

## 2023 Impact Report:

### Top 30 Accomplishments of our 30th Anniversary Year

MISSION: Kentucky Waterways Alliance is a membership organization working to protect, restore, and celebrate Kentucky's 90,000 miles of lakes, streams, and rivers.



## Protect & Restore

- ✓ 1. Removed a dangerous weir dam on Brushy Creek in Vine Grove, Kentucky.
- ✓ 2. Launched the Kentucky Watershed Network (KWN) to support watershed groups statewide with the collective goal of improving water quality.
- ✓ 3. Held a KWN summit with 70+ watershed leaders from all seven major river basins.
- ✓ 4. Developed a project to implement the third phase of the Red Bird River Watershed Plan in Eastern Kentucky, including septic system replacement and repair, and secured funding to begin the project.

- ✓ 5. Secured support for and developed a pilot program that will offer seed grants to fund watershed projects in all seven river basins with a focus on nonpoint source pollution and environmental justice.
- ✓ 6. Continued implementation of the Red River Watershed Plan and our work with local Red River watershed partners with funding support secured from grant applications KWA made to the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers, and River Network and US Forest Service through the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Funds program.
- ✓ 7. Secured grant funding from Patagonia for general operating support following a nomination by Quest Outdoors.
- ✓ 8. Secured funding, following years of advocacy work, for construction of Phase I of a wastewater treatment plant in Hazel Green, Kentucky on the Red River.
- ✓ 9. Managed the Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund (KARF) for the 15th year in a row to conserve and recover threatened and endangered aquatic species, in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ 10. Protected the Relict Darter, a species found only in the Bayou de Chien stream system in western Kentucky, resulting in the reclassification from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act, through the KARF program.
- ✓ 11. Performed stream sampling on Swift Camp Creek to monitor Red River water quality.
- ✓ 12. Organized cleanups removing thousands of pounds of trash and tires on the Red River, Harrods Creek, and Beargrass Creek.
- ✓ 13. Collaborated with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and regional partners on the creation of a coalition to support a federally funded Ohio River Restoration Plan.
- ✓ 14. Co-hosted two days of meetings with the NWF in Louisville with 60+ stakeholders from dozens of organizations from seven states in the Ohio River Basin to plan and strategize for the protection and restoration of the Ohio River.
- ✓ 15. Participated as the NWF Kentucky affiliate in the 2023 NWF Annual Meeting, crafting, and voting on climate, wildlife, and environmental policy resolutions.
- ✓ 16. Signed on letters of support related to water quality issues including healthy wetlands, water and wastewater infrastructure on tribal lands, Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, the Clean Water Act, PFAS, Recovering America's Wildlife Act, and more.

✓17. Served as a fiscal sponsor for Salt River Watershed Watch, Beargrass Creek Alliance, Friends of Red River, and Green River Watershed Watch in support of work to improve water quality.



## Educate

- ✓ 18. Hosted an Ohio River Basin restoration tour, with Congressman Morgan McGarvey, co-chair of the Ohio River Congressional Caucus, and other state leaders, to explore water issues facing Kentucky communities and provide a first-hand look at the improvements made by community partners.
- ✓ 19. Hosted an Ohio River Restoration Plan listening session with community members in the Kentucky River Basin.
- ✓ 20. Met with congressional leaders in Washington DC and members of the Ohio River Congressional Caucus as part of the Ohio River Basin Alliance Day on the Hill to advocate for the health and restoration of the Ohio River.
- ✓ 21. Published articles and served as a local expert for media interviews to bring attention to the Ohio River's designation as an endangered river, the impact of Sackett vs. EPA, and the Clean Water Act.
- ✓ 22. Produced and filmed a mini documentary to address the Red River tire disposal issue (to premiere in 2024).
- ✓ 23. Co-sponsored a photo contest for students, Ripple Effects: Exploring Water, to encourage students to consider what water-related issues are important to them.
- ✓ 24. Highlighted the plastics pollution issue in the Ohio River through an "artist in residence" partnership with artist Al Gorman.

✓ 25. Provided environmental education to middle school students in Wolfe County through the Make-A-Splash program that focuses on water quality issues and the impact students can have on the environment.

✓ 26. Provided resources and information to 100's of community members who reported concerns about water quality and requested assistance.



## Celebrate

✓ 27. Held KWA's 30th Anniversary Celebration featuring Joan Shelley, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, and the 15th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

✓ 28. Hosted a Rock Skipping Competition at West Sixth Farm to raise funds and awareness.

✓ 29. Co-hosted an evening with Rinker Buck, author of *Life on the Mississippi*, at the Filson Club.

✓ 30. Chosen as the Kentucky beneficiary of Aveda Earth month and received funding from Omagi Salon & Spa's Catwalk for Water event.