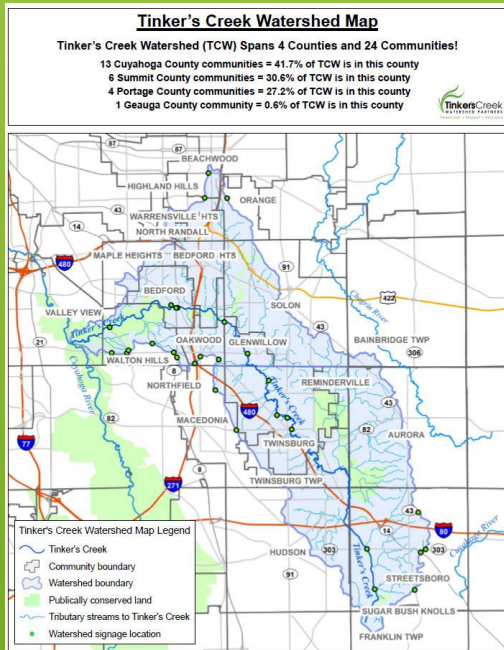


Tinker's Creek Watershed

Tinker's Creek watershed drains 96.4 square miles and is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed spans 24 communities in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, and Geauga counties.



What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake.

Our landscape is made up of multiple, connected watersheds...

We ALL live in a watershed!

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP)

Vision: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, Engaged Communities

Mission: Protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) watershed organizations officially established in 2006. TCWP is governed by 15 dedicated volunteer Board Members who bring a variety of expertise in the fields of stormwater management, environmental education, engineering, natural resources conservation, planning, and economic development. TCWP provides educational assistance and outreach to the communities within the watershed.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners

PO Box 444

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Phone: 330-963-6243

Email: info@tinkerscreekwatershed.org

Visit our website to support TCWP or learn more...

www.tinkerscreek.org

Benefits of Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens



Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

Sources of Water Pollution

Point Source Pollution

This term is used to describe sources of pollution that come from an *identified* source, such as a factory. Over the years, the Clean Water Act has dramatically reduced the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways due to point sources. Today the largest source of pollution is from nonpoint sources.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

This term is used to describe sources of pollution that from an *unidentified* source, and can come from multiple sources, which makes it difficult to regulate. Stormwater picks up these pollutants,

carrying them to our streams, rivers, lakes, and other waterways.



These pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizers, weed and insect killers from agricultural and residential areas.
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff.
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forestlands, and eroding stream banks.

Benefits of Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a system that *collects and stores rainwater* from your roof that would otherwise be carried directly to storm drains and streams. Storing water during storm events can help reduce combined sewer overflow problems and help keep our waterways clean!

It's free...

It is estimated that about 40% of water usage during the summer is for our lawns and gardens. Using a rain barrel can reduce the amount of tap water needed for your lawn and garden.

Healthier for your lawn & garden...

Water from the tap is treated with chlorine, which can kill off good organisms that help your lawn and garden grow healthy. Also tap water is often cold, which can shock your plants.

Where do I get a rain barrel?

Check the TCWP events calendar for any upcoming rain barrel workshops! In our workshops we instruct participants on how to put together a rain barrel, and our workshops are only \$50! This includes a complete system of a white 55-gallon barrel, downspout diverter, and a spigot. Connection barrels are also available.

*Communities have different requirements for connecting rain barrels to your downspouts, so be sure to check before you install.

Benefits of Rain Gardens

Rain Gardens are landscape features planted with water-tolerant, perennial, native plants. These gardens are planted in depressions or low areas, which are designed to store water and allow water to soak in. This slowly helps to replenish groundwater supply.

Cleans stormwater...

Plants and soils within a rain garden help to filter pollution from stormwater runoff before it enters groundwater. Groundwater is used for drinking water and often empties into other waterways such as rivers and lakes.

Reduces flooding...

Rain gardens help reduce flooding and drainage issues when installed correctly. Proper placement and sizing of a rain garden helps ensure that it will function as intended.



Creates beautiful habitats...

Rain gardens create beautiful yards and communities. They also provide habitat and food for wildlife such as birds and butterflies!