



Hamilton County
Water Quality Program



MY TENNESSEE

A Certified Way to Spread Watershed
Education Using Public and Private
Partnerships

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CARIBBEAN STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

- ◉ 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
- ◉ TenneSEA
 - Kids 4 Clean Water Camp
 - Stormwater Education for Schools
 - Volunteer Water Monitoring Network
 - Educator Resources



LOCAL MS4 PROGRAMS

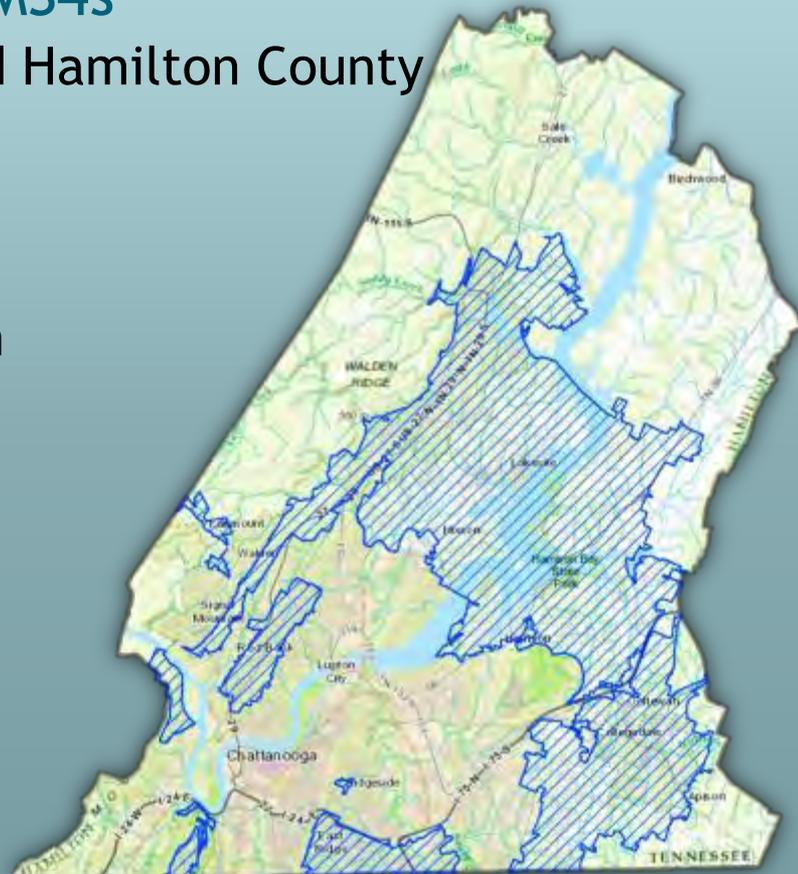
◉ Hamilton County Water Quality Program

■ Comprised of 9 Phase 2 MS4s

- ◉ Urbanized Unincorporated Hamilton County
- ◉ City of Collegedale
- ◉ City of East Ridge
- ◉ City of Lakesite
- ◉ Town of Lookout Mountain
- ◉ City of Red Bank
- ◉ City of Ridgeside
- ◉ City of Soddy Daisy
- ◉ Town of Walden

◉ City of Chattanooga

■ Phase 1 MS4



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

◎ Common Goals

- Raise Awareness of Urban Impacts on Streams
- Change Habits of Homeowners & Business Leaders
- Develop Community Involvement Initiatives



MY TENNESSEE - VISION AND GOALS

○ Residential Evaluation & Education Program

- Began Researching Similar Program in Burlington, VT.
- Target Mountain Creek Watershed as a Pilot Project
- Grant Awarded by the Lyndhurst Foundation to begin program development.

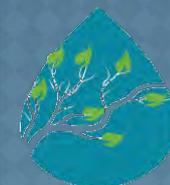


Our goal is to encourage the reduction of stormwater runoff, in turn, reducing pollution in our waterways.



MY TENNESSEE - ASSESSMENT PILOT

- Assessment forms modeled after Blue Certification, LCI/Burlington, VT
- Trained assessors canvassed neighborhoods in Mountain Creek Watershed
- 3 Levels of Certification
 - Bronze (Basic)
 - Silver (Advanced)
 - Gold (Leader)



LESSONS LEARNED FROM BLUE CERTIFICATION



◉ Trip to Burlington, VT



LESSONS LEARNED FROM BLUE CERTIFICATION

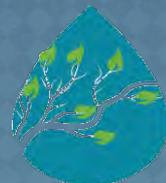
◎ Trip to Burlington, VT



BRANDING... WHAT'S IN A NAME?

◎ My Tennessee

- Sense of Ownership
- Sense of Responsibility
- The Tennessee River
- The State of Tennessee
- Catchy



ASSESSMENT FORM DEVELOPMENT

◎ Bronze

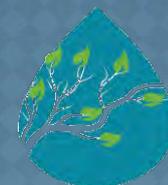
- Remove invasive/exotic plants
- Use native plants
- Pollinator garden
- Minimize erosion
- Properly dispose of trash, pharmaceuticals, pet waste, and household hazardous waste
- Grass clippings
- Sprinklers on grass
- Disconnect downspouts
- Create riparian zone
- Service septic tank
- Properly use pesticides and fertilizers

◎ Silver

- Build rain garden
- Use rain barrels
- Plant native trees
- Low-flow fixtures
- No car-tar or petroleum sealants
- Maintain 30ft riparian zone
- Fix erosion problems

◎ Gold

- Construct more GI (bioswales)
- Energy Star appliances
- Replace impervious pavement with pervious concrete, pavers or grass pavers



ASSESSMENT FORMS



My Tennessee: Clean Water Starts Here Homeowner Questionnaire

Complete the checklist, and make an appointment for an onsite assessment by emailing
mytennessee@chattanooga-tva.org

Name: _____ Watershed: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

GOAL: Our goal is to encourage the reduction of stormwater runoff, in turn, reducing pollution in our waterways.

BRONZE LEVEL

where complete or N/A where not applicable

1. Remove or avoid using invasive exotic plants. (To see a list of discouraged plants - <http://www.chattanooga.gov>)
2. Incorporate native plants into landscape. (<http://www.chattanooga.gov>)
3. Use organic pine straw, pine bark, leaves or hardwood mulch without added dyes.
4. Protect all soil surfaces with vegetation to minimize erosion by rainfall and runoff.
5. All trash from property is properly disposed of and not left on ground.
6. Grass clippings are left in place, composted or properly disposed of and lawn is mowed no shorter than 2 inches.
7. Adjust sprinklers to avoid hitting paved surfaces and calibrate the output as seasonal by plant needs, using a rain gauge if needed.

My Tennessee: Clean Water Starts Here Home Assessment

Name: _____ Watershed: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Assessor: _____

Field Assessment for Certifier: *See attached map of property*

Yes	No	
		Does property border a waterway, storm drain, storm water conveyance, wet weather conveyance, ditch . . .? If so, what is the distance from property line? From structures on property? Or are any of these located on the property?
		Does rain from grassy lawn runoff to storm drains, adjacent property, roads or streams? Check slope of property and determine if water would runoff. If it would, are buffers in place? Of impervious surfaces?
		Note drains, downspouts, saturated soils and other features like sheet flow off roof on printed map
		Where does water from impervious surfaces flow? Indicate on map
		Is property within City of Chattanooga limits? Has property participated in RainSmart® program?
		Is there a swimming pool? Where does backwash water go?
		If there is a septic tank? Look for evidence of possible leaks - green spots in lawn or mushy soil.
		Are there current stormwater practices in place? Describe and indicate on map.
		Is property free of trash and litter?
		Are there any erosion issues? Describe and indicate on map.

% impervious surfaces excluding house 0-20% GOLD, 21-35% SILVER, 36-50% BRONZE
% buffered lawn, driveway - completely buffered GOLD, 75-99% SILVER, 50-74% BRONZE



ASSESSMENT SIGN UP

◎ MyTN.org

Calling All Mountain Creek Watershed Residents!

CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU!

TenneSEA is excited to introduce a new way for homeowners to get involved and make a difference to the health of Mountain Creek.

You can now become a "My Tennessee: Clean Water Starts Here!" certified home or business.

Click the logo link below to find the Home Assessment details. We will help you evaluate storm-water runoff issues on your property and provide guidelines on how you can make changes to positively impact the Mountain Creek Watershed.

Contact Julie Novak at julesnovak@caribbean-sea.org for more details.



My Tennessee Clean Water Starts Here



HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENT REPORT



Homeowner Assessment REPORT

Name: Gary Burris

Date of Assessment: 4/11/18

Address: 1116 Whisperwood Trail Hickson TN

Email Address: gary.burris@tn.gov

Level Awarded: Bronze

Assessor: Julie, Mary Beth and Sara

Property Description:

The Burris property is in an established neighborhood in the Hickson area and is part of the North Chickamauga Creek Watershed. The property consists of a house, small shed, swimming pool and several acres of wooded land on a fairly steep slope. It is less than a mile from North Chickamauga Creek but does not border any waterways or storm conveyances.



The front yard consists of a grass lawn surrounded by large flower/shrub garden beds. All lawn areas have buffers or are sloped to prevent runoff to the street or driveway.

The backyard has an area between the house and pool that has some pollinator plants. It is recommended that more pollinators be added to this area.

<http://www.tennessee.gov/recreation/about.aspx?c=29061.0.0.37835>

<https://www.tnrc.tn.gov/water/portal/nrcs/tna/nrcs/portal/cfa/animals/pollinators>



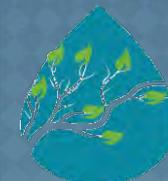
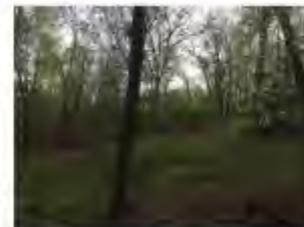
There is a large ditch that was created from previous runoff issues that have been addressed. Two gutter downspouts and the pool backflow drain directly to this ditch, which is full of vegetation. This is an ideal location for a rain garden. The homeowner seems eager to add one. Rain garden resources were discussed. This property is not in the city limits, so is not eligible for the Rain Smart reimbursement program. However, the educational materials from the city are available to all.

http://www.chattanooga.gov/images/Writer_Queries/How_to_Construct_Your_Rain_Garden_for_Tennessee.pdf

Downspouts on the driveway side of the house drain to the driveway, which is steeply sloped downhill from the street. This is a small culvert at the end of the driveway that carries stormwater to a compost pile. There is evidence of minor erosion below the driveway area between the Burris property and the next door neighbors. The homeowner should address this with the neighbor to find a solution that fits both yards.

Recommendations/Achievements:

It is recommended that Mr. Burris continue to add more native and pollinator plants to his property. He has a wonderful yard full of thriving plants and forested areas. He currently has a rain chain/collection vessel in the backyard. A rain barrel could be installed at other downspouts to provide water for garden beds and reduce the amount stormwater runoff in driveway area. At this time, Mr. Burris is being awarded the Bronze Level of certification. If he chooses to pursue further BMP's for the Silver Level, he will need to obtain a soil sample to ensure proper fertilizer application is followed for his yard. He will also need to install a rain garden in the area discussed above. A follow up inspection can happen once these are complete.



INCENTIVES

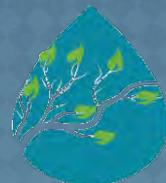
City of Chattanooga

- Rain Smart Program
 - Rain Garden Reimbursement
 - Up to \$1000.00
 - Rain Barrel Reimbursement
 - Up to \$50.00 per barrel
 - 4 barrel max



Program Wide

- Discounts at Partnering Businesses
- Landscape Classes
- Award Yard Signs



MY TENNESSEE'S FIRST CERTIFIED YARD - SILVER AWARD





Rain Garden Preparation









AWARDS!

◎ Gold Awards

- 4 pending rain garden installation

◎ Silver Awards

- First Award 3/19/18
- Total Awarded: 2

◎ Bronze Award

- Total Awarded: 13

◎ 26 Applications Received



MOVING FORWARD

◎ Neighborhood Liaisons

- Assist Assessors
- Generate Interest

◎ Neighborhood Scale Certification

- Spring Valley - Local Developer offers \$2500 grant match challenge

◎ Businesses and Churches



IMPROVEMENTS

◉ Marketing and Outreach

- Social Media Posts
- Promo Videos

◉ Sustainable Funding Source

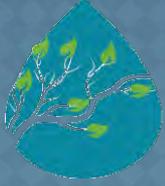


TANGIBLE END GOAL

- ◎ Improved Habitat Scores in Mountain Creek
- ◎ Improved Macroinvertebrate Scores and Diversity
- ◎ Reduced Turbidity during Rain Events
- ◎ Heightened Awareness of Watershed Issues



PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS 😊



QUESTIONS?

