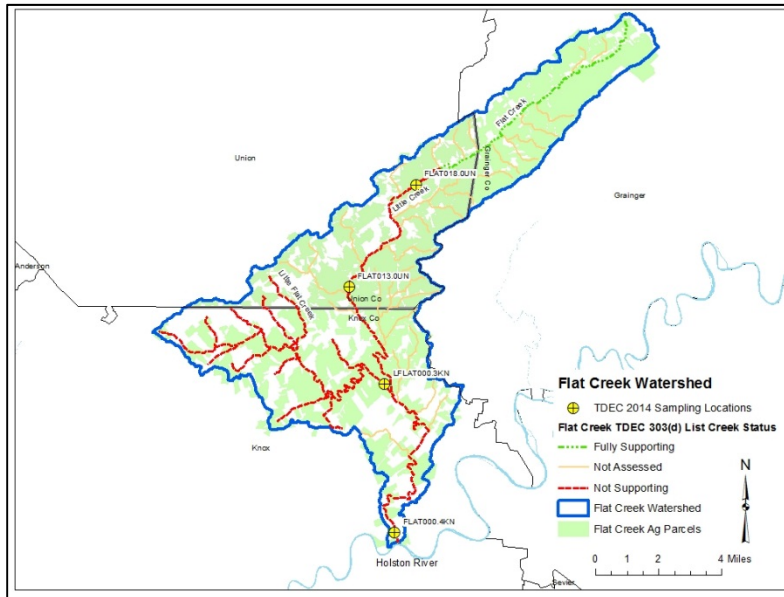


## Flat Creek Watershed

No matter where you go in the Flat Creek Watershed in Northeast Knox County you can see House Mountain. The 500 acre House Mountain State Park with its 2,100 foot peak is the most recognizable feature in East Knox County. Flat Creek rounds the mountain on its northeast side.



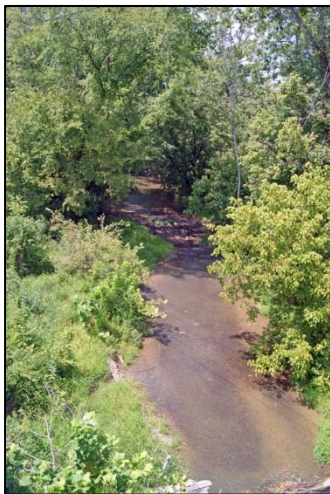
House Mountain



The 68 square mile Flat Creek Watershed originates in Grainger County and crosses the southern portion of Union County before entering Knox County and ending at the Holston River. About 40% of the watershed is in Knox County.

Little Flat Creek, a primary tributary to Flat Creek, is almost entirely situated in Knox County.

Pastoral landscapes with pockets of rural residential dominate the watershed north of Rutledge Pike. Livestock operations and row cropping on farms of various sizes are the primary land use. Little Flat Creek and its tributaries meander through pastures and around rolling hills before joining Flat Creek just north of House Mountain.



Little Flat Creek



Farm in the Flat Creek Watershed

South of Rutledge Pike the landscape changes. Legacy mining operations altered the creek causing water to back up and slow down as evidenced by the picture to the right. This area in the lower end of the watershed contains Eastbridge Industrial Park. In addition to housing commercial and industrial plants there is a 400+ acre gravel mining operation. After passing through this area, Flat Creek flows under Mascot Road and empties into the Holston River.



**Flat Creek South of Old Rutledge Pike**

Despite the pastoral setting, Flat and Little Flat Creeks are not without their problems. Monitoring conducted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has shown *E. Coli* levels in the creeks above what is considered safe for the public. TDEC lists poor pasture on farms and failing septic systems as the primary *E. Coli* source. The Knox County Soil Conservation District has designated Flat Creek as a priority area and has cost-share money available to landowners from a variety of sources. For additional information call the Soil Conservation District at 865-523-3338, Ext. 3 or visit their website at <http://knoxcountyscd.com/>.