400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2020

Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris

306-1177 cell 215-4579 office

705-1681 cell

Knox County to Rename Harrell Road Park After Roy Arthur

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County leaders on Saturday plan to honor Roy Arthur by renaming Harrell Road Stormwater Park after him at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 7221 Harrell Road.

Arthur, the county's long-time watershed coordinator, was instrumental in converting the former 22-acre derelict track into a beautiful park that features a rain garden, vegetated stormwater ponds and a permeable parking lot that allows water to be absorbed back into the earth. Bordered by Beaver Creek and a large residential development, Harrell Road Park takes in stormwater pollutants entering the creek, increases stormwater infiltration, replenishes groundwater stores and alleviates localized flooding.

"Roy has devoted a decade to designing and developing this park, which has become a really incredible piece of property," said Knox County Mayor Jacobs. "He has put a lot of work into championing projects that improved the health of and access to Beaver Creek including facilitating the purchase of property adjacent to Powell High School to create Powell Station Park and founding the Beaver Creek Watershed Association—a group whose work has helped provided Knox County it's first water trail."

"There are a lot of dedicated and hardworking employees serving Knox County," said Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay. "It feels great to be able to recognize one of them in such a meaningful way."

The site was donated to Knox County by the non-profit Legacy Parks Foundation in 2008. Several public and private partnerships then joined to rehab what was once an exposed clay soil mining area. The park opened in May 2017. Soon after, it was awarded the Environmental Conservation Award by the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials, a non-profit organization that recognizes and honors parks throughout the nation.

The passive park can be used to teach stormwater management practices as it contains two constructed stormwater wetland ponds that divert neighborhood runoff, a rain garden, native vegetation, three-quarter mile walking trail, interpretative signs and a kayak/canoe launch connected to the Beaver Creek Water Trail.

In addition to all his other contributions, Arthur also worked with community leaders to locate the Powell Branch Library along Beaver Creek and to incorporate watershed improvements as a part of the library construction.