



Mission: To protect and restore water quality and habitats in the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships



Members

Aurora

Beachwood

Bedford

Bedford Heights

Glenwillow

Hudson

Macedonia

Maple Heights

Northfield

North Randall

Oakwood

Reminderville

Solon

Streetsboro

Twinsburg

Twinsburg Township

Valley View

Walton Hills

Warrensville Heights

Vision: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, Engaged Communities



President's Message

Our mission is to protect and restore Tinker's Creek watershed, and in turn protect water downstream of us. I'm proud to serve as President of TCWP, the largest sub-watershed of the Cuyahoga River. The stewardship through TCWP and our partners is driving, leading, and owning the revitalization of our once burning river. *American Rivers* named the Cuyahoga River "River of the Year", marking the 50th anniversary since its burning and celebrating its progress since then. I would like to say thank you to every one of our stakeholders. Thank you for a memorable year.

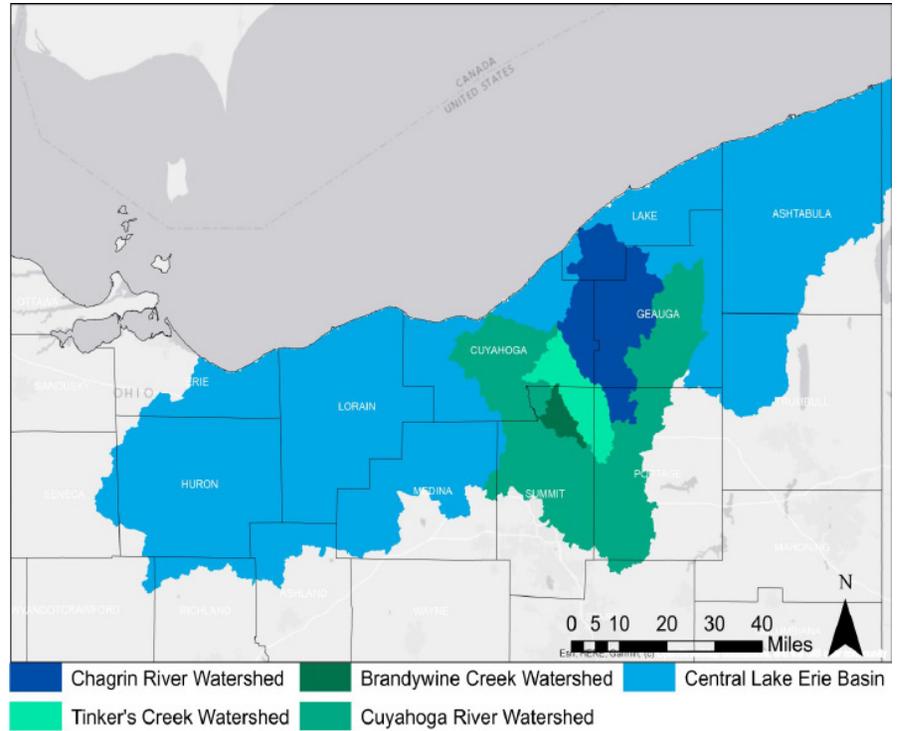
TCWP reached major milestones this year, one of which is completing all of the goals within our 2016 Strategic Plan. Our organization is sustainable and visible. We're growing in numbers and acres and our outreach now extends to Brandywine Creek watershed. Our relationships with our members couldn't be stronger, thanks to our dedicated staff. I'd like to thank our past staff members who have grown to other international opportunities and welcome three new staff members to TCWP. I welcome all to visit with us in our office and at many of the events we'll hold this year. I look forward to hearing your story of the watershed. I have many for you, many that span back to childhood, and many born just this year.

Josh Herchl



Partners in Stewardship

Although you may think that Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is the only protector of Tinker's Creek, that is simply not the case! Every year we work with agencies throughout Northeast Ohio to help all the water in the region. Tinker's Creek is the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River meaning all the water that flows from Tinker's Creek eventually leads to Lake Erie.



This is why it is imperative that we continue to collaborate. Some of our major Partners include: NEORSD, Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership, and Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative among others!



2019 Events

- Pollinator Garden Installation
- Backyard Nature Bash
- Turtle Tuesday
- 2019 Watershed Festival
- Arbor Day Tree Planting
- May Day Hike
- River Day Stream Clean Up
- Invasive Garlic Mustard Pull
- A Day in the Life of Tinker's Creek
- Wild and Scenic Film Festival
- Webinar Series, OEPA
- Webinar Series, Frost Brown Todd
- Twinsburg Native Plant Workshop
- Monarchs Web Series
- Sewer U with NEORS
- Mayors' Breakfast

Connecting People and the Watershed

The watershed partners are committed to connecting our local communities with opportunities to get involved. Whether it's a tree planting, an invasive species pull, or a collaborative event with another environmental group, TCWP offers a variety of opportunities throughout the year.

Did you know?

Environmental Stewardship is the responsible use and protection of natural resources through conservation and sustainability practices. Volunteering with us provides a great opportunity to improve your community and our home watershed. TCWP strives to be good ecological stewards with the help of volunteers like you.



Fundraising Events

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners hosted two successful fundraising events in 2019. A golf outing in June commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Cuyahoga River Fire. Golfers took part in round of golf at Shawnee Hills Golf Course in Bedford. The event was a success and raised approximately \$3,000 for Tinker's Creek!

Hop Tree Brewing Co. brewed a custom amber ale, Boatsman, in honor of our Drinkers for Tinker's event in October! Beer lovers enjoyed an array of delicious brews and raised \$2,000 to help Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners fund conservation efforts.

In 2020, TCWP is excited to continue with both events and has more exciting events and activities planned for friends of Tinker's Creek!



Life Long Learning

In 2019 TCWP Hosted..

- Rain Barrel Workshops
 - 8 total
 - 64 rain barrels
- Ethics and Engineering Workshops
 - 3 total
 - 141 attendants
- Composting with Hudson Environmental Awareness Committee
- What is a Watershed? Presentation

Each year, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners hosts a variety of classes and workshops for both professional certification and the general public. We strive to offer services throughout the watershed and to keep registration costs low.

Did You Know?

TCWP has one of the most cost effective rain barrel workshops in Northeast Ohio.



Northern Ohio Watershed (NOW) Corps

In 2019, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was pleased to sponsor a new AmeriCorps program with funding awarded by ServeOhio, Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The NOWCorps program includes 13 individuals who will perform a year of service with one of our partner organizations in northern Ohio. Our program focuses on environmental stewardship with specific emphasis on conservation, education, and capacity building. Host sites for 2019 include:

- Cleveland Metroparks
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- Chagrin River Watershed Partners
- Lake SWCD
- Cuyahoga SWCD
- Erie County SWCD

Did You Know?

Although there are 26 AmeriCorps State and National programs in Ohio, only two in the state are environmentally focused. Before our NOWCorps program, there was only one such program based in southern Ohio.



SERVE **OHIO**
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



Restoration Projects

Hudson Tenbroeck In Summer 2019, TCWP completed a restoration on the mainstem of Tinker's Creek with the help of EnviroScience and RiverReach Construction. This improved habitat located in a Summit Metro Parks conservation area will reduce nutrient and sediment loading to downstream resources. This historically channelized creek section was restored to a more natural flow. Excitingly, this stretch of stream is home to a family of river otters.



Bedford Heights Bus Garage In Fall 2019, TCWP, with the help of Hull & Associates and Mark Haynes Construction, restored over 500 linear feet of stream behind the Bedford Heights Bus Garage. The modified creek had been experiencing severe flooding. Our team stabilized the hillside and restored a natural creek shape and riffle structure. A riparian zone was installed and native vegetation was planted. Check out our Spring newsletter to see the complete transformation!



Ohio Stormwater Conference



In May 2019, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners hosted the 12th annual Ohio Stormwater Conference. Approximately 960 attendees came from across the United States and Canada to learn about the latest in stormwater management and education. The event drew 96 exhibitors and over 80 speakers! TCWP is proud to be presenting the premier stormwater conference again in 2020!



Did You Know?

Stormwater is caused by precipitation such as rain or melting snow. Unlike waste water, it is not treated at a water treatment plant. Instead, it flows directly into a waterbody. Runoff becomes polluted as it runs off of roads, parking lots, and lawns where it has the opportunity to mix with oil, pesticides, fertilizer, and pet waste. Stormwater has a long way to travel before it enters your favorite swimming or fishing location!



Water Quality Monitoring

With the help of both volunteers and staff, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners measured water quality at 12 sites throughout the watershed between May and September 2019. At each site, TCWP staff and volunteers collected: pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, total phosphorus, suspended solids, and *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*). If you would like to become a watershed volunteer please contact Sonya at sonya@tinkerscreekwatershed.org.



Did You Know?

All of the above parameters are important indicators of the health of Tinker's Creek!

In 2020, we are expanding to include aquatic insect surveys. The health of the Creek can be ascertained by what species of insect you find. Think of the old metaphor the canary in the coal mine!

Looking Ahead to 2020

Goals

- ◆ Increase the understanding of community officials and the public
- ◆ Promote low-impact and conservation development practices
- ◆ Educate watershed communities about their daily activities and habits
- ◆ Encourage a no-net-loss wetland mitigation policy
- ◆ Lead a watershed-based approach to decision making
- ◆ Increase recreational opportunities within the watershed

Events

- ◆ Mayors' Breakfast 2020
- ◆ 4th Annual Drinkers for Tinker's Event
- ◆ 2nd Annual TCWP Golf Outing
- ◆ 13th Ohio Stormwater Conference
- ◆ Climate Change Workshop
- ◆ Ethics Workshops
- ◆ Expanded Water Quality Program
- ◆ May Day Naturalist Hike

Thank you Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners could not have accomplished its 2019 goals without the help of its staff, board members, and community and business members. We look forward to all we can accomplish in 2020.

Staff

Executive Director, Harry Stark

Senior Project Manager, Kate Chapel

Watershed Coordinator, Kelli Herrick

Environmental Education Coordinator, Sonya Mottram

NOWCorps Program Manager, Julie Stark



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