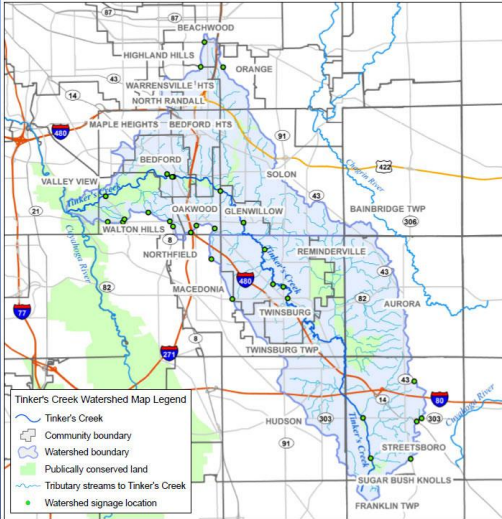## Tinker's Creek Watershed

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.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Map

Tinker's Creek Watershed (TCW) Spans 4 Counties and 24 Communities!
13 Cuyahoga County communities = 41.7% of TCW is in this county
6 Summit County communities = 30.6% of TCW is in this county
4 Portage County communities = 27.2% of TCW is in this county
1 Geauga County community = 0.6% of TCW is in this county

Tinker's Creek Watershed Map Legend
- Tinker's Creek
- Community boundary
- Watershed boundary
- Publically conserved land
- Tributary streams to Tinker's Creek
- Watershed signage location

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.

Wetlands: Nature's Filter & Flood Control

Tinker'sCreek
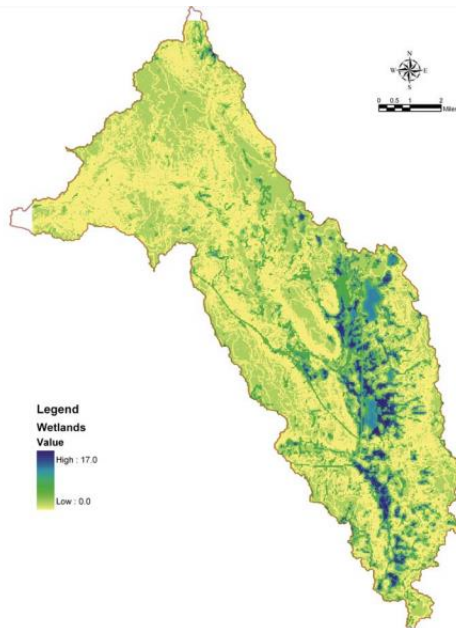### WATERSHED PARTNERS
Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

Tinker's Creek Watershed Land Cover

Land cover in the watershed varies along the length of Tinker's Creek. The southern portion of the watershed is less developed and is where most of the watershed's wetlands can be found. Land cover estimates are: 39% of land is developed, 19% is forested, 20% is cropland, 16% is golf/turf grass, and **6% is wetlands**.

Wetlands

Studies have identified **951 wetlands** within the Tinker's Creek watershed (*see map below*). These wetlands total **3,917 acres** with an average wetland size of over 4 acres. The wetlands in Tinker's Creek watershed are estimated to store and filter over **5 billion gallons** of water every year.

Legend
Wetlands
Value

High : 17.0

Low : 0.0

Why are Wetlands Important?

Water Storage
Wetlands act like natural sponges, storing water and slowly releasing it. **Wetlands can reduce costly property damage and loss of life – benefits that we all value!**

Water Filtration
Healthy wetlands help to clean our water! Rainwater picks up chemicals and debris as it washes across land. Wetlands hold this water and allow debris to settle to the bottom. Plants in a wetland help to soak up and filter pollutants that could enter nearby waterways or groundwater. **Wetlands clean water so well that artificial wetlands are used to treat stormwater and wastewater!**

Plant and Animal Habitat
Wetlands are among the most productive natural places in the world, comparable to a tropical rainforest. Wetlands support a diverse number of plant and animal species, providing habitat, nesting areas, and food resources. Often these species are rare and can only be found in large populations in health wetlands.

Wetlands make up only 5% of land area in the U.S. but are home to over 30% of all our plant species.

Information from: EPA Functions and Values of Wetlands Fact Sheet

What threatens wetlands?

Human activities affect the health of our wetlands. Below is a list of common activities that reduce the health of wetlands.

- Change in water levels due to draining, filling, re-routing water in or out, and/or increased flow due to more urban runoff.
- More pollution entering wetland than can be filtered by the plants and soils.
- Reduction of native vegetation due to invasive plants and resource removal for human use (such as peat mining).

You can help protect wetlands!
Almost 75% of all wetlands are privately owned. This makes it important for the public to help manage and protect our wetlands.

Things that you can do:
- Protect and restore wetlands on your property.
- Support local wetlands and watershed groups by donating materials, time, and/or money.
- Let your community leaders know wetland protection is important to you and support policies that help protect wetlands.
- Help educate your neighbors and community about the value of wetlands in your watershed.

Information from: EPA Threats to Wetlands fact sheet