



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Grider  
215-4750 office  
363-8681 cell

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## **Knox County awarded grant for stormwater demonstration park** *Public park will clean runoff before it's discharged into waterways*

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — The Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative recently awarded Knox County Stormwater Management a \$95,400 grant for completion of phase II of the Harrell Road Stormwater Demonstration Park. Approval of the grant is on the Knox County Commission's December agenda.

When completed, the park will re-route stormwater from the Painter Farms subdivision through a wetland designed to reduce flow and filter pollutants before discharging into Beaver Creek. Stormwater currently discharges directly into the creek.

"This grant will make it possible to limit creek pollution into one of Knox County's most popular waterways, and will offer our community a unique opportunity to understand the effects of stormwater runoff," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett.

"What has been most gratifying to all the partners involved in this project is the excitement and enthusiasm exhibited by the Karns Community towards having a new nature park with walking trails in their community," said Knox County Watershed Coordinator Roy Arthur.

The park's parking lot will be built with a combination of pervious materials, with runoff being directed through a rain garden to filter out pollutants. Nearly 4,000 feet of trails and boardwalks will make the park a great place for the public to view the wildlife that the native landscaping will attract. Signage will explain stormwater Best Management Practices and provide information about the various native plant species within the landscape.

Launched in August 2011, the Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative is the result of a partnership among the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA). The initiative's primary goal is to maintain and improve water resources across the state by bringing together the public, landowners, resource management agencies and conservation-focused organizations to promote communication, collaboration and thoughtful water resources planning.

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