

# Baker Creek & Centenary Creek Restoration Initiative: Fact Sheet:

A “319” Grant (named after paragraph 319h of the Clean Water Act) has been received by the Blount County Soil Conservation District on behalf of the grant partners that make up the Baker/Ninemile Watershed Restoration Initiative.

This **\$300,000.00** grant received from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Non-point Source Program focuses on improving water quality conditions within the Baker Creek Watershed located in Blount and Loudon Counties as well as the Centenary Creek Watershed (a tributary to Ninemile Creek) in Blount County.

Grant funding will be utilized for environmental improvement activities within the following four categories:

## **I. Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices. (Blount and Loudon Counties)**

Grant funding will be allocated on a cost-share basis for the implementation of agricultural conservation practices such as critical area treatments, alternative watering systems and cross-fencing for rotational grazing. These practices, among others improve pasture conditions which decrease sediment losses during rainfall events. Additionally, the agricultural practices can affect hundreds of acres of drainage area improving the environment for all.

For information on this aspect of the grant please contact:

Erich Henry  
Director of Conservation  
Blount County Soil Conservations District  
221 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804  
Phone: (865) 983-2011

Karen Hewitt  
District Secretary  
Loudon County Soil Conservation District  
601 Grove Street  
Loudon, TN 37774  
Phone: (865) 458-2306



**Before—Critical Area Treatment & Eroded Gully without Treatment**



**After-- Repaired Critical Area & Eroded Gully with Rock Checks and Erosion Control Fabric**

## Grant Activities—Continued:

### II. Repair or Restoration of Failed Septic Systems for Low-Income Households (Blount County)

Grant funding will be allocated on a cost-share basis between 50—100% based on total household income and the number of residents within that household. Bacteria derived from failing septic systems can be a leading contributor to non-point source pollutants.

For information on this aspect of the grant please contact:

Gary Ferguson  
Director  
Blount County Environmental Health Department  
1006 East Lamar Alexander Parkway  
Maryville, TN 37804  
Phone: (865) 681-9301

### III. Assess Condition of Stormwater Detention Basins within Baker Creek Watershed (Blount County)

Stormwater run-off from subdivisions or business complexes typically drain to a detention basin which prevents flooding downstream by storing the stormwater for an extended period of time. These basins drain directly to a creek or river and do not filter the stormwater which may have picked up non-point source pollutants such as excess lawn fertilizers or pesticides. Grant funding will be used to assess the condition of existing detention basins within the Baker Creek Watershed in Blount County. After this assessment, two detention basins will be retrofitted utilizing native plants which further improve the efficiency of the detention basin by filtering non-point source pollutants. This type of practice has the added benefit of improving the aesthetics of the basin and can provide another avenue for environmental education.

For information on this aspect of the grant please contact:

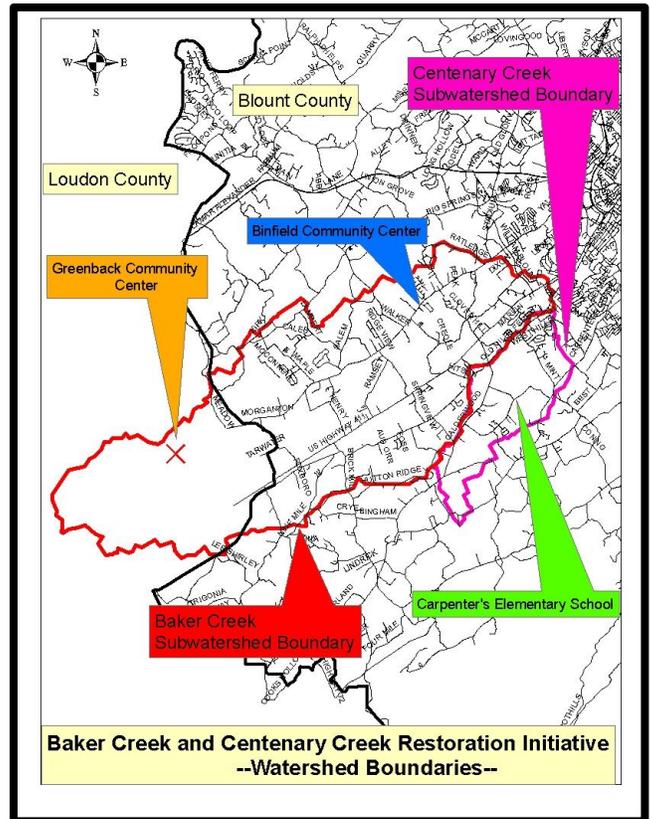
Justin Teague  
Stormwater Coordinator  
Blount County Stormwater Department  
1006 East Lamar Alexander Parkway  
Maryville, TN 37804  
Phone: (865) 681-9301

### IV. Conduct Three Public Listening Sessions (2 in Blount Co. and 1 in Loudon Co.)

Grant funding will be used to provide a venue to host public listening sessions for the purpose of gaining input, buy-in, and support for the Baker/Ninemile Watershed Restoration Plan and to communicate about the available cost-share programs. Additionally, comments received during the listening sessions will determine any additional issues to be addressed as part of an adaptive management strategy to restore water quality to these watersheds.

For information on this aspect of the grant please contact:

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Director of Planning  
Blount County Planning Department  
327 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804  
Phone: (865) 273-5750



Russ Newman  
Director  
Loudon County Planning and Codes Department  
101 Mulberry Street; Suite 101  
Loudon, TN 37774  
Phone: (865) 458-4470