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## Roseberry Creek watershed gets grant

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A \$144,000 state grant will help pay to improve the watershed of the impaired Roseberry Creek in Knox County.



(Photo: Submitted)

A \$144,000 state grant will help pay to improve the watershed of the impaired Roseberry Creek in Knox County, according to a news release. The county has been awarded a \$144,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for water quality initiatives and improvements in the Roseberry Creek watershed.

Roseberry Creek is on the Tennessee 303(d) list of impaired streams for high levels of bacteria, specifically E. coli, due to failing septic systems and runoff from agricultural properties, according to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The grant funds will help address both concerns with \$75,000 set aside to help homeowners fix failing septic systems and \$48,000 for agricultural improvements such as work on access roads and stream crossings, according to the release, with the addition of riparian buffers, and installation of fencing and watering systems for rotational grazing. The grant funds will pay 75 percent of costs for the improvements.

People interested in the grant should call Knox County Stormwater Management at 865-215-5540 for information on the septic repair program. Those interested in the agriculture improvement program should call the Knox County Soil Conservation District at 865-523-3338 ext. 3 for details.

Information on Knox County's watershed initiatives is available <a href="here">here (http://bit.ly/KnoxWatersheds</a>). Roseberry Creek watershed details including a map are <a href="here">here (http://bit.ly/RoseberryCreek)</a>).

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