MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Knox County to host *Families in the Creek* event

Knoxville, Tenn. — Knox County's Stormwater Management and Parks & Recreation departments are teaming up with the Beaver Creek Task Force to host *Families in the Creek*, an educational event for families to explore a local creek. The event will take place on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Halls Greenway.

The event is free to the public, but will be limited to the first 40 participants to register. Children may accompany their parents, but need to be age 7 or older. Equipment, waders and lunch will be provided.

The day's schedule will include four activities, two before lunch and two after:

- **Fish Assessment**: Participants will collect and identify live fish with the help of professional biologists. The type and number of fish tell a story about the health of the creek.
- **Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment**: Benthic macroinvertebrates are mostly comprised of larval forms of insects found on the bottom of the creeks. Participants will collect and sort these interesting creatures with the guidance of biologists and AmeriCorps members. As with the fish, the type and number of benthics indicate stream health.
- **Stream Walk**: Using the National Resource Conservation Service visual assessment as a guide, scientists will help participants evaluate the health of the stream based on a variety of conditions ranging from in-stream habitat to the land surrounding the stream.
- **Scavenger Hunt**: An important aspect of *Families in the Creek* is understanding how waterways are being impacted and what we can do to help protect them. AmeriCorps members and Knox County staff have devised a scavenger hunt that challenges participants to use their observational skills to evaluate local land use impacts and important stormwater concepts.

To reserve a spot, please register by Friday, May 3 at http://bit.ly/KnoxFIC or visit www.knoxcounty.org for a link to the registration page.

For more information contact Parci Gibson with Knox County Stormwater Management at 865-215-5861 or parci.gibson@knoxcounty.org.

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