

SINKHOLES

Who do you think you are?

Simply put, sinkholes form slowly over time from the interaction of water and soluble rocks underneath the soil. This process begins when water becomes slightly acidic by reacting with carbon dioxide to form carbonic acid. Carbon dioxide can be found in the atmosphere and soil. When carbonic acid interacts with soluble rocks, voids below the surface are created. These voids are unique to a distinctive landscape known as karst.



Subsidence Sinkhole

Collapsed Sinkhole

25%

When will I see you again?

Sinkholes can be unpredictable. They form naturally, but can also be influenced by human activities such as construction, broken pipes, stormwater runoff, and excess water use. We don't always know when or where a sinkhole will occur, but through the use of best management practices, we can take measures to predict their location, reduce their formation, and minimize the impacts they have on us.

25% of the world's population lives in harmony with sinkholes on karst landscapes. Through education and awareness, we in south-central Kentucky, can also coexist with these unique features.