



Annual Report 2010

The mission of the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners is to protect and restore the water quality and habitats of the Tinkers Creek Watershed through community partnerships

Our Vision:

Clean Water * Healthy Habitats * Engaged Communities



Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) - is a nonprofit membership organization working in partnership with local communities to protect and restore the Tinkers Creek Watershed. It is governed by a 15-member all-volunteer Board of Directors who are experts in the fields of stormwater management, environmental education, engineering, local government, natural resource conservation, planning and economic development.

What We Offer:

- Grant money for stormwater best management practices
- Quarterly NPDES Phase II updates
- Technical assistance and expert review of policies and plans
- Grant writing assistance
- Public outreach, involvement and education
- Advocacy on issues related to watershed conservation

How You Can Help:

- Support TCWP by becoming a member, volunteering and contributing resources
- Do your part to reduce pollution and protect habitats
- Let your elected officials know you care and support good policies
- Learn more about your watershed and what you can do to help

PO Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio
www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org

Letter from the Chairman

Last year was a time of transition for the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners. During this transition, the Watershed Partners were able to continue moving forward and making strides to protect and restore our valuable resource.

This annual report is a follow up to last year's biennial report. We will continue to produce an annual report which provides a summary of the group's activities for the previous year. This document will serve as a reminder that we are continuing to meet the goals of raising awareness and providing action to help preserve and protect the Tinkers Creek Watershed.

The Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners would like to thank Chris Craycroft and her colleagues at the Portage Parks District (PPD) for all their contributions in 2010. TCWP entered into a contract with the PPD to perform some of the basic functions of the group and provide a foundation for some of our activities during our period of transition to a stand-alone organization. These actions include establishing a quarterly newsletter, developing a membership tracking and development system, assisting in the Annual Watershed Festival and Mayor's Breakfast, and providing organizational assistance.

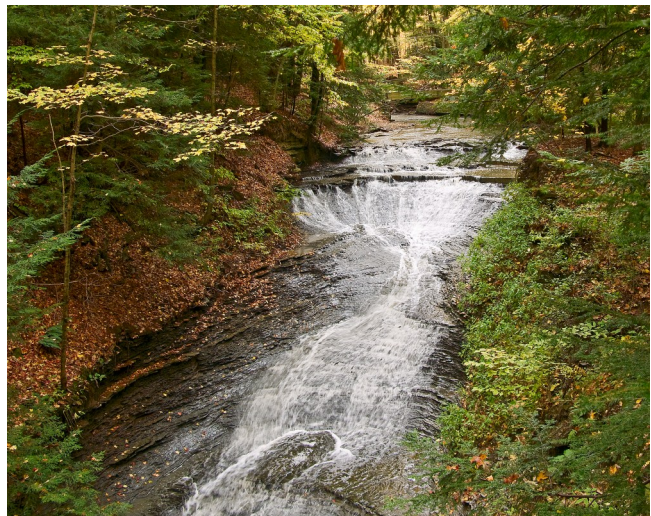
This year, The Partners are committed to re-establishing our connections throughout the watershed and continue to enhance our relationships with similar organizations. TCWP has contracted with a part-time Watershed Coordinator and also renewed our contract with our Program and Grant Coordinator in order to continue implementation of the goals set for in the Watershed Action Plan as well as the strategic plan.

TCWP is also expanding its list of services in 2011. The group will be working with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners to provide bi-monthly Phase II updates for our Member Communities. These updates can be reported on the NPDES Annual Report as part of MCM #1 – Public Education and Outreach. TCWP will also be looking to expand our BMP Grant program (rain gardens, bioretention, etc.) for those communities who are current members.

TCWP continues to grow and expand our influence throughout the watershed and beyond. The continued support we receive from our communities, businesses, and individual members helps continue to support our mission to protect and restore the water quality and habitats of the Tinkers Creek Watershed. These partnerships are vital to our success and we hope you will consider partnering with us by becoming a member, volunteering your time, or making a donation.

Thank you for your support!

Justin A. Czekaj



Clean Water and Healthy Habitats

Protecting and restoring wetlands and streams throughout the watershed

Plans and Studies

The Tinkers Creek Watershed Action Plan: The Final Draft of the Plan was completed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) Watershed Coordinator and has been fully endorsed by the State of Ohio. Completing this Action Plan helps identify opportunities and assets within the watershed as well as positions TCWP for additional funding sources for projects throughout the watershed.

Tinkers Creek Wetland Assessment and Green Infrastructure Study : Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners assisted with a \$135,000 US EPA Wetland Grant that was received by CCBH to further quantify the water quality benefits of wetlands in the watershed. Some of the major findings of this study include:

- Soil phosphorous content is highest for turf/golf courses, wooded wetlands, and agricultural land uses.
- The largest source of nutrients to Tinkers Creek is stormwater runoff from highly developed areas; therefore, it is important to protect the existing wetlands in the watershed and not allow them to become developed.
- Constructing wetlands can help to further reduce nutrient loading in the watershed.

This study also sets forth a green infrastructure approach for managing stormwater runoff. The report identifies stream restoration, biofiltration, and sustainably managed turf as the practices with the greatest ability to reduce phosphorous loading within the watershed. The consultant Tetra Tech is assisting the CCBH with outreach of the study results. A detailed presentation to the watershed communities and interested public is anticipated for April 2011.

Projects

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) provided \$30,000 in 2010 to support the organizational development of TCWP. A portion of this funding went to a rain garden grant program. The TCWP partnered in the design and installation of five demonstration sites in the cities of Hudson, Maple Heights, Streetsboro, Twinsburg and Walton Hills.

In addition, the Village of Glenwillow also asked TCWP to assist with the installation of four bioswales in the existing parking lots behind Village Hall.

Through partnerships with the CCBH and local communities, the TCWP assisted with the following restoration projects:

Hudson High School Stream Restoration and Land Lab: An EPA grant in the amount of \$700,000 was received to restore 2,000 feet of stream and create an environmental education site. Design and construction for this project was limited due to unexpected weather conditions – look for more to come in 2011.



Laurel Creek Restoration Project, Twinsburg: An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant valued at \$729,990 was awarded to restore 2,500 feet of stream by removing a low head dam to allow flood management, recreation and fish passage. Phase 1 of this project is complete and Phase 2 construction is set to begin in May of 2011.

Bear Creek Restoration Project: This project in Warrensville Heights will include 2,000 linear feet of stream restoration and an outdoor education lab for Warrensville City Schools. It has been funded with \$1.1 million dollars from ARRA and the Ohio Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). NEORS is providing engineering oversight services for this project. Final design for the project has been approved and the project awaits permit issuance from the Army Corps of Engineers. Education and outreach for the project has begun and construction is anticipated to commence in May 2011.

Engaged Communities

Encouraging watershed stewardship through community education and outreach

Tinkers Creek Watershed Festival

In 2010, the annual festival was held in Streetsboro in mid-September. Approximately 300 people attended the event and enjoyed the food, music, displays, expert speakers, green vendors, and fun family activities. Some of the featured activities included: tours of the Streetsboro Water Treatment Plant, NASA small rocket demonstrations, and cooking demonstrations with local in-season produce.

Community Leaders Breakfast and Individual Community Meetings

The Community Leaders Breakfast was held on September 24, 2010 at the Blue Canyon Restaurant in the City of Twinsburg. Discussion focused on how Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners can



develop a stronger relationship with watershed communities. Representatives from communities

gave suggestions on how they can best utilize our services. In late 2010, members of the Tinkers Creek Board met individually with several communities in an effort to highlight our successes over the past several years as well as gain input on how best we can serve them in 2011 and beyond. Meetings with the remaining communities will continue in 2011.

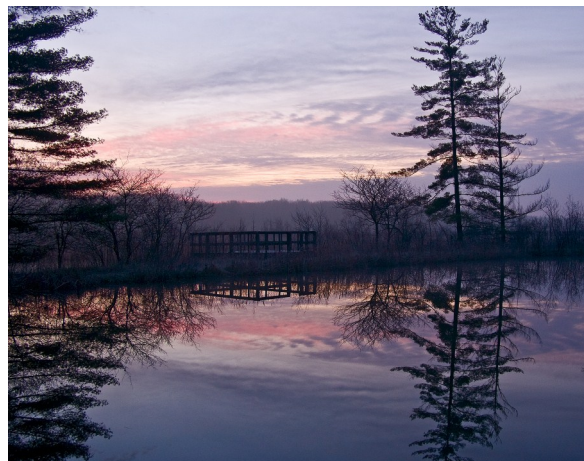


Stormwater Conference

The statewide Stormwater Conference was initiated by the TCWP to provide a forum for sharing technical and policy information on the management of stormwater. The Conference continues to grow. In 2010, 450 people attended with 75 vendors and 40 speakers. The 2010 Conference was held in Sandusky at Kalahari Resort and Conference Center.

Newsletters, Articles, and Website

The Tributary newsletter was produced quarterly in 2010. Articles on specific topics in watershed protection were shared with communities for publication and distribution to their residents. Some of the topics covered in 2010 included sustainable lawn care practices, stream stewardship, and information on rain gardens and rainbarrels. The TCWP website hosts technical reports, maps, educational materials and links to watershed partners.



Partners, Members, and Supporters

Working together for watershed stewardship

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To become a Partner, Member or Supporter, please visit our website at www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org and click on either the "Membership" tab or the "Support Us" tab.