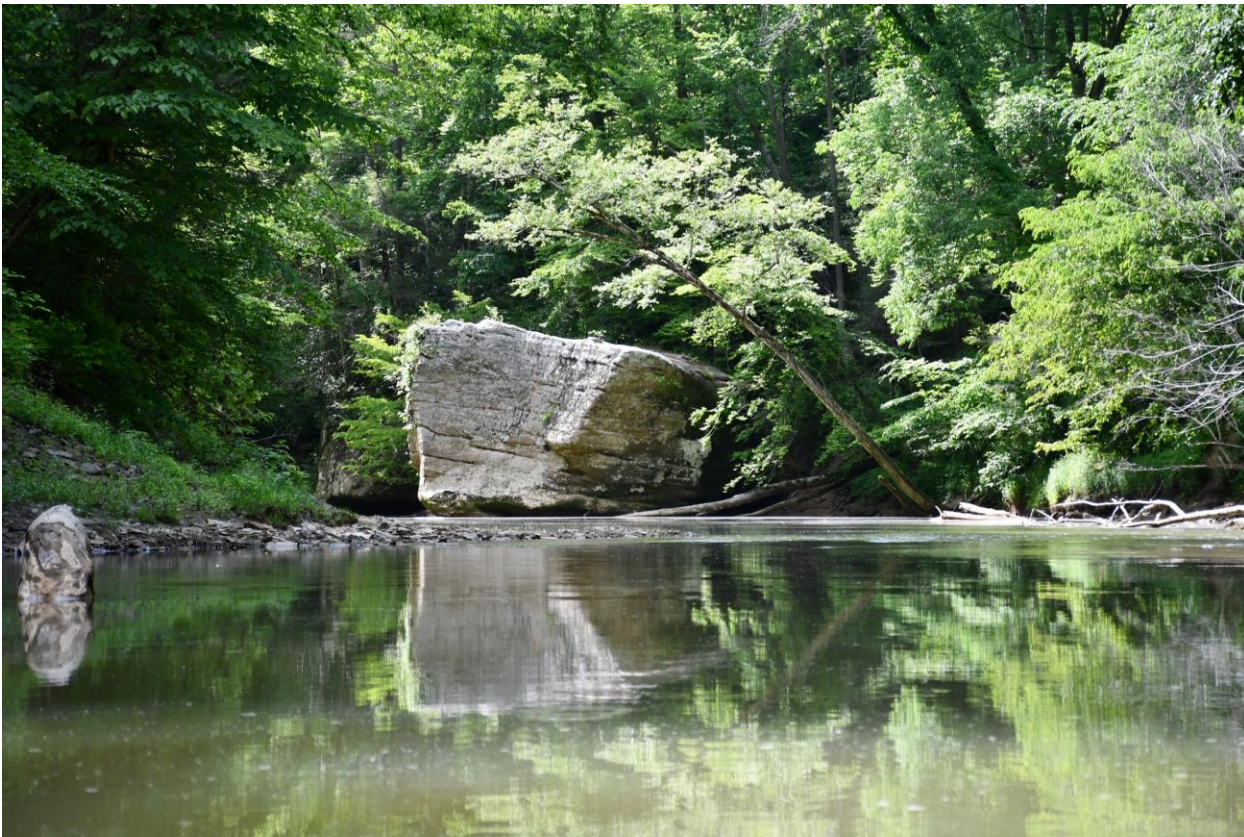


Red River to Benefit from New Wastewater Treatment Plant

December 2023



Funding to begin construction of a new, much-needed, wastewater treatment plant and sewer lines has been awarded to the Wolfe County Sanitation District for the Hazel Green community located near the headwaters of the Red River, upstream from Kentucky's only nationally protected Wild & Scenic River. Laura Gregory, KWA's Watershed Program Director, serves as a member of the Wolfe County Sanitation District Board of Directors. The need for a wastewater treatment plant in Hazel Green has long been the focus of the board. This issue has also been a priority for Laura, both as a resident of the Red River Gorge community and as KWA's former Red River Watershed Coordinator, who has facilitated septic system repairs and replacement in Eastern Kentucky communities.

After years of advocacy, this funding will allow construction to begin on Phase I of building the 80,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant that will treat wastewater from Chop Shop, Lion Apparel, and the homes along the 11,100 along the new sewer line. Phase I also addresses issues with the Chop Shop (which sits adjacent to Red River) Dissolved Air Flootation system - allowing for the separation of water from the blood, meat, and fat



generated by the facility before sending water to be treated. Phase II will extend the line to Red River Elementary and additional homes.

\$1.4 million of funding comes from the Appalachian Regional Commission and is in addition to \$1.4 million awarded from Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program. The new wastewater treatment plant will help protect and restore the Red River, human and environmental health, and will be an economic boost for Eastern Kentucky businesses and communities.