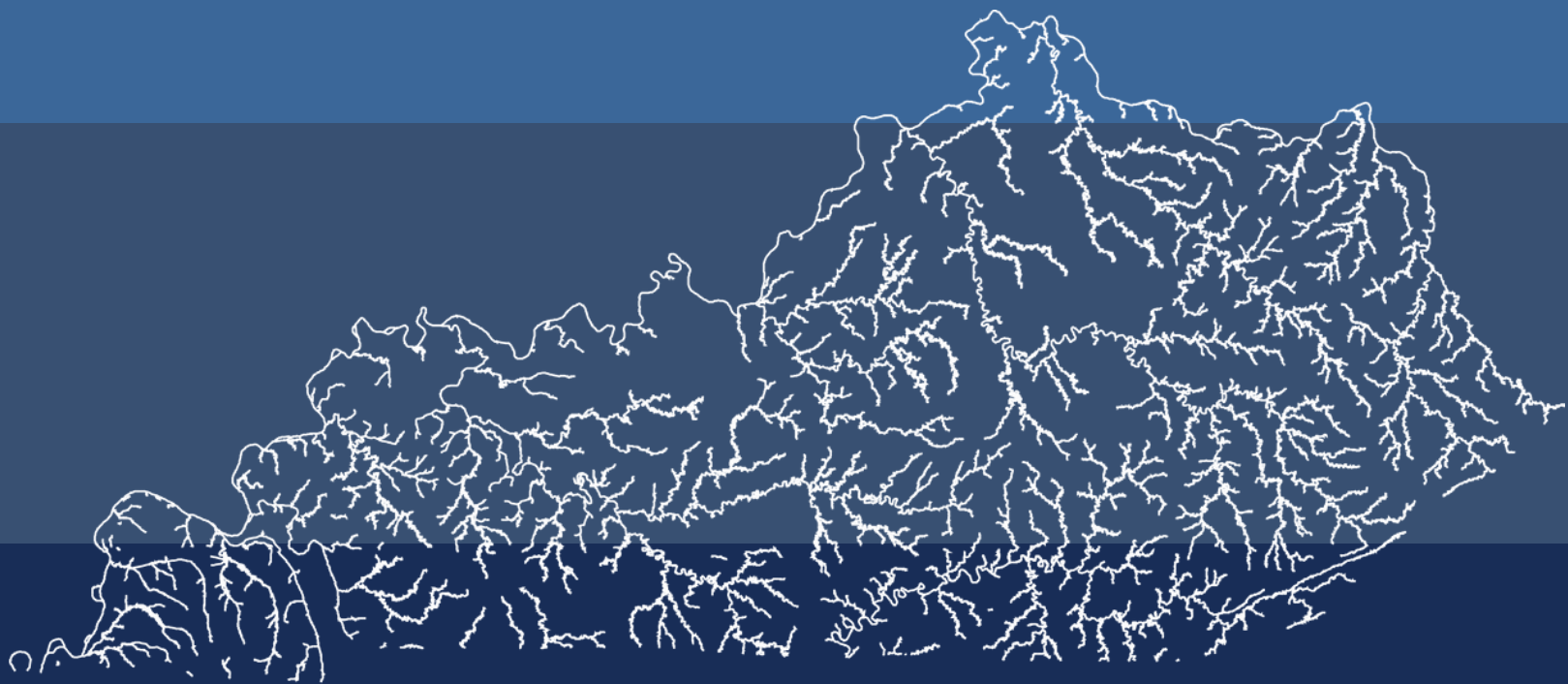


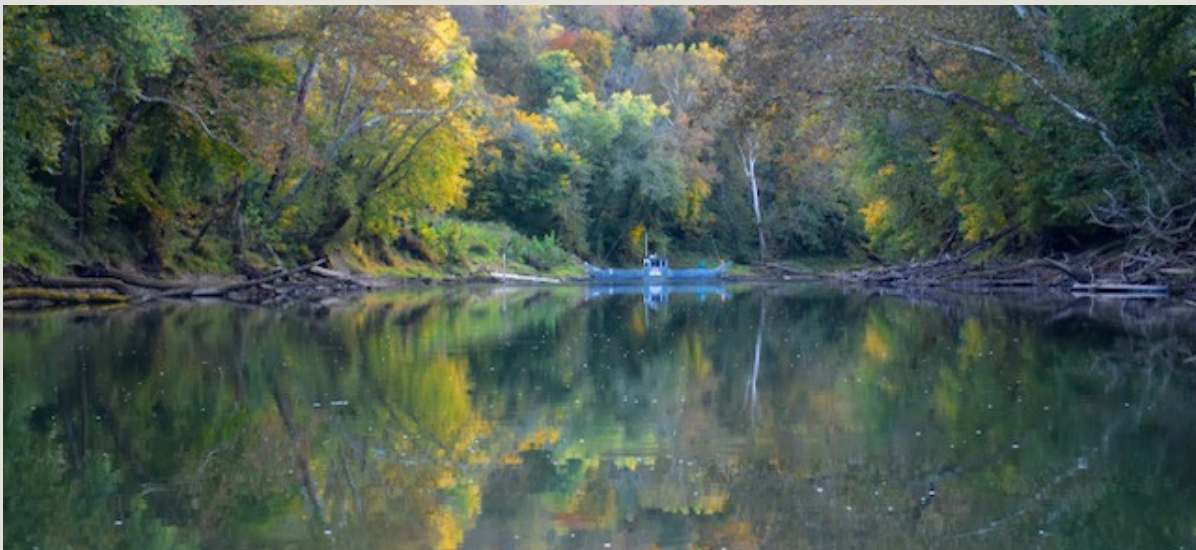
KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE



ANNUAL REPORT
2022



KENTUCKY IS WATER.



KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE MISSION

To protect, restore, and celebrate Kentucky's 90,000 miles of lakes, streams, and rivers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martin Hjalm, president
Caitlin Johnson
Pamla Wood
Marcia Boone
Linda Cowan
Gordon Garner
Kay Harker
Travis Murphy
Tom Vierheller

LEADERSHIP

KWA's Board of Directors hired Michael Washburn in December 2022 as Executive Director following Ward Wilson's retirement.





PROTECT & RESTORE

2022 REPORT

- KWA continued implementing the Red River Watershed Plan in Eastern Kentucky for a 5th year.
- KWA performed stream sampling on Swift Camp Creek for KY River Watershed Watch for continued data collection on our Red River Watershed Restoration Implementation Project.
- KWA staff was trained and contributed to stream sampling results as a lab tech for processing eColi in the newly established Gladie Lab.
- KWA performed water monitoring on Red River for Adventure Scientist nation-wide Wild & Scenic Rivers monitoring project.

KWA launched the statewide Kentucky Watershed Network (KWN) and hired a full-time Kentucky Watershed Program Director.

- KWN is a statewide alliance of watershed groups and stakeholders across all seven major river basins who work together and support each other with the goal of increasing collective positive impact, by decreasing non-point source pollution on Kentucky's waterways, wildlife, and people through education, outreach, and action.
- KWN will focus on equity and justice by ensuring that community voices are heard, especially those most impacted by systemic environmental injustices, and that any resources and investments prioritize those areas that need it the most in partnership with those communities.

Cleanups

- KWA hosted cleanup events on Harrods Creek, Red River Cleanups (3), Kentucky River, Elkhorn Creek, and coordinated 40 volunteers for Breathitt County Flood Cleanup, while also removing thousands of pounds of trash and debris from waterways.

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

- KWA is the NWF Kentucky affiliate, and participated in the 2022 NWF Annual Meeting crafting and voting on climate, wildlife, and environmental policy resolutions.
- KWA partnered with NWF to hold a community listening session to get input on an Ohio River Restoration Plan to protect and restore the Ohio River, its tributaries, wetlands, and surrounding habitats in the 14-state region.
- NWF awarded KWA a 2-year Capacity Grant to grow the Watershed Program, to launch and grow the KY Watershed Network, and to contribute to Ohio River Restoration efforts.



EDUCATE

2022 REPORT

- KWA collaborated with the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky in support of doctoral student research projects to support and coordinate a water sampling project to monitor SARS in Beargrass Creek.
- KWA hosted a Beargrass Creek Storm Drain Marking Project with Rotary Club of Louisville marking over a 100 storm drains in Crescent Hill in Louisville.
- KWA continued its educational outreach about the opportunities to restore and replace septic tanks that leak into the Red River Watershed.
- KWA led environmental education programming about Wildlife in the Red River with Red Oaks Forest School supported by funding from the Kentucky Arts Council. Students participated in painting a Red River Watershed mural in Clay City.
- KWA held the annual Make a Splash Water Fest for Wolfe County 6th graders to bring Wolfe County students environmental education programming to learn about water quality and the impact students can have on the environment.
- KWA held an environmental education program for 120 Eighth graders from Farnsley Middle School and teachers to learn about Beargrass Creek.
- KWA provided professional development training to middle school teachers from seven JCPS schools using Project WET and Aquatic Wild curriculums that included classroom learning as well as experiential learning to replicate lessons they will teach their students in partnership with KAEE and Louisville Nature Center to offer a Beargrass Creek Environmental Education Program.
- KWA engaged in a continuing partnership with students from Adelante Hispanic Achievers. The students participated in the Squallis Puppeteers Good River parade.
- KWA's presented at the statewide Rotary conference in Owensboro about the economic value of clean water to our state.
- KWA staff was certified in teaching Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree from KY Association for Environmental Education and began KY Environmental Education Council's NAAE accredited Professional Environmental Education Certification process.



CELEBRATE

2022 REPORT

- KWA held the 14th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Louisville's largest environmental and adventure film festival to inform, inspire, and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities.
- KWA planned and hosted, in partnership with local watershed group, Friends of Red River, the 5th annual Wild & Scenic Red River Festival in Clay City offering environmental education, a community paddle, music, and arts celebrating the Red River watershed to promote the value a healthy Red River brings to Eastern Kentucky.
- KWA partnered with West Sixth Brewery's Farm to host a Rock Skipping Competition to raise funds and awareness.
- KWA held a 50th anniversary celebration of the Clean Water Act on the Great Lawn by the Ohio River with the Rotary Club of Louisville.
- KWA celebrated Earth Month with a cleanup and press conference at Shawnee Park on the Ohio River.
- KWA co-sponsored, "The Ripple Effects: Exploring Water in Louisville" photo contest for students in the Louisville area, resulting in 200 entries from students who created images capturing what water means to them.
- KWA participated in the Intertribal Water Gathering on the banks of Chenoweth Run in the Salt River watershed. The Council meeting resulted in a proclamation in which they "... ask all to become water keepers, to share in the indigenous ways of knowing about water, and our relationships."
- KWA's Community Engagement Director participated in the Ohio River Way Challenge, a canoe trip from Portsmouth, Ohio to Louisville, Kentucky to engage with river towns and their citizens at 18 press conferences about the value of the clean and beautiful Ohio River.
- KWA worked with local community partners, including Friends of Red River, Shiloh Methodist Church, and Powell County, to install an improved canoe/kayak Rosslyn River Access.



AQUATIC RESOURCES FUND (KARF)

2022 REPORT

KWA and the US Fish & Wildlife Service have been working together for 14 years to conserve and recover threatened and endangered aquatic species through KARF. Examples of projects this year include:

- Complete removal of Barren River Dam 1 and partial demolition of Dam 5 on the Green River with work continuing into 2023. Partners include the US Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and CJ Aquatic Restoration.
- Stream restoration on Straight Creek in Morgan County to mitigate stream impacts from the Mountain Parkway Widening Project in the Licking River watershed. Partners include the KY Transportation Cabinet and Resource Environmental Solutions.
- Stream restoration on Buck Creek (Upper Cumberland basin) in Pulaski County to mitigate stream losses in the basin and benefit 30 mussel species and 73 fish species. Partners include the KY Transportation Cabinet and The Nature Conservancy.
- Purchase of laboratory instruments and field equipment for the Center for Mollusk Conservation, operated by the Kentucky Department Fish & Wildlife
- Establishment of a captive population of buck darter (*Etheostoma nebra*) by Conservation Fisheries, Inc. to prevent extinction of this once-widespread fish species in the Upper Cumberland basin.
- Study of the effects of Asiatic clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) on the populations of native mussels by the University of Kentucky and US Forest Service Southern Research Station
- KARF project expenditures for 2022 totaled \$10,462,904.



FINANCIALS

2022 REPORT

Total Expenses: \$369,353

Total Revenue: \$459,290

KWA operational revenue and expenses does not include Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund.

