



# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Knox County Receives Grant Award for the Stock Creek Watershed**

*Fixes for failed septic systems and help for farmers to protect water quality*

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has awarded \$115,000 to Knox County Stormwater through the Nonpoint Source Grant Program to improve water quality in Stock Creek located in south Knox County. The start date for this grant was March 1, 2019. This is the third grant awarded to Knox County Stormwater by TDA for Stock Creek in the past ten years.

Stock Creek is on Tennessee's 303(d) list of impaired streams for high levels of bacteria which are known to cause health problems for humans and a sediment impairment to a small tributary to the creek. According to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Stock Creek bacteria problem is due to failing septic systems and runoff from poor pasture on agricultural properties. The grant will address both causes of pollution with \$65,000 to help homeowners fix failing septic systems and \$30,000 for agricultural improvements. The grant will also address the sediment problem on Casteel Branch, a small stream in the watershed. The grant will pay 75% of the cost of septic system repairs and 85% for agriculture improvements.

To determine if you live in the Stock Creek Watershed go to Knox County's website and look at the roadmap of the watershed. Or click the following link (or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://www.knoxcounty.org/stormwater/pdfs/StockCreekWatershedPlanNov2007.pdf>.

For information on the septic repair program call Knox County Stormwater at (865) 215-5540. For information about the agriculture portion of the grant call the Knox County Soil Conservation District at (865) 523-3338, ext. 3.

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