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## **Cane Run Watershed Assessment and Restoration Project**

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### Abstract Text:

The Cane Run Watershed is an important water resource because it supplies the major source of drinking water for the city of Georgetown, KY. Segments of the watershed have been identified as having high levels of sedimentation/siltation, pathogens, and nutrient/organic enrichment resulting in the stream being placed on KY's 303(d) list. Nonpoint sources of pollution for Cane Run Creek and the Royal Spring aquifer include both agricultural and non-agricultural sources. Efforts have been focused on the upper Cane Run watershed (15,000 acres), which is the recharge zone for the Royal Spring Aquifer and the city of Georgetown, KY. The watershed includes a portion of the city of Lexington and the Kentucky Horse Park, which is preparing to host the 2010 World Equestrian Games. A phased project was designed to take advantage of the enthusiasm for the watershed and expedite its cleanup. This phased project will take advantage of EPA 319(h) funds to complete a watershed based plan (WBP) and initial implementation. Phase I of the Cane Run Project is the development and approval of a watershed based plan with some initial implementation. Phase II of the Cane Run Project is the continued implementation of the watershed based plan. An educational and outreach strategy has been designed to increase awareness and educate residents, visitors, and businesses regarding their impact on the watershed and how they can participate in the restoration efforts.

Enthusiasm for the project is shown by the scale of cooperators that have been assembled from federal, state, and local governments and private landowners. These cooperators have a vested interest in the watershed and considering their influence on the stream, create a high probability of success.

### Impact Statement:

The Cane Run Watershed Assessment Project has brought together powerful partnerships to assess current watershed conditions and plan for future restoration in an impaired watershed. The partners will not only install best management practices, but will also educate watershed stakeholders for future water quality protection. This work will take place in a highly visible watershed that will host the 2010 World Equestrian Games.