviewed and commented on hundreds of permit applications, helping to improve the permits and thereby protect our waterways.
- ◆ Co-authored *Watershed Planning Guidebook for Kentucky Communities*, a valuable resource for watershed groups all over Kentucky.

- ◆ Won a lawsuit requiring a more thorough assessment of the impacts of any nationwide permit before reauthorization.
- ◆ Worked with the Bacon Creek Watershed Council to clean up Bacon Creek through residential septic system programs and best management practices implementation for farmers.
- ◆ Successfully advocated to the Division of Water and U.S. Forest Service for the addition of new Outstanding National Resource Waters that permanently protected over 62 miles of streams and 2040 acres of wetlands.
- ◆ Served on the Public Interest Advisory Committee for ORSANCO, the multi-state agency that oversees the Ohio River, in order to shine more light onto actions that impact water quality.
- ◆ Started work with the U.S. Forest Service on a plan to protect the Red River Gorge and implement practices which will protect Kentucky's only National Wild and Scenic River, the Red River.
- ◆ Succeeded in preventing a new proposal that would have allowed increased levels of bacteria and pathogens into the Ohio River – which would have jeopardized all the new and increased recreation taking place on the river.
- ◆ Began a collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service to develop a plan to clean up and protect the Red Bird River Watershed in southeastern Kentucky.
- ◆ Worked with the Mississippi River Collaborative for the last decade as the only Kentucky representative of the group focused on solving one of the worst pollution problems facing this nation – pollution in the Mississippi River that causes the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico.
- ◆ Led a loose-knit coalition of groups up and down the Ohio River focused on cleaning up the river since 2005, and preventing industry-lead groups from allowing more pollution into the Ohio River.
- ◆ Initiated the formation of the Beargrass Creek Alliance. Today, KWA provides staff time, leadership, and financial support for the group. The Creek forms the heart of old Louisville and is much beloved by many of the residents. KWA took action to lead the effort in the watershed where our office is located.

Want to learn more? Search for any of these topics on our website!



**Thank you for your support as we continue
our work into the next 20 years!**