

The mission of Tinker's Creek

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

Clean Water * Healthy Habitats * Engaged Communities

Thank You!

TCWP would like to thank the following partners for their support throughout 2012. These relationships are essential to help protect and restore the Tinker's Creek watershed. We are excited to continue growing these partnerships into the future.

2012 Community Members

Aurora	Glenwillow	Oakwood	Valley View
Beachwood	Hudson	Reminderville	Walton Hills
Bedford	Macedonia	Streetsboro	Warrensville Heights
Bedford Heights	Northfield	Twinsburg	

2012 Business Members

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	Davey Resource Group
Biohabitats, Inc.	Good Nature Organic Lawn Care

2012 Community Partnerships

Chagrin River Watershed Partners	Hudson Montessori School
Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.	Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Cleveland Botanical Gardens	Ohio Prairie Nursery
Cleveland Metroparks	Ohio Stormwater Association
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	Summit County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District	The Nature Conservancy
Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization	Trust for Public Land
EnviroScience, Inc.	

2012 Grant Funders

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Science Applications International Corporation
The Burning River Foundation

What We Offer Our Communities

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is working hard to achieve our goals by strengthening our relationships with all of the communities within the watershed. Providing services to our community members is valuable for both the community and the watershed as a whole.

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

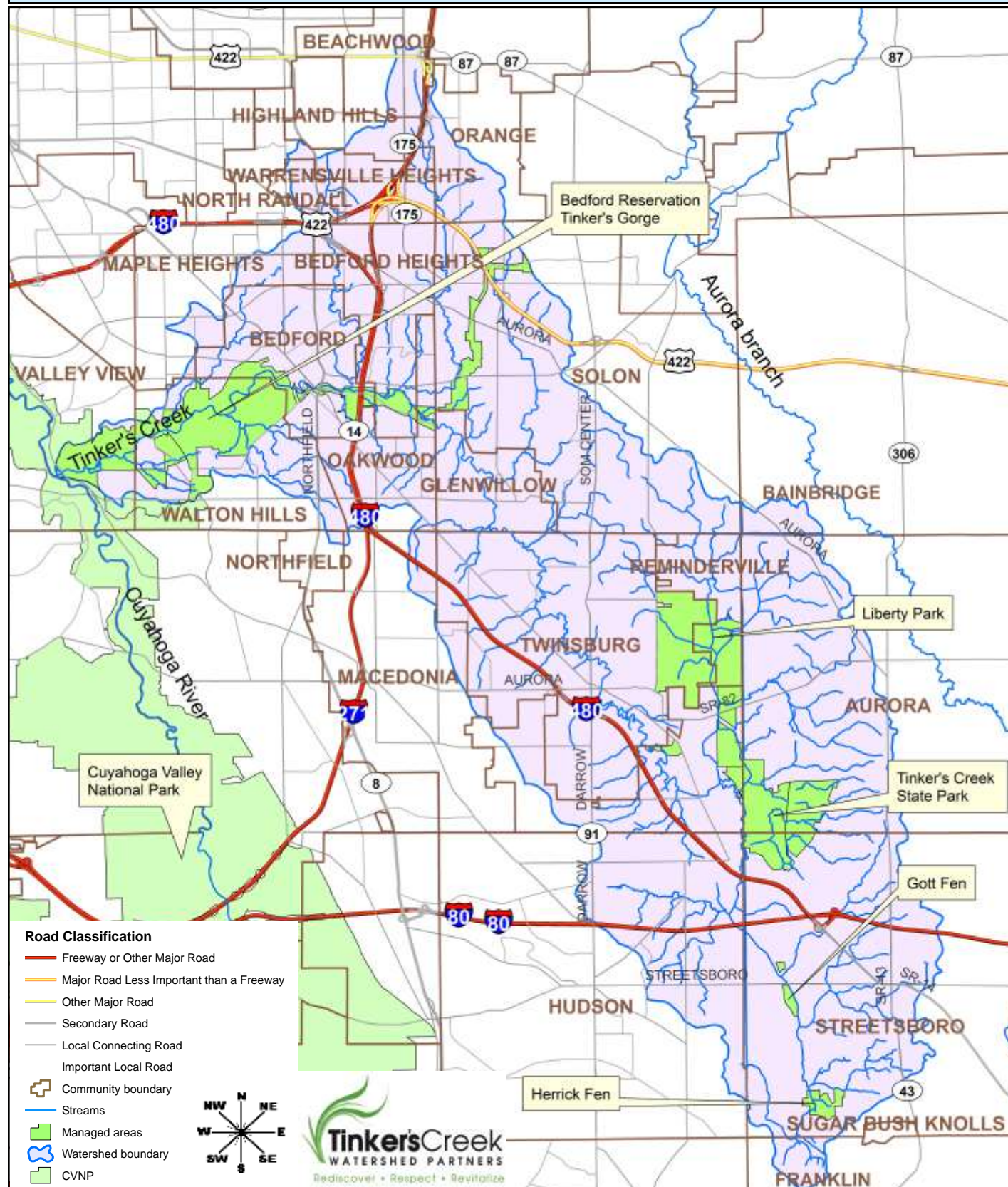
Member Services

- Assistance to local planning commission, zoning boards as well as other voluntary governmental boards, commissions, and citizen groups in making informed decisions about local water resources. This includes helping to secure information and technical resources on issues such as protection of wetlands, streams, and floodplains.
- Communication of our members on flooding and erosion issues to regional, state, and federal agencies.
- Attendance at council, trustee, planning commission, and zoning board meetings in an advisory capacity for assistance on an as-needed basis.
- Development and implementation of local educational programs, forums, and presentations that promote current approaches and alternative solutions for environmental problems to local officials, municipal workers and citizens.
- Performance of Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) requirements for Phase II stormwater permits.
- Bimonthly Phase II Updates to member communities.
- Wetland, riparian setback, pre and post construction, and illicit discharge ordinance assistance.
- Funding for rain gardens, rain barrels and other stormwater best management practices.
- Grant writing assistance.



Tinker's Creek Watershed (TCW) spans 4 counties and 24 communities!

Cuyahoga has 13 communities = 41.7% of TCW
 Summit has 6 communities = 30.6% of TCW
 Portage has 4 communities = 27.2% of TCW
 Geauga has 1 community = 0.6% of TCW



Grant Funding Received in 2012

Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) Mini-grant OEEF awarded Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners \$4,000 to implement an education signage campaign in the watershed. These signs will identify the location of Tinker's Creek and the boundaries of the watershed. The goal of the signage campaign is to raise awareness and create a sense of place within the watershed. The project is expected to be completed April of 2013 and will also include online interactive maps and a fact sheet with the location of the signage. TCWP has been working with the communities of Glenwillow, Macedonia, and Streetsboro and is seeking more communities to be involved in the project.



Example of watershed sign

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Coordinator Implementation Grant

Watershed Tour, Herrick Fen



Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is the recipient of a three-year, \$32,000 per year operating grant from ODNR, Division of Soil and Water. The grant was officially awarded and took effect on February 28, 2012.

The grant will be used to fund the full-time position of the organization's watershed coordinator, Babette Oestreicher, who was appointed in October 2011. In this role and in accordance with grant stipulations, Ms. Oestreicher will implement the State of Ohio-endorsed Tinker's Creek

Watershed Action Plan. Additionally, the grant will support outreach efforts within the 24 watershed communities that encompass Tinker's Creek to develop and execute educational programs, restoration projects, and other awareness campaigns.

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) provided \$34,000 to the support organization's mission in 2012.

A portion of this grant provides funding for the watershed coordinator and other contracted positions that helped TCWP serve our communities. This funding also provides assistance for 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, educational outreach to the watershed communities, and public officials and to help sustain and expand the sustainable lawn care program.

2012 Ohio Stormwater Conference



Engaging Communities

2012 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 2012 Conference was held in Toledo, Ohio on June 6 to 8. The conference had over 470 attendees, 75 exhibitors, and over 74 speakers at the three-day event.



2012 Watershed Festival

The Seventh Annual Tinker's Creek Watershed Festival was held in Twinsburg, Ohio, on the Town Square, on Saturday, September 15, 2012, 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, history of Tinker's Creek, local and global fresh water

needs, and a rain barrel workshop. The event also featured live animals, music, delicious food samples from local restaurants, and numerous raffle prizes. A grant from Science Applications International Corporation helped to provide this opportunity to the public. A special thank you to the City of Twinsburg and Twinsburg Township for all of their assistance in making the festival a success!

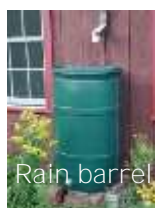
The Mayors Luncheon and Community Meetings

The Mayors Luncheon took place on January 25, 2013 at Fredrick's Restaurant in Warrensville Heights. At the luncheon, community members had the opportunity to learn about the activities of TCWP and goals for the coming year. In 2012 numerous partnerships were forged with communities and local organizations that will be beneficial to the health of the watershed. Discussion amongst the attendees focused on strengthening existing and developing new partnerships throughout the watershed.



Newsletters, Articles, and Social Media

The TCWP newsletter was produced quarterly in 2012 and distributed to over 250 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 2012 included sustainable lawn care practices, picking up after your pup, and information on rain gardens and rain barrels. The TCWP website hosts technical reports, maps, educational materials, and links to watershed partners.



TCWP Projects Throughout the Watershed

Member Community Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Grant
Over the past five years Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners helped fund 15 Stormwater BMPs throughout the watershed. Only communities and community organizations that are members are eligible to apply and the grant allows for educational displays of stormwater management. In 2012 grants were awarded to Biohabitats for the Hudson High School Stream Restoration Project, and the Village of Glenwillow.

Biohabitats for the Hudson High School Stream Restoration Project

Biohabitats, primary contractor for the design and construction of the restoration project, was awarded \$3,000 to purchase plants for the Hudson High School Stream Restoration Project and Land Lab. The money provided by TCWP meant larger plants were able to be purchased, which will help establish the restoration project quicker with projected increased plant survival rates. The grant paid for 125, 3- to 5-foot shrubs, 25, three-gallon trees, and 250 live stakes. They will be planted by Hudson High School students and other volunteers. These additional plants will help reduce erosion on the site and aid in establishing wetland and riparian areas.



Glenwillow Village

The funds were utilized to purchase 13 red maple and honey locust trees with an approximately 2.5-inch trunks. Native, deciduous hardwood trees were planted at the site; species were selected based on availability and cost. The grant also funded a bonded and insured landscape contractor that guaranteed the planted trees for one year to ensure success of the project. Trees play an important role in reducing the amount of polluted stormwater from entering our streams by slowing water down and helping water to be absorbed into the ground.



Aurora Rain Garden

City of Aurora was awarded \$2,000 in 2011 by TCWP to install a rain garden. The rain garden was installed in 2012 and is located next to the Walker Building, which houses the Parks and Recreation Department. The rain garden is composed of almost 100 native perennials. It serves as a demonstration project to the community on practices that residents can do to reduce the amount of stormwater that leaves their property.

Other Projects Throughout the Watershed

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

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. The project cost \$1.1 million and was funded by an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and an Ohio Water Resource Restoration and Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). NEORS provided engineering oversight services for this project. The construction for the project was completed in December 2011 and plantings were installed in April 2012. The first round of monitoring began in February 2012.



Bear Creek Restoration site

Hudson High School Stream Restoration and Land Lab

This project was funded by a 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 CCBH. The project restored 1,720 linear feet of stream with adjoining meadow, shrub, and forested wetlands areas within a 6.28-acre conservation easement held by Summit Soil and Water Conservation District. Construction commenced in June 2012 and lasted 14 weeks. The project plantings were completed in October 2012 by the high school students, Biohabitats, the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, TCWP, and community volunteers.



Step pools at the Hudson High School Project

Laurel Creek Restoration Project, Twinsburg

An 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. The project construction was completed December 31, 2011 with an additional live stake planting finished in March of 2012. The first monitoring report was submitted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers February 2012. Due to drought and other issues, tree survival rates are low and additional funding will be sought to purchase and plant more trees on the site.



Wetlands at the Laurel Creek Restoration site

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners Outreach and Events

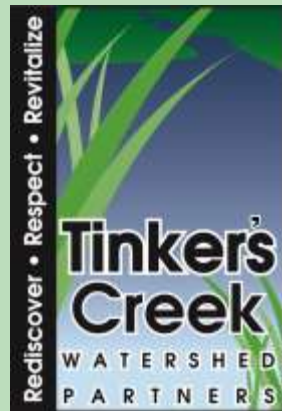
TCWP strives to reach out to the public to increase understanding and protection of the watershed. Below is a list of events and activities that TCWP participated, organized, or contributed to in 2012:



Wood Creek Clean Up

- Bedford Heights Family Days – June 30, Bedford Heights
- Bedford Rotary Club Presentation – July 31, Solon
- Burning River Fest – July 21 and July 22, Cleveland
- Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, ReLeaf Program – March 29, Highland Hills and September 28, Hudson
- Hudson Green on the Green Day – September 7, Hudson
- Hudson High School Stream Restoration and Land Lab Project – Planning Meetings (June 5, July 7, August 7), Planting Day (November 8), and Dedication Ceremony (November 19) all at the Hudson High School
- Lake County Captains Sustainability Day – August 18, Eastlake
- Laurel Creek Restoration Planting Day – March 9, Twinsburg
- NASA Glenn Sustainability Fair – September 13, Cleveland
- NASA Glenn Rain Garden Presentation – May 3, Cleveland
- **NEFCO Tinker's Creek Update Presentation** – December 5, Stow
- Ohio Stormwater Conference – June 6-8, Toledo
- Rural Urban Interface Project, Aurora/Streetsboro Landscape Stewardship Planning Meeting – June 9, Ravenna
- School Presentations:
 - Harmon Middle School – May 14 and 18, Aurora
 - Hudson Montessori School – April 13, May 18, and 23, Hudson
 - Lawrence School – April 19, Northfield
 - Seton Catholic School – July 24, Hudson
 - Twinsburg High School – October 9 and 10, Twinsburg
- Sustainable Lawn Care and Landscape Workshop – February 24, Glenwillow
- **Tinker's Creek Watershed Festival** – September 15, Twinsburg
- Wood Creek Clean Up – June 23, Wood Creek, Bedford
- Village of Oakwood Rain Garden Presentation – July 28, Oakwood

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. The state-endorsed Tinker's Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP) guides TCWP in their efforts to protect and restore the watershed and educate the public. The WAP along with the group's mission shapes the goals of TCWP.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners goals are to:

- Increase understanding about the natural and monetary value of protecting water resources to community officials and the public.
- 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 in the watershed by connecting greenways, corridors, and bike paths between the different jurisdictions.

2012 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	Amanda Keith	Leslie Marcuse
Chris Miller Ph.D. P.E.	Jeff Pritchard	Carla Regener	Jim Rodstrom P.E.
Charles Uray P.E.			

2012 Grant Coordinator

Harry Stark

2012 Watershed Coordinator

Babette Oestreicher

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.



P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org

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