



Boone County Conservation District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESTORING GUNPOWDER CREEK

Boone County Conservation District awarded grant to combat water pollution

(BURLINGTON, KY – 10 September 2010) While Gunpowder Creek is one of Northern Kentucky's truly outstanding natural and scenic streams, residents know it has its problems. Muddy flood waters and contamination from diverse sources make it inadvisable to wade or swim in many areas of Gunpowder Creek. The Gunpowder Creek Watershed covers a large portion of Boone County, and more than half of Boone County's population lives in the watershed.

A unique feature of Gunpowder Creek, and many of the streams in Boone County, is that urban development has taken place where the stream begins. People living downstream experience many of the effects on the stream system made by the building of roads, houses and businesses.

Gunpowder Creek is designated by the Kentucky Division of Water as "impaired," meaning that there is excessive soil, sewage contamination, roadway runoff, yard or farm pesticides and fertilizer, or animal waste in the water in many segments of the creek. While some pollutants can be traced to a specific source, the origin of others cannot be easily determined; these are referred to as non-point source pollutants.

The Boone County Conservation District has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Kentucky Division of Water, Nonpoint Source Section, in accordance with the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987, §319(h). This grant will enable the Conservation District and partners to develop a watershed-based plan to address nonpoint source pollution and related issues in the watershed. A number of groups and agencies have stepped forward to serve on a steering committee, working as the Gunpowder Creek Watershed Initiative, under the leadership of the Boone County Conservation District.

"The people who live in the watershed are the key to improving water quality," said Mark Jacobs with the Boone County Conservation District. "We will be hosting community meetings throughout the watershed to gather ideas and information as we work through this over the next four years." The steering committee will also be reviewing existing water quality data and collecting more information, where it is needed, to help identify sources of pollutants and possible remedies.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts prohibit discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

For more information about the Gunpowder Creek Watershed Initiative, contact Mark Jacobs with the Boone County Conservation District at (859) 586-7903 or visit our website at <http://www.boonecountky.org/bccd/default.aspx> .

Kentucky Conservation Districts are governmental subdivisions of the state, organized under Kentucky Revised Statute 262. Conservation Districts are responsible for protecting our soil, water and other natural resources. The Boone County Conservation District, established in 1942 following a referendum of the citizens of the county, is governed by seven locally-elected officials, who serve a four-year term without pay.

Additional information:

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the land that drains into a body of water such as a stream, river, lake or wetland. Rain falling on one side of the hill will flow into one water body, while rain falling on the other side of the hill will flow into another water body. Any changes to the land in a watershed will affect the stream, river or lake into which it drains. A watershed is more than just land, it is also a community. A watershed community includes all the people and natural resources located within a watershed.

Facts about Gunpowder Creek Watershed

Covers 58 square miles.

Gunpowder Creek, with it's major tributaries, runs over 35 miles.

Adding the headwater streams and smaller tributaries, the total system runs over 578 miles through Boone County.

Home to over 59,484 residents.

Land uses include industrial, commercial, urban, suburban residential, agriculture and recreation.

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For information about this news release, contact Mark Jacobs at the Boone County Conservation District, 859-586-7903 or mark.jacobs@ky.nacdnet.net