

Grassy Branch Creek

—fact sheet—

Why Is It Polluted?

The largest pollutant in Grassy Branch Creek is soil/silt. Soil gets into the water through erosion along the banks of the stream. Without trees, shrubs, and plants to hold the soil in place the soil is swept away by the creek.

Where Does Grassy Branch Creek Flow?

Grassy Branch Creek is part of the Rutherford Creek Watershed, the Rutherford Creek Watershed covers most of Maury and Willaimson counties. Ultimately, water in Grassy Branch Creek flows into the Mississippi River, and then the Gulf of Mexico.

How Can You Protect Grassy Branch Creek?

The health of Grassy Branch Creek depends on all of those who live in it's watershed. Plant a rain garden or use a rain barrel to slow runoff. You can also avoid using pesticides and fertilizers which impact water quality.

What Is The Tennessee Environmental Council Doing?

Our goal is to work community members of Spring Hill, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection agency to restore Grassy Branch Creek. We will be planting native trees and shrubs along the creek in order to stabilize the banks. We will also be focused on creating educational materials to help community members learn about their watersheds.

What Is A Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land which drains water to a single point, this is usually a stream, river or lake. Understanding how you impact your watershed can help you protect it!



Runoff from farms, cities, streets, and lawns all flow into our rivers, lakes and streams. Pollution found in runoff flows right into the water body.

Watershed Definitions

watershed: an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas

tributary: a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake

runoff: the draining away of water (or substances carried in it) from the surface of an area of land, a building or structure, etc

erosion: the process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents

restore: the process of recovering an ecosystem to its previous state

303 D Listed Stream: the designation of waterbodies which are impaired or threatened, they have been impacted by pollution or impacted landscapes

sediment: soil or dirt that flows in a waterway, high levels of sediment decrease water quality