State of Tennessee's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Annual Report – FY25, v.2

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	
Ac	Acre
AMD	Abandoned Mineland Drainage
ARAP	Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit
ARCF	Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund
ARP	American Rescue Plan
BFEC	Brushy Fork Environmental Counsel, Inc.
BMP	Best Management Practice
CRC	Cumberland River Compact
CWA	Clean Water Act
E. coli	Escherichia coli
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FTE	Full Time Employee
GESA	Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRTS	Grants Reporting and Tracking System
HOA	Homeowner's Association
HUAP	Heavy Use Area Protection
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
lbs	Pounds
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWQI	National Water Quality Initiative
Ph	Phase
PLET	Pollutant Load Estimation Tool
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development Council
SETN RC&D	Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development
SFY	State Fiscal Year
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
STEPL	Spreadsheet for Estimating Load Reduction

SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TDA	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
TEC	Tennessee Environmental Council
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TN	Tennessee
TN-NPS	Tennessee Nonpoint Source Program
TSU	Tennessee State University
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
UT	University of Tennessee
yr	Year

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) manages the Nonpoint Source Program (aka, 319 Program) in Tennessee with approval and oversight of the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This federal program provides funds to states, territories and Indian tribes for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to stop NPS pollution; providing training, education, and demonstrations; and monitoring water quality.

The Tennessee Nonpoint Source Program (TN-NPS) is non-regulatory and promotes voluntary, incentive-based solutions. The program is a cost-share program, meaning that it pays for 60% of the cost of a project. It is the responsibility of the grantee to provide the remaining 40%, usually in cash and "in-kind" services. While the 319 Grant is the primary focus of this Annual Report, it is important to note that the TN-NPS extends beyond the USEPA grant; Tennessee funds additional projects under State-funded programs such as the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF). Together, the goal of the TN-NPS program is restore impaired waterbodies, prevent decline of high-quality waterbodies, and promote education of non-point source issues.

Notable Accomplishments

In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025, 104 practices were installed by grantees with the assistance of Section 319 funds. The most common practices installed by TDA partners in FFY2025 include septic system repairs, heavy use areas, watering facilities, fences, and streambank stabilization. After delays, the FFY2024 grant was obligated with $1,309,073 awarded to watershed projects and $78,020 awarded to education/outreach projects.

The overall estimated load reduction for nitrogen, and sediment decreased in FFY2025 from FFY2024, while phosphorus reductions increased. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads were reduced by an estimated 5,163.69 pounds, 1,228.74 pounds, and 560.61 tons, respectively.

The Division of Forestry conducted water quality site visits for forestry and silviculture businesses throughout the State in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 with financial support from the TN-NPS program.

Two Nonpoint Source Success Stories were submitted, and are under headquarters review, to USEPA in 2025. A success story for FFY24 over Caney Creek, and FFY25 for a follow up on Sequatchie River.

In September of 2024, several East Tennessee counties suffered heavy damage from Hurricane Helene. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture estimates that losses to the agricultural and forestry industries alone are between $772 million to $1.93 billion. Recovery in storm impacted areas is on-going.

Overview and Authority

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) manages the 319 Nonpoint Source Program with approval and oversight of the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Tennessee—Nonpoint Source Program (TN-NPS) applies for and is awarded a grant from the USEPA each year in order to implement this program. This Annual Report is required under a provision of each year's grant award. Specifically, the report fulfills the requirements of Section 319(h)(11) of the federal Clean Water Act. This report is written each year to inform the public, the USEPA, and ultimately the U.S. Congress of the state's progress in the area of reducing nonpoint source pollution in Tennessee. While this report should not be construed to be a complete description of all TN-NPS program activities, it does describe the most important features of the program within the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 (i.e., October 1, 2024–September 30, 2025).

Today, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the nation's largest source of water quality problems. It's the main reason that approximately 40 percent of our surveyed rivers, lakes, and estuaries are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing or swimming. NPS pollution occurs when water runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water. NPS pollution is widespread because it can occur any time activities disturb the land or water.

To address this diffuse type of pollution, congress established the Nonpoint Source Program, funded by the USEPA through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture administers the Nonpoint Source Program in Tennessee on behalf of USEPA. This program provides funds to states, territories and Indian tribes for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to stop NPS pollution; providing training, education, and demonstrations; and monitoring water quality.

The TN-NPS is non-regulatory and promotes voluntary, incentive-based solutions. The program is a cost-share program, meaning that it pays 60% of the cost of a project. It is the responsibility of the grantee to provide the remaining 40%, usually in cash and "in-kind" services. It primarily funds two types of projects:

1. Watershed Restoration Projects improve impaired waterbody or prevent a non-impaired water from becoming placed on the Lists of Impaired and Threatened Waters (formerly the 303(d) List). Projects of this type receive highest priority for funding. All projects involving BMPs must be based on an approved "Watershed Based Plan."
2. Educational Projects funded through TN-NPS raise awareness of practical steps that can be taken to eliminate NPS pollution. Projects funded can either have a statewide, general public aim or can focus on local, targeted audiences with specific messages.

No funds from the TN-NPS are given directly to individual landowners. All grant money is awarded to organizations/entities that administer and oversee the local project. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local governments, state agencies, soil conservation districts, and universities. These organizations then can enter into work agreements with individual landowners to reimburse them for work done on their land. All payments made with grant funds are on a reimbursement basis.

Program Highlights from FFY2025

The Tennessee Depart of Agriculture (TDA) relies on the cooperation of stakeholders, partnerships, and local landowner support to implement many components of the Tennessee Nonpoint Source Program (TN-NPS) statewide. The information contained in this Annual Report highlights many of the accomplishments that have been collectively achieved by these collaborative efforts during FFY2025.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM MILESTONES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025:

Best Management Practices Installation for FFY2025

Photograph 1: Emerging cover crop in Fayette County, Tennessee

In FFY2025, 104 BMPs were installed by our partners with assistance from CWA Section 319 grant funds (from all open grants). The most common BMPs installed, from most to least, were septic system repairs, fences (livestock exclusion and cross fencing for rotational grazing), streambank stabilization, heavy use areas and watering facilities. The number of practices and pollutant load reduction rates decreased from FFY2024. The Agriculture Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF), Tennessee's State-funded nonpoint source grant program, also saw a slight decrease in trends, from the previous year. A total of 2,131 BMPs were installed with

the assistance of ARCF in FFY2025, with an investment of just over $7 million. Possible factors contributing to a slowdown in conservation activities in Tennessee include a scarcity of labor, increased costs for supplies, and economic stress on multiple agricultural commodities.

The TN-NPS program continued administration of the Tennessee Riparian Incentives Program (TRIP) and the Gulf Hypoxia Cover Crop Project (GHP) in FFY2025. The GHP program assisted with the planting of over 700 acres of cover crops in FFY2025. Phase I of GHP will end on December 31, 2025; additional funding has Tennessee been awarded by TDEC, and Phase II will begin in Spring 2026.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture—Division of Forestry Partnership Continues

Tennessee's ARCF program provides funding to TDA's Division of Forestry to support a Water Quality Forester and financially assist with the forestry/silviculture-based water quality inspections. In FFY2025, the Water Quality Forester completed 438 total site visits to verify compliance with BMPs such as hardened stream crossings, skid trails and streamside management zones. The overall compliance rate, statewide, was over 96 percent.

Success Stories / Impaired Waters Delisting

Two Nonpoint Source Success Stories for Caney Creek in Hawkins County and Sequatchie River in Bledsoe County were submitted to and accepted by USEPA in FFY2025.

Caney Creek was added to Tennessee's 2006 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) due to grazing in the riparian zones causing high vegetative alteration and sedimentation leading to poor results on biological surveys. With funding help from the CWA Section 319, TDA's Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF), other state agencies and nonprofits, and locally donated time and money, Hawkins County SWCD was able to successfully delist 16.8 miles of Caney Creek in Tennessee's 2024 List of Threatened and Impaired Waters.

Sequatchie River was included in Tennessee's 2008 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d), as impaired by *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) due to pasture grazing. Sequatchie River was removed from the impaired list in 2014, unfortunately, pressure within the watersheds resulted in deteriorating water quality, and Sequatchie River was immediately returned to Tennessee's 2016 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list for *E. coli* impairment. The Bledsoe County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), assisted by Tennessee's Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) continued to install best management practices (BMPs) along

Sequatchie River. The persistence yielded results, and *E. coli* in the Sequatchie River decreased to levels that resulted in the Sequatchie River being delisted in 2024.

As of the date of this Annual Report, the Success Stories were undergoing formatting prior to publication by USEPA. Upon completion, the Success Stories can be accessed on Success Stories about Restoring and Protecting Water Bodies Impaired by Nonpoint Source Pollution webpage.

Photograph 2: Rotational grazing system installed in the Sequatchie River watershed

FFY25 319 Annual Participant Survey

The annual participation survey was conducted in summer of 2025, starting on June 6, 2025. The survey was sent out to any past and present participants of the 319-grant program. Of the 35 surveys sent, 11 responses were received. The most common trend of needing assistance with Watershed Based Planning is still present as of this survey. Participants also noted the increasing cost of supplies and labor as a large issue they are running into. TN LWSS continues to attempt to give support in Watershed Based Planning and increased outreach on the grant each year.

East Tennessee Suffers from Hurricane Helene Damage

During the week of September 23rd, 2024, Eastern Tennessee experienced heavy rains and flood damage from Hurricane Helene. Hurricane Helene produced substantial rainfall that resulted in historic river flooding that caused severe damage to communities and infrastructure. Major disaster declarations were issued in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington counties. Floods from Hurricane Helene tore through cities and caused destruction including breached dams and left thousands without essential utilities for days. East Tennessee is still recovering from the storm impacts. Especially hard hit was the agricultural community, with some damage estimates in excess of $1 billion (University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, November 11, 2024). Through the ARCF program, TN-NPS is supporting research into the impacts of flooding on soils in impacted areas, as well as studies to determine the best ways to remediate fields overburdened with silt and debris.

Attendance at National and Regional Nonpoint Source Meetings

- Sam Marshall presented at Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) on March 6, 2025 in Gallatin, TN.
- Macee Fredlake attended the Tennessee Water Resources Symposium in Burns, TN on April 9 – 11, 2025.
- Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson and Macee Fredlake attended the virtual NPS Success Story Training on July 10, 2025.
- Sam Marshall attended the Region 4 Water Directors virtual meetings August 28 – 29, 2025.
- Sam Marshall participated in the Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) Coordinating Committee virtual meetings on September 22 – 23, 2025.
- Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson attended the virtual Region 4 Management Plan Update Kick-off Meeting on September 23, 2025.
- Sam Marshall and Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson attended the virtual monthly R4 State and Tribal NPS Program calls (multiple / on-going).

FFY2021 Grant Closeout

The FFY2021 grant ended on September 30, 2025, with zero unspent funds. As of the date of this Annual Report, the FFY2021 Closeout Report is pending (with an anticipated submission by January 30, 2026).

FFY2024 Grant Awarded

The TN-NPS released an RFP in September 2023, to solicit applicants for the 319 Grant award for FFY2024. (Please note: due to program delays, TN-NPS is currently behind schedule in regard to issuing awards.) Proposals (with accompanying watershed based plans, as applicable) were due by December 1, 2023, and eleven applications were received. Applicants requested a total of $2,077,333.93 in grant funding. Funding was provided for nine project proposals submitted in FFY2024. The FFY2024 grant, totaling $2,564,000, was awarded to TN-NPS on April 30, 2025. The following table provides a list of projects funded from the FY2024 grant as well as the amount of grant funding each project was awarded.

Table 1: FFY2024 Funded Projects and Allocations

Name of Applicant	Name of Project	319 Grant Allocation	Funding Type
Cumberland River Compact	Brown's Creek Restoration – Phase 2	$142,000	Implementation
Cumberland River Compact	River Friendly Farms Certification Program – Phase 2	$58,020	Program
Giles County SWCD	Buchanan Creek Project	$274,000	Implementation
Grainger County SWCD	Richland Creek Watershed Improvement Project – Phase 2	$186,251	Implementation
Jefferson County SWCD	Lost Creek Watershed Restoration Project	$111,000	Implementation
Monroe County SWCD	Bat Creek Restoration Project – Phase 2	$360,000	Implementation
TDEC – Division of Water Resources	Water Quality Monitoring of Nonpoint Source-Impaired Streams (2024)	$152,000	Implementation
Tennessee Environmental Council	Donelson Creek Restoration – Phase 1	$83,822	Implementation
Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Council	Tennessee Envirothon	$20,000	Program

Total NPS Spending in FFY2025

The spending in FFY2025 decreased slightly from FFY2024. Watershed restoration spending decreased by less than $100,000, while management costs stayed relatively the same as FFY2024. Education project spending increased in FFY2025 compared to FFY2024 by roughly $30,000. The total amount of 319 grant funds spent in FFY2025 was $2,579,439.32, which was an overall decrease of only $31,000. (FFY2024 total spending was $2,611,060.70).

Program Management expenditures consist of salaries and benefits for 12.4 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs), travel, supplies, and indirect costs originating from the TN-NPS program. The personnel costs for 1.10 FTE is matched by the State.

Table 2: Nature and Amount of Expenditures in FFY2025

Nature of Expense	Amount of 319 Dollars Spent
NPS Program Management	$1,456,469.64
Watershed Restoration Projects	$1,062,488.38
Education Projects	$60,481.30
Total:	**$2,579,439.32**

The following two tables illustrate the spending from FFY2025. Table 3 is a representation of where Section 319 grant funds were spent in FFY2025 across the state on best management practices from watershed restoration projects by watershed (8-digit hydraulic unit code).

Table 3: FFY2025 Section 319 BMPs by HUC8 Watershed

Watershed Name	Huc. 8 No.	No. of Practices	Total Incentive Payment
Conasauga River	03150101	5	$16,875.00
Stones River	05130203	7	$9,749.62
Harpeth River	05130204	6	$97,922.23
Holston River	06010104	17	$70,414.00
Watts Bar Lake	06010201	12	$71,740.96
Lower Little Tennessee River	06010204	10	$62,968.93

Watershed Name	Huc. 8 No.	No. of Practices	Total Incentive Payment
Powell River	06010206	20	$60,514.22
Emory River	06010208	8	$27,098.95
Hiwassee River	06020002	10	$24,851.37
Lower Duck River	06040003	9	$70,263.24

Table 4 below provides a breakdown of CWA 319 spending, by grant year. The last column shows the amount of grant money spent in FFY2025 from each of our active grants. The third column shows the cumulative amount spent or drawn-down from each of our active grants (This is for the FFY period of October 1st, 2024- September 30th, 2025, only, not the calendar reporting year). Each subsequent grant year has less, and less money spent as each year is more and more recent, but the TN-NPS program has a strong history of spending all the money from each grant before it is closed out. The second column represents the original amount of each grant award.

Table 4: Expenditure History of CWA Section 319(h) Grants from FFY2021 to FFY2025 For the State of Tennessee

FY	Grant Award	Cumulative Draw Down	Expenditures
2021	$2,682,200.00	$2,682,200.00	$435,484.15
2022	$2,681,800.00	$1,937,727.16	$1,519,752.59
2023	$2,682,000.00	925,770.78	$624,202.58
2024	$2,564,000.00	$0.00	$0.00
2025	$2,568,000.00 (projected)	$0.00	$0.00

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are three of the most common impairments for Tennessee; thus, pollutant load reductions are key to removing stream reaches and bodies of water from the Lists of Impaired and Threatened Waters. Since delisting streams is the top priority of the Tennessee NPS program, these estimates help track interim progress towards that goal. Overall success is determined by the number of stream miles or lake acreage that is removed from the Lists of Impaired and Threatened Waters as they again meet the State standards for their designated uses. Table 5 shows our estimated load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment from all projects with BMPs for FFY2025, based on the 129 practices installed by partners. Estimates were derived using the Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET). In FFY2025, estimated load reduction for nitrogen and sediment was lower than the previous year, while phosphorus was higher, this can likely be due to the difference in amount of BMPs installed. The load reduction estimates for FFY2025 are 5,163.69 pounds of nitrogen, 1,228.74 pounds of phosphorus, and 560.61 tons of sediment.

The data was derived from Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) entries and the State of Tennessee's, Land & Water Stewardship database query, based on the date of payment, dating from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. **NOTE: Data units for sediment are in tons/year (yr).**

Table 5. Load Reductions Estimates for FFY2025 of Nitrogen (lbs/yr), Phosphorus (lbs/yr) and Sediment (tons/yr)

Nitrogen (lbs/yr)	**5,163.69 lbs**
Phosphorus (lbs/yr)	**1,228.74 lbs**
Sediment (tons/yr)	**560.61 tons**

Guiding Principles

The successful administration of any program requires some level of planning and the establishment of goals. The TN-NPS's new Management Program Document is part of that process, and one significant aspect of that plan is the goals that have been set. Both long term goals and annual goals have been identified, all of which correspond to the four elements of TN-NPSs overriding mission statement.

TN-NPS Program Mission Statement

The mission of the TN-NPS is to: measurably reduce nonpoint source pollution in Tennessee, measurably improve Tennessee's water quality, continuously strengthen and expand partnerships, and increase the water resources stewardship of Tennessee's citizens.

The current fiscal year is a year of transition for the TN-NPS program. Revisions to the Management Program Document, as of the date of this Annual Report, are in progress. The specific long and short term goals, currently being developed, will be the basis of all future NPS program projects in Tennessee. The TN-NPS will tie each future project to specific long term goals and annual milestones. New and revised goals will be described in the revised Management Program Document (expected to be completed in January, 2026). For the purposes of tracking progress during this transitional period, the previous Management Program Document Long Term Goals will be used.

Transitional TN-NPS Long Term Goals

Long Term Goal No. 1:

Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the Lists of Impaired and Threatened Waters*) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.

Long Term Goal No. 2:

Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.

Long Term Goal No. 3:

Build capacity for future TN-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.

Long Term Goal No. 4:

Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies.

Long Term Goal No. 5:

Protect unimpaired/high quality waters (i.e., those not on the list of impaired waters) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.

Long Term Goal No. 6

Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.

Status of All Active Projects in FFY2025

Table 5: Status of All Projects Active in FFY2025 as of December 3, 2025

Grantee Name – Project Name	Amount Awarded ($)	Balance ($)	Expiration Date
Appalachian RC&D - Gap Creek - Watauga River	$475,000.00	$0.00	7/31/2025
Blount Co. SWCD - Baker & Centenary Cr., Ph. IV	$172,000.00	$76,328.03	8/31/2026
Blount Co. SWCD - Pistol Creek Restoration, Ph. II	$462,000.00	$366,135.53	8/31/2026
Blount Co. SWCD - Watershed Learning Laboratory	$15,090.00	$0.00	7/31/2025
Claiborne Co. SWCD - Davis Creek/Cawood Branch	$164,650.00	$0.00	9/15/2025
CRC - Browns Creek Restoration Ph II	$142,000.00	$142,000.00	7/31/2028
CRC - Harpeth Rv. - Spencer Cr, Ph. I	$163,000	$0.00	9/15/2025
CRC - Harpeth Rv. - Spencer Cr., Ph. I.2	$104,000.00	$104,000.00	7/31/2026
CRC - River Friendly Farms Ph. II	$58,020.00	$58,020.00	7/31/2028
Giles Co. SWCD - Buchanan Creek Watershed	$274,000.00	$274,000.00	7/31/2028
City of Goodlettsville - Madison Creek/Pattons Branch Stream Bank Stabilization	$160,341.00	$160,341.00	7/31/2027
Grainger Co. SWCD - Richland Cr Ph II	$186,251.00	$186,251.00	7/31/2028
Green Interchange - Spring Creek	$104,000.00	$57,178.18	8/31/2026
Jefferson Co. SWCD - Lost Creek Watershed	$111,000.00	$111,000.00	7/31/2028
Knox Co. - Turkey Creek Watershed Ph 1	$205,500.00	$184,246.00	7/31/2027

Grantee Name – Project Name	Amount Awarded ($)	Balance ($)	Expiration Date
Monroe Co. SWCD - Bat Creek Ph. II	$360,000.00	$360,000.00	7/31/2028
Morgan Co. SWCD Crooked Fork Ph 2	$225,000.00	$169,418.57	7/31/2027
SE TN RC&D - Conasauga River, Ph. 3	$165,000.00	$73,375.00	8/31/2026
SETN RC&D - Hiwassee Rv. Tributaries, Ph. II	$160,000.00	$0.00	9/15/2025
TDEC/WPC NPS Watershed Monitoring 2021	$180,000.00	$13,656.70	7/31/2025
TDEC/WPC NPS Watershed Monitoring 2022	$165,000.00	$0.00	8/31/2026
TDEC Water Quality Monitoring 2023	$150,000.00	$92,433.64	7/31/2027
TDEC Water Quality Monitoring 2024	$150,000.00	$150,000.00	7/30/2028
TEC - Donelson Creek Restoration Ph. I	$83,822.00	$83,822.00	7/31/2028
TEC - Lytle Creek Restoration, Ph. II	$63,100.00	$0.01	7/31/2025
TEC - Rutherford Creek Restoration V	$145,000.00	$0.00	9/15/2025
TN Aquarium - Watershed Education	$65,500.00	$18,439.74	7/31/2026
TN RC&D - Envirothon 2025	$20,000.00	$4,229.27	7/31/2026
TN RC&D Envirothon 2026	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	7/31/2028
TTU - Watershed Based Environmental Justice	$92,273.00	$32,722.81	8/31/2026
TWF - Bull Run Creek Stabilization Project	$311,589.00	$216,163.55	7/31/2027

Grantee Name – Project Name	Amount Awarded ($)	Balance ($)	Expiration Date
UTK - Innovative Stormwater Management	$27,763.00	$25,841.63	7/31/2027
WaterWays - Mountain Creek Watershed Ph 3	$312,000.00	$294,080.94	7/31/2027
Wolf River Conservancy - Educational Signage	$26,000.00	$0.00	7/31/2025

Project Summaries for FY2025

(In alphabetical order, by grantee)

GRANTEE: Blount County Soil and Water Conservation District

PROJECT NAME: Baker and Centenary Creek Restoration Initiative – Phase IV

GRANT YEAR: 2022

WEBSITE: http://www.blounttn.org/soil/

I. Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices:

Two operators (in Blount County) have completed the planned practices for this reporting period.

Table 1: Types and Quantities of Practices Installed in FFY21025

Practice:	NRCS Code	Quantity Installed:
Interior Cross Fence	382(G)	6626 feet
Access Control Fence	382(E)	1907 feet
Water Well	642	265 feet
Pumping Plant	533	1 unit
Pipeline (Buried Pipe)	516	200 feet

All approved clients that will utilize 319 funding were encouraged to complete their planned practices in a timely manner.

II. Septic System Repair and Restoration for Low-income Households:

- One septic system has been repaired for this reporting period.
- Specifically, the following components were installed:
- Septic Tank = One, 1000 Gallon Tank
- Field Line = 2-Foot Chambered System (10.6’ X 49’)
- Septic Pump = One Pumping System

Outreach for this aspect of grant programming included notification to septic system installers regarding opportunities for grant funding and installation thereof.

Approval for additional septic applicants is pending availability of funding.

Photograph 1: 2-foot chambered septic field line

III. Correct Eroded Steep Banks along U.S. Highway 411:

Originally, streambank stabilization was proposed along Highway 411. Design / implementation of the stabilization has proved problematic, and funds within this contract designated for this milestone were used for AgBMPs instead. This project shall be implemented later pending availability of 319 or other funding strategies.

IV: Conduct Homeowner Outreach Workshops:

No workshops were held for this reporting period.
Additional workshops shall be dependent upon availability of grant funding.

V: Implement Riparian/Stormwater Practices:

Funding for this milestone has been transferred to AgBMP's.
This project shall be implemented later pending availability of 319 or other funding strategies.

VI. Grant Management:

All aspects of grant programming are reviewed monthly by the Board of Supervisors of the Blount County Soil & Water Conservation District as part of an adaptive management policy to ensure project integrity.

Photograph 2: Interior cross fence in conjunction with access control fencing, alternative watering facility and prescribed grazing

GRANTEE: Blount County Soil and Water Conservation District
PROJECT NAME: Pistol Creek Restorative Initiative – Ph. II
GRANT YEAR: 2022
WEBSITE: http://www.blounttn.org/soil/

During this annual period, progress was made in 3 of the 6 milestones outlined in the program.

Project #1: A stormwater ditch that was eroding and undercutting a parking lot at Village Missionary Baptist Church (Eagleton, Maryville, TN) was renovated to stabilize the culvert outlet, mitigate erosion, and prevent undercutting causing the edge of the parking lot to collapse. *See pictured.*

Photograph 1: Renovation of stormwater outlet

Project #2: An urban stormwater spillway from a 5 ft culvert was severely eroding with a documented 12 cubic yards of soil being eroded and deposited into a Pistol Creek tributary stream over two years. The spillway was renovated and stabilized with grading, hard armoring and vegetation.

Stream/Riparian Habitat: A high use section of stream bank on Pistol Creek that is accessible to users of the Maryville greenway was damaged, eroding, and deteriorating. The area was regarded and stabilized with coir matting and vegetation.

Community Outreach/Education: One public education event was held at the Blount County Public Library.

Outdoor Learning Areas: Two outdoors learning areas were enhanced through service-learning activities with Master Gardeners and students from Maryville College.

GRANTEE: Blount County Soil and Water Conservation District
PROJECT NAME: Watershed Learning Laboratory
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: http://www.blounttn.org/soil/

This grant was closed out as of June 30, 2025

All milestones were completed with some goals being exceeded.

The Watershed Learning Laboratory was established & is now serving the community.

- 5 Workshops were completed
- >15 Outreach & education events were conducted
- >2,500 were engaged/reached through education & outreach efforts
- 2 Citizen science projects were supported by the Lab
- 9 Student interns engaged with the program, used the lab, or assisted with outreach
- A new website was created, www.bcswcd.org
- 4 Professional events were attended & presented using results from the Watershed Learning Laboratory

This grant was instrumental in accomplishing the goal of building and operating the Watershed Learning Laboratory. There continues to be a growing need for education and outreach based upon hands-on activities and experiential learning. Blount County SWCD learned that there is a growing need to provide citizens with a better understanding of stormwater and watershed related issues, specifically showing them examples in the field and how data and public information is collected.

Photograph 1: Maryville College students collecting data on water quality

GRANTEE: City of Goodlettsville
PROJECT NAME: Madison Creek/ Pattens Branch
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: https://goodlettsville.gov/

Design is complete and the City of Goodlettsville has been awaiting approval from TDEC in reference to the General ARAP. Once the ARAP is approved the City plans on taking bids for the designed work and awarding a contract to begin construction. Construction is estimated to take approximately 6 months or less.

GRANTEE: Claiborne County Soil and Water Conservation District
PROJECT NAME: Davis Creek/Cawood Branch Watershed Restoration Project
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: http://tnacd.org/

This project was completed and closed out in FFY2025. Pictures included are examples of fencing installed (see below).
Completed bmp's:

- 1 Watering system:
  - 1 watering tank with HUA and 244' livestock pipeline.
- 590' of Fencing.
- 9,018 SQ' of Heavy Use Area Protection pads.
- 124' of Access RD.
- 2365 Sq' of Animal Trails and Walkways.
- 475' of Roof Runoff Structures with 609' of Underground outlet.

Photograph 1 and 2: Cross fencing for rotational grazing systems

GRANTEE: Cumberland River Compact
PROJECT NAME: Browns Creek Phase 2
GRANT YEAR: 2024
WEBSITE: http://cumberlandrivercompact.org/

No significant work was performed on this TN 319 grant during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Over the next six months, the following tasks are planned:

Tentative Schedule of Tasks (Example Assumes Mid-Summer Start Date)

Year 1 - Quarter 1

- Riparian Buffers: Site identification and outreach
- Depave/stormwater retrofits: Site identification and outreach
- Rain gardens: Site identification and outreach
- Tree Canopy Restoration: Site identification and outreach, logistical planning
- Community Education Events: Outreach to community partners, businesses, and homeowners
- Youth Education Events: Planning, outreach to schools, camps, and other youth organizations
- Stewardship Events: Site identification and outreach

Year 1 - Quarter 2

- Riparian Buffers: Site identification and outreach
- Depave/stormwater retrofits: Site identification and outreach
- Rain gardens: Site identification and outreach, logistical planning
- Tree Canopy Restoration: Fall/winter plantings
- Community Education Events: Outreach to community partners, businesses, and homeowners
- Youth Education Events: Host one K-12 event
- Stewardship Events: Site identification and outreach

GRANTEE: Cumberland River Compact
PROJECT NAME: River Friendly Farms Phase 2
GRANT YEAR: 2024
WEBSITE: http://cumberlandrivercompact.org/

No significant work was performed on this TN 319 grant during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Over the next six months, the following tasks are planned:

1st quarter after contract begin date:

● Advisory Committee:
- Development of the committee: send out meeting dates, and involvement expectations, and identify any desired members not listed.
- Committee Meetings: The Compact and representatives of partner organizations and farms will convene two meetings to accomplish team-building activities, review of project goals and resources, and discuss alternative approaches to develop the certification, marketing, and outreach.

● River Friendly Farm Certification:
- Farm Certification: The Compact will complete a list of the names, contact information, and best management practices of 30 prospective farms for certification and field days, using referrals from the Advisory Committee.
- Farm Promotion: The Compact will draft a website for the project including the following sections: Home, About, Get Certified, Find Farms, About Farmers, Contact Us. The Compact will complete a cooperative agreement with Pick Tennessee Products for cross-promotion of River Friendly Farms and Pick TN.

● Marketing Toolkit:
- Publish farmer profiles

● Partnership with Agencies:
- Farm Field Days: The Compact will schedule soil health farm field days.

● Reports: Submit Progress Report and Reimbursement Request/Invoice.

2nd quarter after contract begin date:

- River Friendly Farm Certification:
  - Farm Certification: The Compact will certify 1-2 farms. Certification process feedback from farmers will be collected through the end of the grant.
- Marketing Toolkit:
  - Publish farmer profile
- Partnership with Agencies:
  - Farm Field Days: The Compact will host a farm field day to promote soil health practices and River Friendly Farm certification, increasing knowledge of local water quality problems, agricultural best management practices, and assistance programs among 30 farmers each, total of 60 farmers.
- Reporting: Submit Progress Report and Reimbursement Request/Invoice.

GRANTEE: Grainger County Soil and Water Conservation District
PROJECT NAME: Richland Creek Watershed
GRANT YEAR: 2024
WEBSITE: http://www.graingercountytn.com/county-officials/soil- conservation/

The Grainger County Richland Creek Watershed Grant began August 15th of 2025 and has been steadily progressing over the past couple months. The grant has made an impact on water quality within Grainger County. The Grainger County SWCD began working with Landowners, to implement best management practices and help repair old or failing septic systems to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. During this project, one source was identified as the loss of biological integrity of Richland Creek. The cause is E. coli, which comes from manure sources. Therefore, the Grainger County SWCD concentrated on fencing cattle out of the streams that feed Richland Creek and repairing septic systems. The Grainger County SWCD has not completed any BMP practices but has several landowners that have been approved to begin projects.

Photograph 1: Sinkhole exclusion fencing installed in the Richland Creek watershed

There were several outreach events that took place this year, first was the annual farm tour with 40 people in attendance. During this event, local staff discussed BMPs available with the Richland Creek grant. The Grainger County SWCD also held a fencing school where the Richland Creek grant was presented to make landowners aware of this grant. In addition, an Awards Banquet was held on Nov. 8, 2025, where attendees were informed of the grant as well as other available programs.

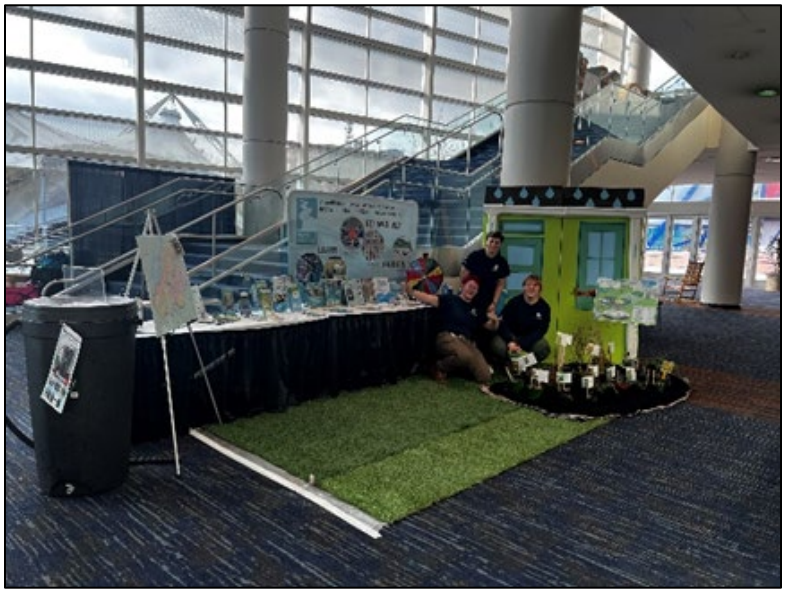
GRANTEE: Green Interchange
PROJECT NAME: Spring Creek Restoration Plan Implementation
GRANT YEAR: 2022
WEBSITE: https://www.greeninterchange.org/

The Spring Creek/Black Branch Project was funded by the TN Department of Agriculture's 319 section in 2024, with work being accomplished in late 2024 and early 2025. The goal of the project was to restore approximately 5000 linear feet of the 303d listed creek and/or its tributaries.
In late 2024 Green Interchange began investigating a site on Link Branch, upstream of Old Hartsville Pike in Lebanon TN. The investigation revealed significant stream bank erosion, and riparian forest degradation. Working with the landowners Green Interchange also discovered significant flooding issues and failed attempts at bank stabilization. The landowners were eager to mitigate the flooding while restoring the site-specific ecological balance to Link Branch. Green Interchange's staff, contractors and volunteers began to stabilize stream banks, planted trees and vegetation and created a flood plain bench along the bank. Volunteers planted over 100 trees in the riparian zone, increasing its width by 15 to 25 feet, approximately 400-500 linear feet of stream bank stabilization utilizing rock gabions, cedar revetments and bank sloping and re vegetation was accomplished. Finally, contractors created approximately 1/8th of an acre flood plain bench in an effort to mitigate the flooding.

Photograph 1: Volunteers planting trees along Link Branch.

GRANTEE: Knox County
PROJECT NAME: Turkey Creek Watershed Initiative – Phase I
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: https://www.knoxcounty.org/

During the first full year of the Turkey Creek Phase 1 grant, 14 homeowners reached out about the septic repair program, with one sewer connection project completed. A retention pond project was also completed at the Copperstone Subdivision, planning was done for a potential detention pond retrofit at the Farragut Library, and a mailer was created to send to detention pond owners in the watershed that are eligible for retrofits. Knox County and the Town of Farragut have planned to hold a Creekbank Repair Workshop on North Fork Turkey Creek at Founder's Park this winter. Workshop participants will install a riparian buffer and address bank erosion along approximately 260 ft of the creek. This will also serve as an educational opportunity targeting property owners and the commercial community.



Photograph 1: Water Quality Forum educational booth with fliers advertising the Turkey Creek Grant at the Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show

The grant partners continued to conduct education activities and advertise funding opportunities in the watershed. Fliers were posted at the Farragut library and at several community tabling events, including the Tennessee Valley Fair, TEAM agriculture conference, Cheers to Clean Water, Tennessee Smart Yards Festival, and the Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show. The grant partners also put out several social media posts and e-newsletter articles to advertise grant funding and events and put information on a community notice screen at the

Farragut Community Center. Finally, the grant partners hosted two rain barrel events in the watershed; 18 community members attended the Make-it, Take-it Rain Barrel Workshop, and 20 rain barrels were sold during the rain barrel sale. Pictured is the Water Quality Forum educational booth with fliers advertising the Turkey Creek Grant at the Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show.

GRANTEE: Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District
PROJECT NAME: Crooked Fork Restoration
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: https://www.facebook.com/MorganCountySoilConservationDistrict/

Morgan County has completed the following practices and requirements:

Table 1: Project Type and Number Completed

Project:	Number Completed:
Septic Repairs	3
Reseeding	2
Livestock Pipeline	1
Frost Proof Hydrant	2

Morgan County SWCD has open, 2 septic applications, 1 heavy use area, 1 access road, 2 cropland conversions, a livestock pipeline w/ hydrant and fencing projects. Morgan Co. SWCD is working on contacting more farmers within the CFC area and sharing the availability of resources to help them.

Two newsletters were placed in the local paper informing landowners of the availability of resources. Morgan Co. SWCD utilized the soil tunnel for the purpose of educating schoolchildren about the importance of clean water and healthy soils, as well as hosting an outreach event in October 2025.

GRANTEE: Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Council
PROJECT NAME: Hiwassee River Tributaries Phase II
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: http://setnrcd.org/

Agricultural BMPs have been installed on three farm properties with the majority of the practices installed along the mainstem of Chatata Creek. Over the past year, Southeast Tennessee continued its partnership with landowners to cost-share on cross-fencing, watering facilities, crop conversion to perennial grasses, and heavy use areas. Significant progress has been made at the Landowner's farm, with cattle no longer needing creek access on any of the paddocks. Cross-fencing will improve soil health by reducing compaction and erosion as well as allowing for exclusion from seasonally wet areas.

Photograph 1: Cropland conversion project

The Bradley County ARP septic program expired at the end of December 2024. Once that funding was no longer available, Southeast TN RC&D received interest in its 319-funded septic program. Though Southeast TN RC&D didn't hit the goal of 20 repairs, it successfully partnered with 10 landowners to provide cost-shares on repairs. After determining that a portion of the funding allocated for septic repairs would not be utilized, Southeast TN RC&D coordinated with TDA staff to amend the grant contract to reflect the revised budget.

GRANTEE: Tennessee Aquarium
PROJECT NAME: Rivers to Ridges Gallery: Interactive Watershed Education
GRANT YEAR: 2022
WEBSITE: https://tnaqua.org/

A new interactive exhibit was installed in the Ridges to Rivers gallery at the Tennessee Aquarium (Aquarium) *(exhibit pictured below*). The exhibit is made up of three 75-inch interactive touch screens, each able to react to engagement from multiple guests at a time. Each screen displays a different Tennessee ecosystem: rural farmland, suburban neighborhoods, and a downtown urban area respectively. The Tennessee River runs across the panels through each of the three ecosystems. Guests have been very engaged with the exhibit so far. When they approached the interactives, the surface of the river had a brown, green, or black film reflecting pollution from non-source pollutants such as dirt, bacteria, excess nutrients, or car oil. A few animals roam around the virtual habitats. As guests virtually clean up dog poop or oil from leaking cars, click on shadowed outlines of flowers and trees to plant riparian zones or wildflowers, or implement other best management practices on the virtual landscapes, more animals appear on the screens. A health meter on the bottom of the screen showed that habitat health improved when pollutants are removed.

Photograph 1: Tennessee Aquarium's new interactive exhibit showcasing nonpoint source pollution

Easter eggs are built into the exhibit as well, such as a kestrel that flies over the river when prodded from its roost or mussels that open and close underwater. Each screen also has an

icon which opens a separate “Clean-up Crew” mini-game where guests swipe trash to fill a garbage can and clean the river.

While guest reactions have been positive so far, formal evaluation efforts of the interactives are underway. The evaluation team at the Aquarium will administer surveys to measure if guests are retaining knowledge from the interactives: mainly, to determine if guests draw a connection between implementing best management practices and increasing levels of wildlife abundance and biodiversity. The surveys are currently under development. They will be administered to guests in winter 2025 and Spring 2026. If needed, changes to the interactive curriculum and mini-game will be implemented in Summer 2026.

GRANTEE: Tennessee Environmental Council
PROJECT NAME: Donelson Creek Ph. I
GRANT YEAR: 2024
WEBSITE: https://www.tectn.org/

Tennessee Environmental Council's Donelson Creek Restoration Project progressed steadily toward its long-term goal of improving water quality and ecosystem health. TEC successfully established meaningful connections with local homeowners' associations (HOAs), community organizations, and corporations who have expressed interest in supporting this important work. These partnerships help build awareness, secure resources, and foster community involvement in restoration efforts. Early engagement has shown promising levels of support and enthusiasm, placing the project on a strong foundation for the future.

To advance the scientific understanding of Donelson Creek's current condition, TEC hired an intern who will lead a three-year water quality study. Once a month, she will administer a series of water quality tests and compile the data for review and ongoing assessment. The findings will be instrumental in tracking trends, identifying problem areas, and guiding restoration strategies over time.

Photograph 1: Potential restoration project site along Donelson Creek

GRANTEE: Tennessee Environmental Council
PROJECT NAME: Lytle Creek Ph. I
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: https://www.tectn.org/

Tennessee Environmental Council's Lytle Creek Restoration Project concluded its grant term, successfully meeting all deliverables outlined in the proposal. Throughout the past three years, TEC made substantial progress toward improving the health and resilience of the watershed. Major accomplishments included the removal of invasive species, installation of rain gardens, stream bank stabilization, and expansion of riparian buffers using native vegetation. These restoration efforts have strengthened the creek's ecological function, improved water quality, and created healthier habitats for local wildlife.

Photograph 1: Riparian buffer installed along Lytle Creek

This project fostered strong local engagement and collaboration. TEC built valuable relationships with community organizations, corporations, and landowners who share the commitment to environmental stewardship. The support has helped expand the impact of

TEC's work and laid the foundation for continued restoration efforts beyond the grant term. The progress made at Lytle Creek is a testament to the power of community-driven environmental action.

Photograph 2: Streambank stabilization along Lytle Creek

GRANTEE: Tennessee Environmental Council
PROJECT NAME: Rutherford Creek Ph. V
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: https://www.tectn.org/

Tennessee Environmental Council's Rutherford Creek Restoration Project has successfully concluded its grant term, meeting all deliverables outlined in the original proposal. Over the past three years, TEC made significant progress toward restoring the health and resilience of the watershed. Efforts focused on the removal of invasive species, installation of rain gardens, stabilization of stream banks, and the expansion of riparian buffers using native vegetation. These initiatives have contributed to improving habitat quality, enhancing stormwater management, and preserving the ecological integrity of Rutherford Creek.

In addition to these on-the-ground restoration efforts, this project allowed TEC to build invaluable relationships with community organizations, corporations, and landowners throughout the area. These connections helped grow local support for watershed restoration and laid the groundwork for long-term stewardship of Rutherford Creek. The partnerships forged during this project have greatly strengthened TEC's ability to continue environmental work in the region, even beyond the grant term.

Photograph 1: Aerial photograph of a rain garden installed near Rutherford Creek

GRANTEE: Tennessee RC&D Council
PROJECT NAME: Envirothon State Competition
GRANT YEAR: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
WEBSITE: https://www.tnrcd.org/

Photograph 1: Students working on the special topic project at the state Envirothon Competition

The TDA 319 grant funding allowed the successful implementation of the 2025 Tennessee Envirothon program including program management, meal and lodging expenses for the state contest at the Clyde York 4H center, and award recognition. Environmental education and conservation stewardship values instilled with this next generation of Tennessean students through the TN Envirothon will remain throughout their lifetimes. The 'team approach' encouraged cooperative decision-making and team building. Each Area/Regional contest representative team advances to the State Envirothon contest where a similar competition is held with the added element of a special problem presentation that focuses on the Current Environmental Issue. Critical thinking skills are taken to a higher level as the competitions progress to state and national. The teams develop their presentation which is judged on speaking ability, teamwork, and knowledge of the subject matter. While each student is encouraged to do their best, the score that counts most is the Team score as students must make management decisions and judgments based on their knowledge and the information

provided to them at the contest site. Each contest level cultivates a desire to learn more about the complexity of the 5 natural resources areas being tested.

Lessons learned with these environmental objectives provided the basics for the next generation of TN Conservationists. Many have gone on from the TN Envirothon to be educators, legislators, agents, soil scientists, wildlife officers, foresters, and other stewards of the land.

GRANTEE: Tennessee Tech University
PROJECT NAME: Watershed-Based NPS Environmental Justice in Tennessee*
GRANT YEAR: 2022
WEBSITE: https://www.tntech.edu/

Headwater Watersheds Analysis

Headwater watersheds are the foundation of Tennessee's hydrologic network. They originate small streams, regulate water quality and flow, and sustain diverse ecosystems that support aquatic and riparian species. Their condition directly influences the health of downstream communities and ecosystems. During this reporting period, Tennessee Tech University developed and implemented a spatial method to identify and classify headwater watersheds within EPA's Regions 3, 5, 6, and 8—covering HUC-3, HUC-5, HUC-6, and HUC-8 watershed levels. At finer scales (HUC-10 and HUC-12), Tennessee exhibits particularly high proportions of headwater systems. EPA Regions 5 and 6 - which include most of Tennessee's HUC-10 watersheds - contain the highest percentages of headwater watersheds (approximately 51% and 56%, respectively). Tennessee's overall HUC-10 headwater proportion is 59%, emphasizing the state's critical role in water quality protection. These headwaters act as natural filters that remove sediments and pollutants before they reach major rivers, underscoring their ecological and environmental importance.

Headwater and Poverty Percentages

The second component of this year's research analyzed the relationship between headwater watershed status and socioeconomic vulnerability, specifically poverty levels. Using data integration between hydrological and demographic datasets, TTU compared the mean and distribution of poverty rates between headwater and non-headwater watersheds. Statistical testing included both a Two-Sample T-test and a non-parametric Mann-Whitney U-test. The average poverty rate in non-headwater watersheds was 20.3%, compared to 18.7% in headwater watersheds. As illustrated in Figure 4, results showed no statistically significant difference between the two groups ($p = 0.1891$ for the t-test and $p = 0.0695$ for the Mann-Whitney test). Nonetheless, the slightly lower poverty rates in headwater areas may indicate that these environmentally critical zones are not disproportionately burdened by socioeconomic disadvantages. This outcome reinforces the broader environmental justice narrative: safeguarding headwater ecosystems benefits not only biodiversity but also promotes equitable, sustainable community well-being.

Prioritized Watersheds in Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has published a list of prioritized HUC-10 watersheds across the state. A total of 80 HUC-10 prioritized categories out of 49 watersheds were identified based on their primary pollutant sources. These prioritized watersheds are grouped into eight categories, with the top ten watersheds selected for each category. For instance, phosphorus pollution is attributed to three sources—agriculture, urban land, and wastewater—while nitrogen pollution is linked to manure and fertilizer, urban land, and wastewater. In addition, two categories identify the top ten watersheds with the highest nitrogen and phosphorus yields, respectively.

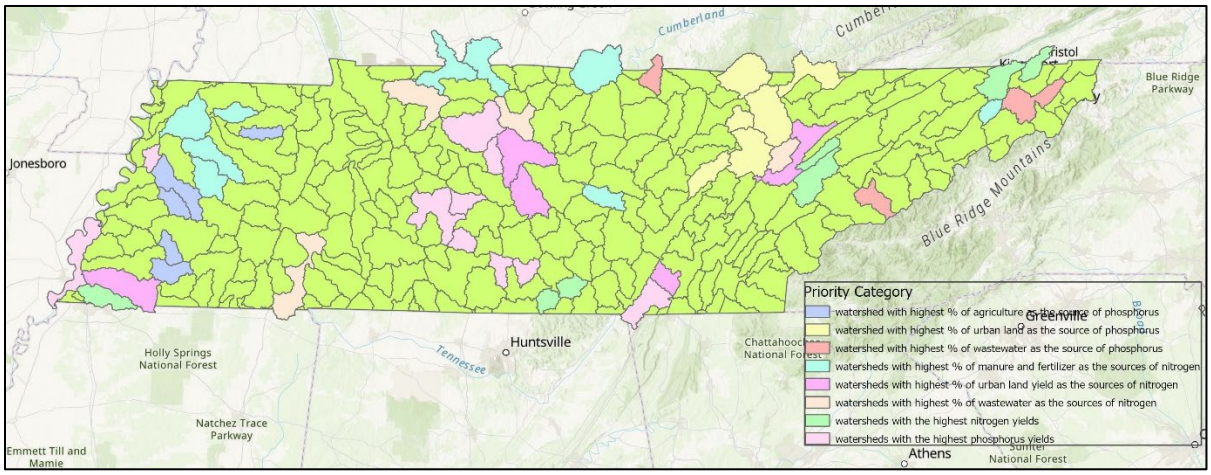


Figure 1: Map of priority HUC-10 watersheds in Tennessee

Currently, TTU is integrating socio-economic indicators, headwater watershed data, and the prioritized watershed list to produce meaningful insights that can support future decision-making.

**Please note: this project was funded prior to Executive Orders E.O.s issued by President Trump which revoke prior E.O.s related to environmental justice. E.O. 14148, "Initial Recissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions," signed by President Trump on January 20, 2025, revokes E.O.s 14008 and 14096, among other E.O.s. E.O. 14173, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," signed by President Trump on January 21, 2025, revokes E.O. 12898, among other directives. E.O. 14151, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," signed by President Trump on January 20, 2025, includes directives applicable to federal environmental justice programs and activities. Section 2(b)(i) of E.O. 14151 directs each agency to "terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI, DEIA, and 'environmental justice' offices and positions."*

GRANTEE: Tennessee Wildlife Federation
PROJECT NAME: Bullrun Creek Streambank Stabilization
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: https://tnwf.org

In June 2025, the final Bullrun Creek project design plans and no-rise analysis were completed by CEC's engineering staff and submitted to Tennessee Department of Agriculture for review. TWF staff and staff from CEC met with TDA's Area 7 Watershed Coordinator, Leslie Bradley, at CEC's office in Knoxville to review the design plans in person in July 2025. TWF also visited the project site to further discuss the project design and answer any remaining design related questions.

The no-rise analysis was submitted to the Knox County floodplain administrator and approved in May 2025. In July 2025, the final design plans were submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a nationwide permit and TDEC to obtain an aquatic resource alteration permit. All necessary permits to complete the project were obtained in September 2025. TWF planned to begin project construction in October 2025. TWF anticipates earthwork activities to be completed by November 2025, and tree and shrub planting activities to be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

GRANTEE: University of Tennessee
PROJECT NAME: Innovative Stormwater Management for Tennessee: A Training Program
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: www.utk.edu

During this project year, the PhD student that was working toward understanding and documenting RSC function completed their PhD (August 2025). This was a significant benefit to the grant as lessons learned, and data collected from this work will be incorporated into the RSC training events in future project years. Specifically, this work illustrated: (1) how advanced modeling tools can be used to fine tune and/or evaluate RSC designs prior to construction, (2) how internal processes impact pollutant fate and transport in RSCs. Planning began for training in December on RSC design and performance.

Over the next project year, training efforts will start with a remote training in December. Additional training will also be planned and delivered, including trainings for other innovative stormwater practices such as bioretention. UT plans to advertise through the Tennessee Stormwater Association and Tennessee Water Resources Research Center to reach a broad audience. In 2026, a minimum of 3 additional trainings will be delivered.

Photograph 1: UT graduate student installing monitoring equipment

GRANTEE: WaterWays

PROJECT NAME: Mountain Creek Watershed Phase 3
GRANT YEAR: 2023
WEBSITE: https://mywaterways.org/

Photograph 1: Streambank repair training program

Educational initiatives for this year included a streambank repair training program with high school students from The Baylor School who learned about coir logs and matting as well as live stakes and fascines. WwaterWays also hosted monthly Stream Team outings to teach Red Bank Elementary students about Mountain Creek and how it can be protected, the live staking day was a big hit. Planned with Red Bank Middle and Red Bank High Schools to learn about stream dynamics and restoration as well as with Hixson High School Agriculture Students to investigate native vs invasive plants and DIY creekbank stabilization and protection.

WaterWays surveyed the Komatsu site with their EHS team and noted several areas for better infiltration of stormwater. WaterWays then held a cleanup and invasive removal on the site adjacent to their plant.

The restoration site was switched to the Oxford subdivision and WaterWays had several site visits with them. The Oxford subdivision has now quit mowing to the edge of the stream and is eager for some stabilization of the streambank. The grantee prepared bid packages and

received bids back for engineering and surveying the sites. FloodCon engineers surveyed the stormwater detention at both the Oxford and Red Bank Elementary and determined the best location for an Automated Outlet Control Structure will be in the Red Bank Elementary basin to slow the outflow of stormwater from the basin.

GRANTEE: Wolf River Conservancy
PROJECT NAME: Educational Signage and Outreach for the Wolf River Greenway
GRANT YEAR: 2021
WEBSITE: https://www.wolfriver.org/

Photograph 1: Example of educational signage along the Wolf River

This project was completed and closed out in FFY2025.

The Wolf River Conservancy implemented the 'Educational Signage & Outreach for the Wolf River Greenway' project to enhance public awareness of stormwater management and non-point source pollution. The project involved the design, production, and installation of 21 educational signs along sections of the Wolf River Greenway in Memphis, TN. The semi-permanent outdoor signs were strategically placed at locations such as pedestrian bridges and wetland areas to educate the public on the importance of stormwater management. Lessons learned include the importance of early coordination with city government departments and the value of community engagement in finalizing sign content and placement.

Photograph 2: Close-up of educational signage installed along the Wolf River

APPENDIX A

LONG TERM GOALS—CURRENT PROGRESS SUMMARY

LONG TERM GOALS—CURRENT PROGRESS SUMMARY

Transitional TN-NPS Long Term Goals

Long Term Goal No. 1:

Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the Lists of Impaired and Threatened Waters) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.

Current Progress: For FFY2025, two Success Stories were submitted for Caney Creek and Sequatchie River. Overall, the implementation of BMPs across Tennessee was lower than past years. Across all sectors (agriculture, forestry, urban, mining, and septic), TN-NPS staff conducted over 1,500 site visits to cooperators and stakeholders to assist with BMP implementation.

Long Term Goal No. 2:

Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.

Current Progress: Education and outreach were two areas where TN-NPS staff exceeded expectations. Staff attended dozens of workshops and educational events, providing information about nonpoint source issues and water quality concerns.

Long Term Goal No. 3:

Build capacity for future TN-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.

Current Progress: Partners and TN-NPS staff reached stakeholders through a variety of means including Farm Tours, one-on-one consultations, educational exhibits and signage, and training. TN-NPS staff presented at over 100 events in FFY2025. Additionally, many of the projects funded in last year were continuations of prior projects – the capacity built through initial funding had led to increased community interest and participation in conservation activities.

Long Term Goal No. 4:

Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies.

Current Progress: In FFY2025, TN-NPS staff continued to track engagement by sector, and strategize ways to engage stakeholders in under-represented areas (such as legacy mining).

Long Term Goal No. 5:

Protect unimpaired/high quality waters (i.e., those not on the list of impaired waters) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.

Current Progress: TN-NPS staff continue to educate potential partners about the eligibility of protection (as well as restoration projects) for Section 319 funding. One previously-funded protection project (Sequatchie Cave State Natural Area) has begun to show positive results with improving water quality. Moving forward, TN-NPS will be looking to use that project as a pilot to encourage addition protection activities.

Long Term Goal No. 6

Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.

Current Progress: Staffing shortages coupled with external stressors have left the TN-NPS program running behind on several key commitments. FFY2026 is set to see a "righting of the ship" as staffing levels stabilize.

Please note: Additional details regarding activities and short-term goals can be found in the following appendix (Appendix B).

APPENDIX B

MEASURES OF SUCCESS CHECKLISTS

Measures of Success Checklist

Aggregate/Statewide Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Restore 2 water bodies per year, on average.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Caney Creek & Sequatchie
	• Reduce N load by 5,000lbs/year; P2O5 load by 5,000 lbs/year; and sediment load by 100 ton/year (minimum reductions)	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 10 educational events each year.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• Fund at least 20 educational events each year, depending on the number of active NPS pollution educational projects funded.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Over 30 events.
	• Document at least 2,000 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution sources, problems, and solutions each year.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	TN aquarium alone hosts 100,000+ per year.
	• Implement a general evaluation form to be completed by all participants and the conclusion of each educational event.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Not widely adopted.

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 8 stakeholder meetings each year to promote the TDA-NPS program and recruit and cultivate new partners for future projects.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff attended over 180 stakeholder events.
	• TDA-NPS program will conduct an annual survey of partners, seeking their input for ways our program can improve and better meet existing needs.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• TDA-NPS staff will provide assistance (as requested) in writing Watershed Based Plans; particularly map-making and load reduction estimates.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Gave three WBP trainings.
	• TDA-NPS program will improve information and tools available on our website to aid in the writing of Watershed Based Plans.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 3 stakeholder meetings or workshops to promote the 319 program each year.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive management process.	• Continue implementation of sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	

Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Consider funding at least 1 project proposal aimed at protection of unimpaired water body each year, dependent upon nature of proposals received.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	N/A – None received.
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• TN-NPS program will do everything necessary to achieve "Satisfactory Progress" determination by US EPA each year.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	TN-NPS is currently behind schedule due to staffing issues.
	• TN-NPS program will submit an Annual Report by December 31 each year.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	
	• TN-NPS program will submit a Grant Application by September 30 each year.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	
	• TN-NPS program will submit an Annual Workplan by May 31 each year.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	
	• All grant data will be entered in the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) by the various deadlines given each year.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• All grant funds received will be obligated within one year of the date the grant is received.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	
	• Each grant received from USEPA will be matched by no less than 40% by a combination of state and local funds.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• TN-NPS staff will attend the annual GRTS users meeting each year.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Virtual training attended.

	• TN-NPS staff will attend the National Nonpoint Source Managers meeting as often as it is held.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	N/A
	• TN-NPS staff will attend the Regional Nonpoint Source Managers meeting as often as it is held.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	N/A
	• TN-NPS program will revise the Management Program Document every 5 years, or as required by USEPA.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	Currently under revision.

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

Education & outreach remains strong, as tracked w/ employee logs & partner Progress/Annual Reports.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

TN-NPS is currently recalibrating the TN-NPS program to get back on schedule.

Measures of Success Checklist

Agricultural Sector Short Term Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Fund no less than 3 projects each year that address agricultural sources of NPS pollution, depending on the number and quality of proposals received.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Bat CR., Buchanan CR., Richland CR., & Lost Creek.
	• Fund the implementation of no less than 65 agricultural BMPs per year.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	63 BMPs were funded.
	• Staff Watershed Coordinators will perform no less than 200 site visits each year to inspect BMPs pre-, during-, and post-construction.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Over 1,000 AG-related site visits.
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 4 educational events each year targeting an agricultural audience.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff participated in 200 workshops.
	• Fund at least 5 educational events targeting an agricultural audience.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• Document at least 600 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution sources, problems, and solutions.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Over 2,000 citizens engaged.
	• Respond to 100% of Animal Feeding Operations complaints.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• Direct AFO owner/operators to NRCS for mitigation, as necessary.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 3 stakeholder meetings each year to promote the TDA-NPS program and recruit and cultivate new partners for future projects.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff attended over 90 stakeholder meetings.
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive management process.	• Continue implementation of sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Not applicable - projects to protect unimpaired waters by definition will not be assigned to any pollutant source.	N/A	N/A
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• Not Applicable – grant award obligations are not defined by pollutant sector.	N/A	N/A

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

FFY2025 was a slow year for AG Projects, but outreach goals were exceeded.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

Fewer AG BMPs were installed, likely due to a combination of increased costs & tightening labor.

Measures of Success Checklist

Forestry Sector Short Term Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Fund no less than 1 forestry-based project each year, depending on the number and quality of proposals received.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	N/A – None were received.
	• Fund the implementation of no less than 5 forestry BMPs each year, depending on the number of active forestry restoration projects.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	No forestry BMPs through 319.
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 1 educational event each year targeting a forestry audience.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff attended 7 workshops in which forestry was addressed.
	• Fund at least 1 educational event each year targeting a forestry audience, depending on the number of active projects aimed at forestry issues.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• Document at least 200 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution concerns stemming from forestry-related activities.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Over 450 citizens educated.

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 1 stakeholder meeting (e.g., TN Forestry Association or the TN Urban Forestry Council) each year to promote the TDA-NPS.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive management process.	• Continue the implementation of sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Not applicable - projects to protect unimpaired waters by definition will not be assigned to any pollutant source.	N/A	N/A
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• Not Applicable – grant award obligations are not defined by pollutant sector.	N/A	N/A

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

Outreach to the Forestry Sector was exceeded.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

Most forestry-related work is being performed through Division of Forestry.

Measures of Success Checklist
Urban Sector Short Term Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Fund no less than 2 projects focused on stormwater issues in developed areas each year, depending on the number and quality of proposals received.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Brown's CR., Donelson CR.
	• Fund no less than 12 stormwater BMPs each year, depending on the number of active urban/suburban restoration projects.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	40+ Urban BMPs installed.
	• Staff Watershed Coordinators will perform no less than 15 site visits each year to inspect various stormwater BMPs pre-, during-, and post-construction.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	Only 11 BMP Site visits.
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 3 educational events each year targeting an urban/suburban audience.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff attended 4 educational workshops.
	• Fund at least 10 educational events each year targeting an urban/suburban audience, depending on the number of active projects aimed at urban/suburban.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Urban issues taught with watershed learning lab.
	• Document at least 1,000 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution concerns stemming from stormwater in urban/suburban areas.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 2 stakeholder meetings each year to promote the TDA-NPS program. • TDA-NPS staff will attend the annual meeting of the Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) each year.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement ☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Staff attended 24 stakeholder events. Sam Marshall presented at monthly meeting.
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive process.	• Continue the implementation of a sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Not applicable - projects to protect unimpaired waters by definition will not be assigned to any pollutant source.	N/A	N/A
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• Not Applicable – grant award obligations are not defined by pollutant sector.	N/A	N/A

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

Generally, urban goals were met or exceeded.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

Staff will be encouraged to conduct more site visits for urban projects.

Measures of Success Checklist

Failing Septic Sector Short Term Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Fund the repair/replacement of no less than 20 failing septic systems each year, depending on the number of active projects that address failing septic systems.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	Only 15 septic repairs in FFY2025
	• Staff Watershed Coordinators will perform no less than 20 site visits each year to inspect work on repair/replacement of failing septic systems.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	Staff failed to log BMP visits for septic.
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 1 educational event each year targeting an audience with failing septic concerns.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Three workshops were attended.
	• Fund at least 1 educational event each year targeting an audience concerned with NPS pollution from failing septic systems.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
	• Document at least 100 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution concerns stemming from failing septic systems.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Blount Co. SWCD Waterways.

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 1 stakeholder meeting each year to promote the TDA-NPS program.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Nine stakeholder meetings dealt with septic.
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive process.	• Continue the implementation of a sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Additional training of staff needed.
Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Not applicable - projects to protect unimpaired waters by definition will not be assigned to any pollutant source.	N/A	N/A
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• Not Applicable – grant award obligations are not defined by pollutant sector.	N/A	N/A

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

Septic-related outreach goals were exceeded by both staff & partners.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

Fewer septics were completed with 319 funds as some counties in TN had IRA/ARRA funds for repairs with higher incentive rates.

Measures of Success Checklist

Failing Septic Sector Short Term Goals

Prepared for FFY2025 Annual Report

Long Term Goal	Short Term Measure(s) of Success	Status	Comments
Long Term Goal No. 1: Restore impaired water bodies (i.e., those on the 303(d) list) by implementing best management practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.	• Fund no less than 1 project addressing legacy mining concerns each year, depending on the number and quality of proposals received. • Fund no less than 5 BMPs addressing legacy mining concerns each year, depending on the number of active legacy mining projects. • Staff Watershed Coordinators will perform no less than 5 site visits each year to inspect legacy mining BMPs pre-, during-, and post-construction, depending on the number of active legacy mining projects.	☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement ☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement ☐ Met ☐ Exceeded ☒ Needs Improvement	N/A – None received Only 1 mining site visit in Morgan Co.
Long Term Goal No. 2: Build citizen awareness of problems and solutions related to nonpoint source pollution through local and statewide education efforts targeting various audiences.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend/participate in at least 1 educational event each year targeting an audience dealing with legacy mining concerns. • Fund at least 1 educational event each year targeting an audience concerned with NPS pollution from legacy mining activitied. • Document at least 100 citizens presented with messages addressing NPS pollution concerns stemming from legacy mining activities.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement ☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement ☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Four workshops attended by staff.

Long Term Goal No. 3: Build capacity for future TDA-NPS projects in local watersheds by engaging stakeholders and potential partners through outreach and personal contact.	• TDA-NPS staff will attend at least 1 stakeholder meeting each year to promote the TDA-NPS program.	☐ Met ☒ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	Six stakeholder meetings addressed mining issues.
Long Term Goal No. 4: Track interim progress towards restoration of impaired water bodies via adaptive process.	• Continue the implementation of a sector-based tracking mechanism for BMP implementation, educational activities, pollutant load reductions, and capacity building efforts.	☒ Met ☐ Exceeded ☐ Needs Improvement	
Long Term Goal No. 5: Protect unimpaired/ high quality waters (i.e., those not on the 303(d) list) by implementing appropriate BMPs where warranted.	• Not applicable - projects to protect unimpaired waters by definition will not be assigned to any pollutant source.	N/A	N/A
Long Term Goal No. 6: Fulfill all obligations under grant award agreement with USEPA annually.	• Not Applicable – grant award obligations are not defined by pollutant sector.	N/A	N/A

If the short term has been met or exceeded, please provide an explanation of how this was determined (i.e. list of objectives completed, activities performed, etc.):

Outreach goals were met or exceeded.

If the short term has NOT been met, provide explanation:

Due to the cost & complexity, TN-NPS continues to struggle to recruit mining projects.

APPENDIX C

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (NWQI) STATUS UPDATE

NWQI STATUS UPDATE

Introduction

The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), launched in 2012, is a collaborative effort between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state agencies to reduce nonpoint source pollution to highpriority watersheds identified in each state. The high-priority watersheds are chosen by NRCS with input from state water quality agencies. The program is designed to focus efforts and funding to provide maximum impacts on the chosen watersheds.

The NWQI requires in-stream water quality monitoring of at least one priority watershed per year. The monitoring assesses water quality and biological conditions related to nutrients, sediments, or livestockrelated pathogens. The objective is to determine if any of the parameters have changes throughout the monitoring period, and whether these changes (positive or negative) can be attributed to agriculturebased best management practices (BMPs) that have been installed in the watershed.

In the State of Tennessee, NRCS prioritizes watersheds for nomination that are located in counties included in the USDA StrikeForce Initiative. The USDA StrikeForce Initiative was established in 2010 with the objective of combatting the specific challenges associated with rural poverty, as well as growing rural communities and improving opportunities. In addition, NRCS utilizes EPA's Recovery Potential Screening Tool to further pare down the number of watersheds nominated for NWQI inclusion.

Tennessee Nonpoint Source (TN-NPS) Program Roles Assisting NWQI

The TN-NPS has several minor roles with regards to the NWQI. When asked, TN-NPS provides input on eligible watersheds through knowledge obtained by the Watershed Coordinators, who are in various watersheds every year. TN-NPS also provides funding, in the form of 319 Grant monies, to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for in-stream water quality monitoring.

Annual Updates

FFY2025

For FFY2025, the State of Tennessee had a total of 27 priority implementation watersheds identified. The following HUC-12 watersheds have been designated as priorities:

- Calfkiller River Middle (051301080404)
- Center Hill Lake (051301080905)
- Hickman Creek (051301080906)
- Falling Water River Middle (051301080705)
- Falling Water River Upper (051301080702)
- Lynn Creek (060300040202)
- Headwaters Richland Creek (060300040201)
- Blue Creek (060300040203)
- Dry Creek (060300040205)
- Big Limestone Creek (060101080502)
- Muddy Fork (060101080501)
- Tennessee River – Chickamauga Reservoir (060200010603)
- Richland Creek (060200010201)
- Little Richland Creek (060200010202)
- Spring Creek (051301060204)
- Blackburn Fork (051301060205)
- Roaring River – Dry Hollow (051301060206)
- Alexander Creek (060400020401)
- Wilson Creek (060400020701)
- North Fork Creek (060400020404)
- Fall Creek (060400020306)
- Weakley Creek (060400020402)
- Clem Creek (060400020403)
- Swan Creek (060300030902)
- Lower Cane Creek (060300030802)
- Upper Cane Creek (060300030801)
- Lees Creek (060300030706)

In FFY2025, no Section 319 or GHP BMPs were installed in NWQI priority watersheds; however, a total of 105 ARCF BMPs were implemented with incentives. The investment made by TN-NPS for NWQI watersheds through the ARCF program totaled approximately $338,000.