

## The Banklick Watershed Council:

Dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring Banklick Creek and its watershed

The Banklick Watershed Council recognizes the critical connection between our landscape with its rolling hills, our vegetation that filters polluted run-off, and the beautiful 19-mile creek that is home to many species of Kentucky's wildlife.

The BACE findings are a tool for the Banklick Watershed Council to address issues of flooding and water pollution in Banklick Creek.

Together, we can restore Banklick Creek to a safe viable stream that offers ecological, recreation, and economic benefits to our community!

For more information on the Banklick Creek watershed and the BACE project, contact the following:

### Banklick Watershed Council

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### Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission

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### Davey Resource Group

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Reprinting of this guide is encouraged with credit given to the above groups.



# Forests First: Water Wins!

in the  
Banklick Creek  
Watershed



Banklick Watershed Analysis and Issues Characterization Project for Education and Outreach (BACE)

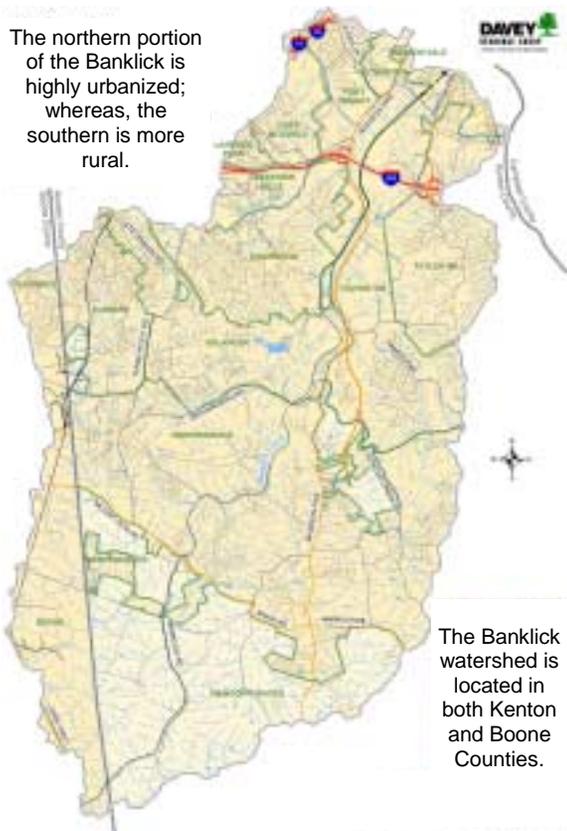
Kenton and Boone Counties, Kentucky

## The BACE Mission:

Establishing the links between forests, water, and people to benefit the health and safety of built and natural environments

## Banklick Creek Watershed

The northern portion of the Banklick is highly urbanized; whereas, the southern is more rural.



The Banklick watershed is located in both Kenton and Boone Counties.

## The BACE Project:

Discovering the basic characteristics of the watershed as an initial step in developing a watershed action plan for the Banklick Creek Watershed

The Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC) partnered with the Banklick Watershed Council and Davey Resource Group, assembled a task force to assess the major issues affecting the Banklick Creek watershed and its forest resources.

Four major issues were identified during the BACE project.

### Critical Areas for Protection and Restoration

Natural resource analysis has generally located and rated the critical areas within the watershed best suited for protection or in the greatest need of restoration. Almost 30 percent of the watershed is comprised of higher rated areas for protection, and nearly 50 percent of the watershed is in need of restoration. Protecting critical natural areas and restoring ecologically degraded areas will enhance and improve the overall quality of the Banklick watershed.

### Land Development

Land use within the watershed is in transition. Generally, such transitions are from lower development intensities to higher intensities. This transitional period can be viewed as an important opportunity for affecting changes in policies, actions, and attitudes.

### Forestry and Water Quality/Quantity



The current and future forest cover in the watershed is a valuable natural resource. Promoting better forest management will improve water quality and control water volume.

### Need for Innovation

Development and land use guidelines, policies, and regulations in relation to forest management are minimal and underutilized in the watershed. This, coupled with the lack of collaborative efforts and further data needs, inhibits efforts to enhance the watershed.



### Why are trees important?

Urban and rural forests located in the Banklick watershed, particularly those in riparian areas, are sustainable forest ecosystems that provide direct benefits to not only waters of a watershed, but also to the overall quality of life.



Trees...

- Stabilize soils
- Improve air quality
- Mitigate water pollution
- Reduce energy costs
- Reduce visual and noise pollution
- Provide effective stormwater controls
- Provide a natural habitat for wildlife
- Provide welcome shade for people
- Add color and interest to the landscape