



City of Chattanooga  
Water Quality Program



# Welcome to the Mountain Creek Watershed

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## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that water flows across on its way to a particular body of water such as a pond, stream, river or ocean. In Chattanooga, all the watersheds drain to the Tennessee River.

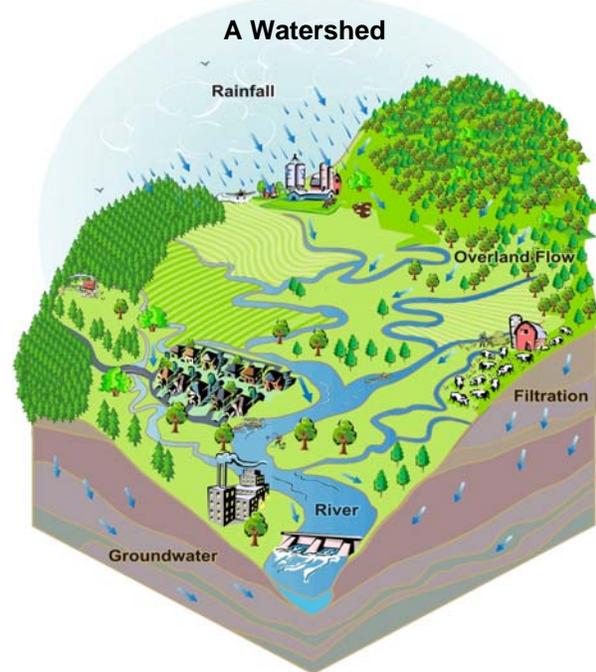
### Watersheds:

- Collect and move rain water from a higher elevation to a lower one.
- Can potentially transport pollutants such as oil, grease, trash and dirt by way of storm-water runoff to the receiving water body.

**We all live in a watershed.** The City of Chattanooga consists of 9 unique watersheds: Chattanooga Creek, Citico Creek, Combined Sewer Area, Lookout Creek, Mountain Creek, North Chickamauga Creek, South Chickamauga Creek, Tennessee River, and Wolftever Creek.

## Where am I?

The Mountain Creek community was annexed into the City of Chattanooga in 1966. It has an average elevation of 660 feet.



## Chattanooga's Watersheds



## Mountain Creek Watershed Facts:

- Mountain Creek meanders approximately 13 miles through the City of Chattanooga.
- The watershed drains almost 2,583 acres.
- With 1 inch of rain, nearly 70,139,520 gallons of water discharge into the Tennessee River equaling 1,402,790 baths.

Wow- that's a lot of water!



## Water Quality Issues in the Mountain Creek Watershed

- Habitat Loss
- Pathogens
- Urban influences (i.e. trash, pet waste, grass clipping, motor oil, and gasoline)



What is the City doing to manage the water quality issues in the Mountain Creek Watershed?

### Stream Restoration —

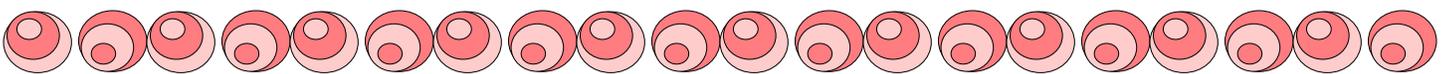
The City and in collaboration with the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program are analyzing sections of Mountain Creek to conduct a stream restoration project. The primary areas of interest are the creek behind the Arbors Apartment complex off Runyan Road or the section of creek in between Baylor School and Wal-Mart.

### Monitoring —

- A continuous field screening program is being used to detect illicit discharges and improper disposals into the storm-water system. Field screening involves testing chemical characteristics such as temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, phosphates, chlorine, detergents, phenol, copper, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. There are 19 field screening sites within the Mountain Creek Watershed.
- The City also designed the Stream Corridor Evaluation (SCORE) program to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to identify and evaluate stream channel stability, sediment loading, and in-stream habitat. In doing so, the Water Quality staff surveys all of the waterways within the City including the 12.7 miles of stream in the Mountain Creek Watershed.

### Pathogen Reduction —

The Water Quality Program has partnered with Moccasin Bend Waste Water Treatment Authority and implemented a Sanitary Lateral Assessment Program (SLAP) to identify breaks in the sanitary sewer lines in an effort to eliminate potential sources of pathogens from contaminating our waterways. A sewer lateral is the pipe that carries the wastewater from the house to the sanitary sewer main line in the street. The sewer laterals are inspected by putting smoke in a public sewer main and observing if the smoke is escaping from the ground; indicating a compromised sewer



## What can I do to improve water quality in the Mountain Creek Watershed?

- Maintain vehicles to reduce the discharge of oil and other motor fluids to the watershed.
- Wash cars in grassy areas to prevent runoff of washing chemicals into the storm drains.
- Do not discard your used motor oil, leaves, paint, or anything else into storm drains.
- To avoid blockages in your sanitary service line, pour grease and/or cooking oil in closed containers to be disposed of in your trash cans instead of in the sink.
- Pick-up after your pet to reduce pathogens in the watershed.
- Dispose of your grass clippings/wood debris through composting or the brush pick-up service offered by the City.
- Use mulch to control weeds instead of pesticides.

**To report an illicit discharge:** Call 311 or email: [swm@chattanooga.gov](mailto:swm@chattanooga.gov)

### Additional Resources:

TN Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC): [www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/)

Center for Watershed Protection: <http://www.cwp.org/>

