



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knox County Receives Grant to Improve Water Quality in Turkey Creek

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has awarded a 319(h) joint grant of \$205,500 to Knox County, Town of Farragut, and City of Knoxville to improve water quality in the Turkey Creek Watershed. The start date for this grant is July 1, 2024.

Turkey Creek is on Tennessee's 303(d) list of impaired streams for sedimentation and high bacteria levels. According to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the primary cause of the impairment in the Turkey Creek Watershed is its location in a high-density urbanized area, where sediment and bacteria can easily wash into waterways. The grant will provide up to 75% cost-share funds to homeowners and commercial property owners to support green infrastructure projects that will improve water quality in the watershed, including:

- Detention pond retrofits in commercial and residential areas
- Septic system repairs (focused on the North Fork Turkey Creek area)
- Residential rain garden installations
- Grassy swales/vegetative filter strips/porous pavement installations to replace concrete drainageways
- Streambank stabilization and stream buffer planting.

In addition to these projects, the grant will support several community outreach and education efforts, including:

- Targeted mailing to inform the public of opportunities to participate
- Educational visits to classrooms and community groups
- Stream/wetland clean-up volunteer opportunities
- "Make-it, take-it" rain barrel workshops and rain barrel sales
- Pet waste disposal stations installed in high-use areas

To determine if you live in the Turkey Creek Watershed, visit kgis.org and select the "Watersheds" map under "Other Maps." For more information, call Knox County Stormwater at 865-215-5800.

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