



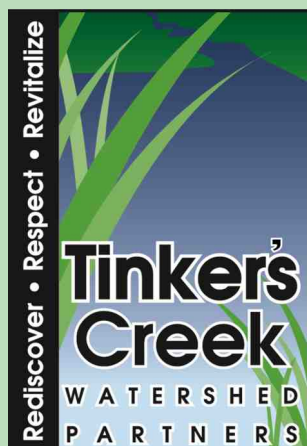
Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

2011 Annual Report

The mission of the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is to protect and restore the water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships.

Our Vision:
Clean Water * Healthy Habitats * Engaged Communities

About Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners



Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization officially established in 2006. Our mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. The Tinker's Creek watershed drains 96.4 square miles and is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed area spans 24 communities in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage and Geauga counties.

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. The daily activities of TCWP are carried out by the Watershed Coordinator with the support of the Board. TCWP is guided in their efforts to protect and restore the watershed and educate the public by the State-endorsed Tinker's Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP). The group's mission along with the WAP shaped the goals of TCWP.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners goals are:

- Increase the understanding of community officials and the public regarding the natural and monetary value of protecting their water resources.
- Promote low-impact and conservation development practices that balance environmental integrity with human development
- Educate watershed communities about their daily activities and habits that negatively impact environmental surroundings and provide alternative approaches to those practices.
- Encourage a no-net-loss wetland mitigation policy where mitigation remains localized within the watershed rather than outsourced to other watersheds.
- Lead a watershed-based approach to decision making that advances the concept of connectivity between the different political jurisdictions within the watershed.
- Increase recreational opportunities by connecting greenways, corridors, and bike paths between the different jurisdictions within the watershed.

2011 Board of Directors and Board Members

Justin A. Czekaj, P.E., President	Josh Herchl, Vice President	Chad Graber, P.E., Treasurer	Ana Burns, Secretary
Sandy Barbic	Petar Bojovic	Martine DiVito	Amanda Keith
Chris Miller, Ph.D., P.E.	Jeff Pritchard	Jim Rodstrom, P.E.	Harry Stark
	Charles Uray, P.E.	Stacey Yanetta	

2011 Watershed Coordinators	Carla Regener Jan– Dec 2011	Babette Oestreicher Nov 2011– Present
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Letter From Our President

Spring arrived early and with it, a new chapter in the evolution of Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners. Like the water that flows through it, the creek must move and adapt to changing conditions. Similarly, our partnership has seen many advances and changes these past few months.

Last year we laid a cornerstone in the construction of a solid foundation, with most of the credit due to my fellow Directors. Our diverse backgrounds and experiences make us a unique group and I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and the relationships we have forged. The Board's unwavering commitment and constant participation has been the key to our most recent successes.

Throughout the year, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners successfully issued contracts to perform the daily and necessary tasks of the group, while planning for a more sustainable future. Mrs. Carla Regener took the reins in the beginning of 2011 as the part-time watershed coordinator. Her responsibilities included coordinating the annual Watershed Festival, the Mayor's breakfast, and providing services to our Member Communities. Mr. Harry Stark continues to function as our grant manager. He ensures that we perform according to the requirements of the grants we are awarded and also seeks out new funding opportunities.

In late 2011, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners decided to seek a full-time watershed coordinator as the demands became too much for a part-time position. After an extensive search, the group selected Ms. Babette Oestreicher for the position. She has been serving as the full-time watershed coordinator under contract since October of 2011.

At the end of 2011, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners applied for a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and were acknowledged as the recipients this March. This grant has enabled the group to hire Ms. Oestreicher on as a full-time employee. The achievement of hiring personnel has also marked the completion of a major objective set forth by the group's strategic planning session in 2010.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners would like to thank our Member Communities for renewing their annual memberships and for providing their continued support. Thanks to them, we can continue our efforts to protect and restore water quality and habitats within the watershed and help them meet their NPDES permit requirements.

While our Member Communities are vital to our success, the majority of our support comes from grants. These grants provide monetary sustainability and Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners would not be able to function as an active organization without this funding. TCWP would like to express our extreme gratitude to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Office of Coastal Management, and The Burning River Foundation.

As we continue into 2012, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners hopes to strengthen its relationships with our Member Communities and other allies within the watershed. There is still much to learn from each other in shared aspirations to protect and restore Tinker's Creek. As President, I would like to reaffirm the message that while we evolve through our changes and successes, we are all creeks united by the same watershed.

Thank you for your support,

Justin A. Czeka

What We Offer Our Communities

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is working hard to achieve our goals by strengthening relationships with the watershed communities. Providing services to our Community Members is valuable for that community and the watershed as a whole.

Community Memberships are available for communities within the Tinker's Creek watershed and allow us to continue to provide communities with watershed protection and planning services.



Bridal Falls in the Bedford Reservation

Services We Offer to Our Member Communities

- ♦ Assistance to governmental boards, commissions, and citizen groups in securing information and technical resources to help them make informed decisions for maintaining open space, protecting and restoring local natural resources such as wetlands and streams, and protecting floodplains.
- ♦ Attendance at council, trustee, planning commission, and zoning board meetings in an advisory capacity for assistance on an as-needed basis.
- ♦ Design and implement local educational programs, forums, and presentations to support local officials and citizens in learning about current approaches and alternative solutions to watershed related issues. This outreach includes the annual Watershed Festival and Mayors Luncheon.
- ♦ Assistance with Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) requirements for Phase II stormwater permits.
- ♦ Bimonthly Phase II Updates to Member Communities.
- ♦ Assistance with the review and language for ordinances as well as grant writing.
- ♦ Funding for rain gardens, rain barrels, and other stormwater best management practices.

Thank You to Our 2011 Community Members:

Aurora	Bedford Heights	Northfield	Streetsboro
Beachwood	Glenwillow	Oakwood	Valley View
Bedford	Hudson	Solon	Walton Hills

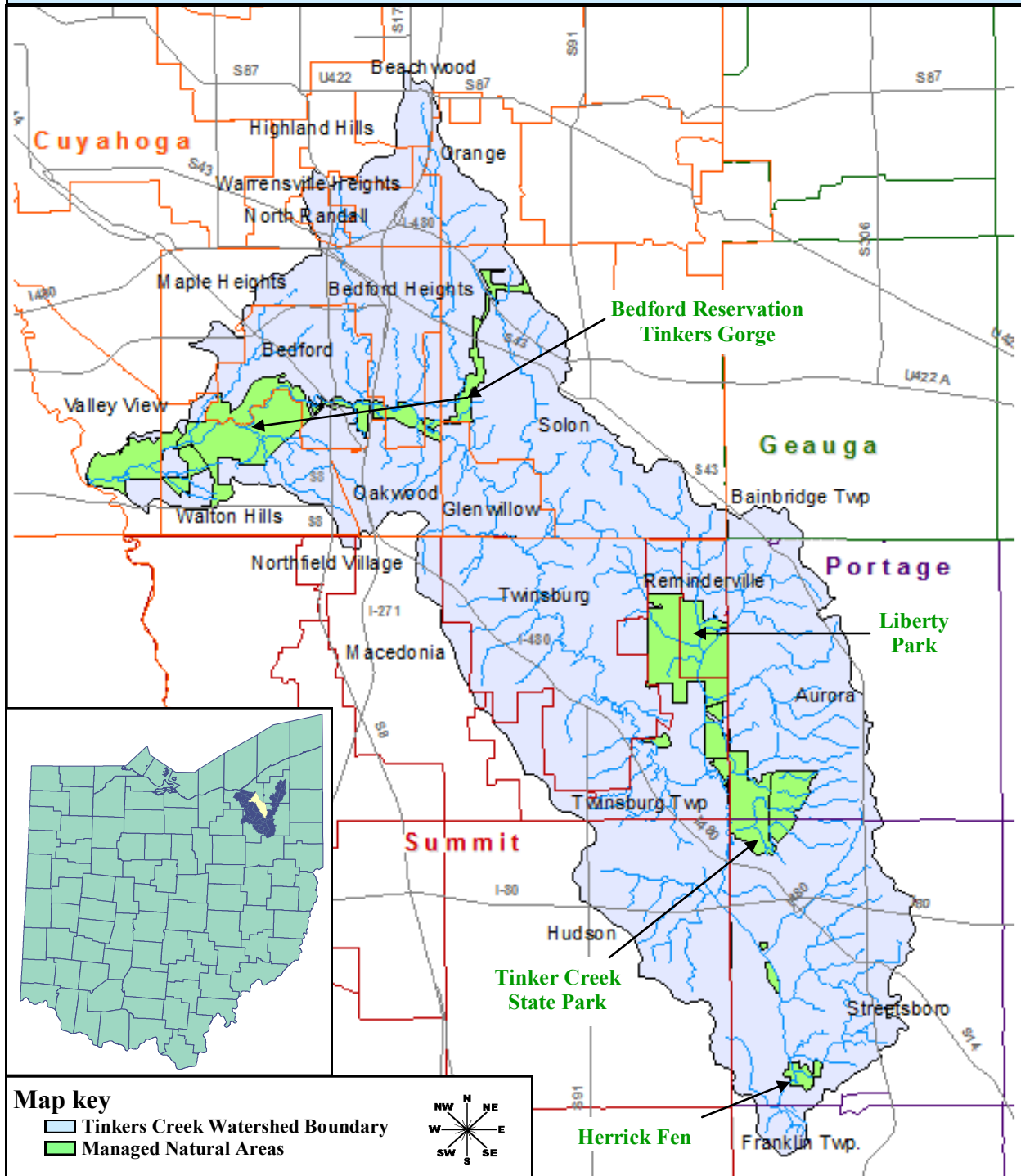
Tinker's Creek Watershed (TCW) Spans Four Counties and 24 Communities!

Cuyahoga has 13 communities= 41.7% of county is in TCW

Geauga has 1 community= 0.6% of county is in TCW

Portage has 4 communities= 27.2% of county is in TCW

Summit has 6 communities= 30.6% of county is in TCW



Grant Funding Received in 2011

Burning River Foundation—Fresh Ideas for Freshwater (FIF)

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was awarded \$3,594 from The Burning River Foundation FIF to implement a sustainable grounds care demonstration project at the Hudson Montessori School. The project entails removal of invasive species, planting of native plants and installation of two rain barrels and two composting bins. As part of the project, the school will also reduce overall chemical usage on their lawn and gardens. Project efforts will be incorporated into sixth grade students' curriculum and be completed by July 2012.



Invasive plants to be removed from the Hudson Montessori detention basin

Coastal Management Assistance Grant (CMAG)

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was awarded \$21,500 from Ohio Office of Coastal Management in 2011 to support and expand our efforts for community outreach and education throughout the watershed. A portion of the grant helped to fund educating watershed residents, businesses, school-age children, and community decision makers on the importance of the natural resources. The grant also helped provide educational information on ordinance modifications that support the management of stormwater, stream bank health, and wetlands, along other valuable water resources in the watershed. Examples of outreach include meetings with community leaders, Mayors Luncheon, the 2011 Watershed Festival, ordinance review, creation of educational materials, and educational presentations for watershed schools and environmental groups.



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) provided \$34,000 to support TCWP's mission in 2011. A portion of this funding was used to secure a watershed coordinator and other contracted positions that helped TCWP serve our communities. This funding also helped to fund events such as the Watershed Festival, the Ohio Stormwater Conference, and the Mayors Luncheon. Additionally, funds were used for the Member Community Stormwater BMP Grant, comprehensive stormwater management ordinance review, educational outreach to the community and public officials, and to help sustain and expand the sustainable lawn care program.



Engaged Communities

2011 Ohio Stormwater Conference

The statewide Stormwater Conference is co-sponsored by TCWP to provide a forum for sharing technical and policy information on the management of stormwater. TCWP has partnered with Ohio Stormwater Association (OSWA) since 2006 and the conference continues to grow every year. The 2011 Conference was held at the Ohio Union in Columbus, Ohio, on May 12 and 13. The conference had over 500 attendees, 68 exhibitors and over 60 speakers at the two day event.



2011 Watershed Festival

The sixth Annual Tinker's Creek Watershed Festival was held at Bedford Commons, in Bedford, Ohio, on Saturday, September 24, 2011 and helped bring together the communities of the watershed. Over 200 attendees enjoyed a beautiful fall day with numerous environmental education opportunities. The day was filled with activities for both adults and children. This free event incorporated a variety of speakers and hands-on activities such

as sustainable lawn care, native plants, composting, rain barrels, and wind energy. The event also featured live animals, music, delicious food samples from local restaurants, and numerous raffle prizes. A special thank you to the City of Bedford for all of their assistance in making the festival a success!

The Mayors Luncheon and Community Meetings

The Mayors Luncheon was held on December 2, 2011 at Casa D'Angelo in the City of Macedonia. At the luncheon community members in attendance had the opportunity to learn about the activities of TCWP and were introduced to the new full-time Watershed Coordinator. Discussion amongst the 21 attendees focused on developing stronger partnerships throughout the watershed. It has been the goal of the Watershed Coordinator to meet with all the watershed community leaders individually to continue and grow partnerships. There have been many successful meetings between the Coordinator and Board Members with communities in 2011.



Newsletters, Articles, and Social Media

The TCWP newsletter was produced quarterly in 2011 and distributed to over 200 people. Articles on specific topics in watershed protection were shared with communities for publication and distribution to their residents. Some of the topics covered in 2011 included sustainable lawn care practices, stream stewardship, and information on rain gardens and rain barrels. The TCWP website hosts technical reports, maps, educational materials and links to watershed partners. TCWP also communicated with the public through Facebook and Twitter, updating our followers about events and information occurring throughout the watershed and beyond.



TCWP Projects Throughout the Watershed

Member Community Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Grant

Over the past four years Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners helped fund 13 Stormwater BMPs throughout the Tinker's Creek watershed. Only communities that are Community Members are eligible to apply and the grant allows for educational displays of stormwater management. In 2011, grants were awarded to the communities of Aurora, Bedford Heights, and Oakwood Village.

Aurora Rain Garden

City of Aurora was awarded \$2,000 by TCWP to install a rain garden. This project is expected to break ground in the Spring of 2012.

Bedford Heights Rain Garden

The City of Bedford Heights was awarded \$2,000 by TCWP to install a rain garden in Reed Park that drains stormwater from the nearby parking lot and walking path. Volunteers from the community, as well as the Bedford Heights Service Department, helped create the approximately 400-square-foot rain garden. To create the garden, 10 cubic yards of soil and 3 cubic yards of mulch were used. Then, 109 native perennial plants and 3 native shrubs were planted in the garden. The plants used include Dallas blue switchgrass, spotted joe pye weed, black-eyed Susan, blue flag iris, autumn joy sedum, fox sedge and serviceberry. The City plans on holding a rain garden workshop in 2012 to further educate residents about the benefits of rain gardens for the community.



Oakwood Village

The Village of Oakwood was awarded \$1,965 by TCWP to install a rain garden at the Community Park to help drain stormwater from half of the park's pavilion rooftop. Community volunteers, including children from Oakwood's Youth Council, two council members and Village Service Department staff, helped to create the approximately 240-square-foot rain garden. A total of 104 native perennials were planted including switchgrass (Dallas blue and Shenandoah), spotted and chocolate joe pye weed, black-eyed Susan, and blue flag iris. The garden also required 7 cubic yards of soil and 3 cubic yards of mulch. Given average rainfall of the area, the garden could potentially soak up 22,000 gallons of stormwater each year! The Village plans to hold a rain garden workshop in 2012 to further educate residents about the benefits of rain gardens for the community.



Other Projects Throughout the Watershed

Through partnerships with Cuyahoga County Board of Health and local communities, TCWP assisted with the following restoration projects:

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 I of this project is complete, and Phase 2 construction is set to begin in May 2011. The project was completed as of December 31, 2011 with an additional live stake planting to be completed in March 2012. The first monitoring report was submitted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineer February 2012.



Bear Creek Restoration Project, Warrensville Heights



This project included 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 provided engineering oversight services for this project. The construction for the project was completed in December 2011 and are to be plantings installed in April 2012. The first round of monitoring began in February 2012.

Hudson High School Stream Restoration and Land Lab

This project is funded by U.S. EPA 319 grant of \$682,758 with \$329,208 Federal dollars and \$250,000 match from City of Hudson, \$88,700 match from Hudson High School, and \$13,000 match from Cuyahoga County Board of Health. The project will restore 1,720 linear feet of stream with adjoining meadow, shrub, forested and wetlands areas and a 6.28-acre conservation easement will be placed on the project site. Construction will commence in June 2012 and last 14 weeks. The project is expected to be completed in October 2012 once landscaping and planting is finished.



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.

Make a tax deductible donation to TCWP.



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www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org

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