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## Knox County seeks artists to paint storm drains

USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee

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(Photo: Adam Lau, Knoxville News  
Sentinel)

Knox County is seeking artists to paint 10 storm drains at public libraries this spring as part of a campaign to teach the public that only rainwater should go into the drains.

The "Storm Drain Style-off" aims to correct a common misconception: storm drains lead to the wastewater treatment plant; not rivers and other waterways. Those who mistakenly believe storm drains act as sewers often use them to dispose of waste such as soapy water, oil, paint, trash and other pollutants, according to the [Style-off's website](http://www.knoxcounty.org/stormwater/strong_streams_art.php). ([http://www.knoxcounty.org/stormwater/strong\\_streams\\_art.php](http://www.knoxcounty.org/stormwater/strong_streams_art.php)) That waste then ends up polluting local waterways.

By recruiting artists to paint small murals around certain storm drains, the county hopes to reduce water pollution.

The county has designated 10 drains to be painted this year: 5 at the Karns Library branch, 7516 Oak Ridge Highway, and 5 at the Bearden Library branch, 100 Golf Club Road.

Interested artists can apply by filling out an application on the website and submitting it, along with a sketch of their idea, to the Knox County Stormwater Strong Streams Program. Applications can be mailed to Amy Mann at 205 W. Baxter Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917, or scanned and emailed to [stormwater@knoxcounty.org](mailto:stormwater@knoxcounty.org).

Artists are encouraged to create designs that focus on reducing littering and improving water quality. Artists can use words in their design to help communicate those ideas.

Depending on the drain, artwork can expand up to four feet on any one side of the drain where conditions allow. Some designs will have to be modified based on the particular drain. The artwork is expected to last for at least two years.

Photos of the completed work, along with the artist's picture and biography, will be displayed in various public places from May to September. The public will also be encouraged to vote for a "People's Choice" winner, who will receive a \$150 Visa gift card and prizes from local businesses. The second place entry will receive a \$100 card, and the third place entry will receive a \$50 card.

The deadline to submit an application is May 1.

Those with questions or concerns should email or call (865) 215-5283.

*To submit an item for consideration for Good Morning East Tennessee, email information to [news@knoxnews.com](mailto:news@knoxnews.com). Submissions must be made at least one week before the event.*

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