



Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

2013 Annual Report

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!

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners would like to thank the following partners for their support throughout 2013. These relationships are essential to help protect and restore the Tinker's Creek watershed.

Community Members

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

Grant Providers

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Science Application International Corporation

Business Members

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

Community Partnerships

Biohabitats, Inc.	Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Chagrin River Watershed Partners	Ohio Prairie Nursery
Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.	Ohio Stormwater Association
Cleveland Metroparks	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	Tetra Tech
Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District	The Nature Conservancy
Cuyahoga River Community Planning	West Creek Conservancy
EnviroScience, Inc.	Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County	

What We Offer Our Communities

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

Community memberships are available with the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and allow us to provide communities with watershed protection and educational services.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners provides the following member services:

- ◆ Assistance to local planning commission and 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 on flooding and erosion issues to regional, state, and federal agencies on behalf of our members.
- ◆ TCWP representation in an advisory capacity is available at local government meetings if requested.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Quarterly 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 Map

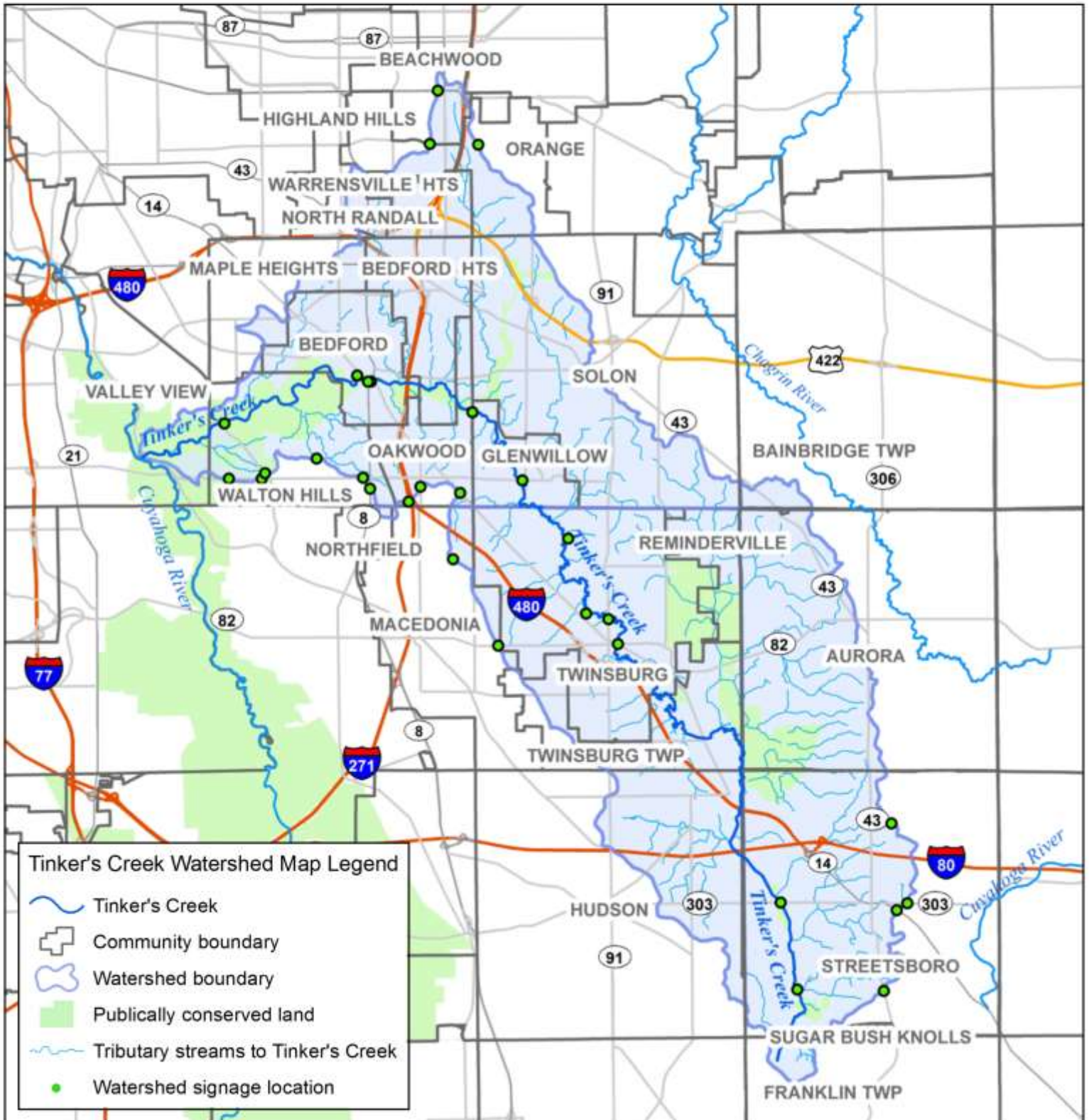
Tinker's Creek Watershed (TCW) Spans 4 Counties and 24 Communities!

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



Funding Received in 2013

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Watershed Coordinator Implementation Grant

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. This grant was officially awarded and took effect on February 28, 2012. These grants are provided to local watershed organizations to employ watershed coordinators or specialists.



The grant is used to fund the full-time position of the **Tinker's Creek Watershed Coordinator, Babette Oestreicher**, who was appointed in October 2011. In accordance with grant **stipulations, Ms. Oestreicher's** highest priority is implementing projects identified in the State of Ohio-**endorsed Tinker's Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP). Additionally, the grant supports outreach efforts within the 24 watershed communities that encompass Tinker's Creek** to develop and execute restoration projects.

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Operating Support Grant



NEORS provided \$34,000 to the support organization's mission in 2013. 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 and the Minimum Control Measure 6, Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping trainings. This grant also helped fund BMP projects for our Member Communities and provided educational outreach to public officials. Additionally, TCWP was able to expand the Sustainable Lawn and Ground Care Program.

Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) Engineering Solutions Business Unit

For the second year in a row, SAIC Engineering Business Unit based out of NASA Glenn has provided TCWP with a \$1,000 grant to help fund the Annual Watershed Festival. This allows TCWP to provide free booth space to local and national non-profit organizations and aids them in their outreach and education efforts to the public.



Tour of Great Falls at watershed festival

Engaging Communities

Seventh Annual Ohio Stormwater Conference

The Annual Stormwater Conference is hosted by TCWP to provide a forum for sharing technical and policy information on the management of stormwater. TCWP has been the host of the conference since 2008 and has received support from the Ohio Stormwater Association to help bring the event to a larger audience. The conference is held in different cities around the state and has grown each year. The 2013 Conference was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 8-10. The conference had a record-setting 620 attendees, 87 exhibitors, and over 60 speakers. Ms. Oestecher was selected as one of the speakers at the event and presented on the success of Sustainable Lawn and Ground Care Program. The 2014 conference will be held in Akron, Ohio from June 4-6.



Eighth Annual Watershed Festival

The Eighth Annual Tinker's Creek Watershed Festival was held in Bedford, Ohio, at the



Bedford Commons, on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Each year this event is held at a different location within the watershed and is free to the public. Even bad weather could not stop people from attending the event to learn about the watershed and the organizations that help local communities. The event incorporated a variety of hands-on activities for both adults and

children, and featured live animals and a walking tour of the Great Falls of Tinker's Creek. A generous grant from SAIC helped to provide this opportunity free to the public and allowed TCWP to offer free booths to non-profit organizations. A special thank you to the City of Bedford for all of their assistance in making the festival a success! The 2014 Watershed Festival will be held in Hudson in conjunction with the City of Hudson Environmental Awareness Committee.

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 representatives had the opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of TCWP in 2012 and goals for 2013. Mayor Bradley Sellers welcomed guests with Representative Marlene Anielski speaking as the guest of honor.



Representatives from the watershed communities of Beachwood, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Highland Hills, North Randall, Twinsburg, and Warrensville Heights were present. Discussion amongst the attendees focused on strengthening partnerships and developing new relationships throughout the watershed. Following the luncheon, TCWP held individual meetings with the community leaders to help identify specific needs within the watershed.

Engaging Communities continued...

Sustainable Lawn Care and Landscaping Workshop

TCWP provided several training opportunities to the watershed communities. One such training was the Sustainable Lawn Care and Landscaping Workshop for municipal workers and the public. This workshop provided pesticide applicator CEUs on correct pesticide application, effective use of native plants and grass, and integrated pest management. Presenters included Barb Holtz from the Cleveland Metroparks, Greg Mazur from Davey Institute, Leslie Marcuse from Good Nature Organic Lawn Care, and Andrew Pratt from Cuyahoga County Community College.

Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 6, Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Training

TCWP provided trainings to municipal workers on MCM 6, Pollution Prevention/Good **Housekeeping as required by the Ohio EPA's Stormwater Permits for municipalities.** The training focused on best management practices (BMPs) that are important to municipal operations such as good housekeeping, spill response, materials storage and handling, landscape maintenance, and street maintenance. Employees working in fleet maintenance, garages, parks, recreation facilities, street maintenance, and other departments all benefited from this training. The communities of Reminderville, Twinsburg, and Valley View participated in the trainings.

Macedonia Rain Barrel Workshop

TCWP provided a rain barrel workshop for Macedonia residents as requested by the City. The City of Macedonia received numerous calls requesting information on rain barrels and the City contacted TCWP to help provide a workshop for residents. Attendees were able to purchase materials at a discounted rate and assistance was provided on the proper assembly of the rain barrel systems. Attendees were also educated on the watershed and methods of reducing stormwater pollution to protect local streams.



Newsletters, Articles, and Social Media

The TCWP newsletter was produced quarterly and distributed to over 350 individuals. Articles on specific topics in watershed protection were shared with communities for publication and distribution to their residents. Some of the topics covered in 2013 included sustainable lawn care practices and information on projects in the watershed. The TCWP website contains 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

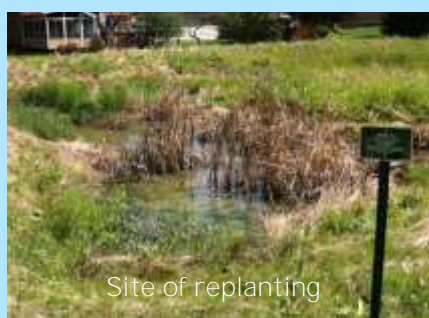
Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) Mini-grant **Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was awarded an OEEF grant** of \$4,000 to implement an education watershed signage campaign. **These signs identify the location of Tinker's Creek** and the boundaries of the watershed. The goal of the signage campaign is to raise awareness and create a sense of location of the watershed. The first stage of the project was completed in 2013 and includes an online interactive map and a fact sheet with the location of the signage. During the first stage of this project



Example of watershed sign

61 signs were placed throughout the watershed in the communities of Beachwood, Bedford, Glenwillow, Macedonia, Oakwood, Walton Hills, Twinsburg, and Streetsboro. TCWP will continue to work with additional communities to install more signage throughout the watershed.

Laurel Creek Replanting



In 2011, a portion of Laurel Creek underwent a stream restoration. Wetlands were reestablished to help manage stormwater from a nearby parking lot and flood water from Laurel Creek. Over 300 wetland plants were planted in the summer of 2011. The wetlands were inspected during the spring of 2013 and it was discovered that about 90% of the plants did not survive. In 2013, TCWP provided funding to CCBH to help replant the area to make sure that the restoration project would function as intended. The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization also provided trees to help replant areas where trees had not survived, with labor provided by City of Twinsburg, CCBH, and TCWP. About 0.3 acre was replanted with 40 trees and shrubs (maples, swamp oak, pin oak, white oak, sycamore, red bud, and river birch).

Streetsboro Rain Garden Replanting

Due to a multitude of factors, the plants within the Streetsboro rain garden at the City Park did not survive and the rain garden was not functioning as intended. In 2013, TCWP provided funding to the City of Streetsboro for plants and materials, and the City provided additional materials and labor to help correct the problems with the rain garden. The Streetsboro rain garden was improved by adding 41 native plants, 2 tons of sand, 6 yards of mulch, 3 tons of gravel, 6.8 tons of river rock, and 24 yards of moss. These additions will help ensure that the rain garden will drain correctly and help filter pollutants coming from a nearby parking lot.



Other Projects Throughout the Watershed

Through partnerships with Cleveland Metroparks and local communities, TCWP participated in the following projects:

Village of Glenwillow Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) Project

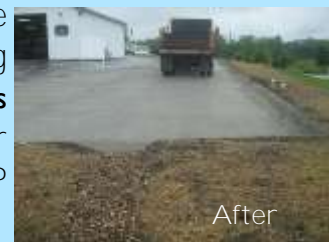


Before

In August 2013, with the assistance of a \$53,358 grant from the Ohio EPA Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF), the Village of Glenwillow installed a new parking area constructed of 2,800-square-foot of porous concrete. The new parking area is designed to capture stormwater runoff from 7,600-square-foot of existing impervious **surfaces before it enters the storm sewer and empties into Tinker's**

Creek. The project also includes a specially designed turf swale that will treat runoff from the parking lot during significant rain events and will serve to remove pollutants from snow melt. The project is located adjacent to the service department building within and was designed by **Chagrin Valley Engineering, Inc., the Village's consulting engineer.**

This project serves to demonstrate to the public that innovative stormwater retrofits can be effectively incorporated into existing **parking areas to improve reduce stormwater runoff entering Tinker's** Creek which helps to minimize local flooding and improve water quality. This project was completed the summer of 2013 and TCWP helped to provide outreach about the project.



After

Cleveland Metroparks Walton Hills Land Acquisition

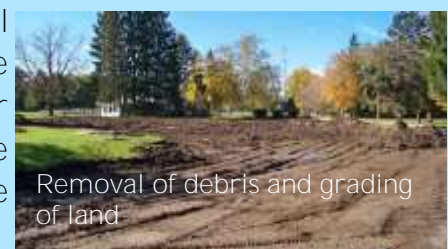


Demolition of event center

Cleveland Metroparks was awarded a Clean Ohio Conservation Grant in 2013 to acquire 15.9 acres of land next to the Astrohurst Golf Course and the Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation. The property included the abandoned Astrohurst Party Center and 2,500 linear feet of **Tinker's Creek along the northern end of the property.** The goal of the acquisition is to expand the Cleveland Metroparks

Bedford Reservation and expand the protected areas of Tinker's Creek by providing permanent protection and restoring floodplain areas.

In 2013, TCWP also submitted a Project Clean Lake proposal to help fund reforestation of the property. Unfortunately, the property was not acquired in time to be considered for funding. Demolition of existing buildings and grading of the land began in 2013. Work on reconnecting the stream to the floodplain, and planting will be completed in 2014.



Removal of debris and grading of land

Other Projects Throughout the Watershed continued...

Through partnerships with Metro Parks, Serving Summit County and local communities, TCWP participated in the following project:

Pond Brook Stream Restoration

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County and their project partners have been hard at work restoring Pond Brook for almost a decade. This **tributary to Tinker's Creek runs through Liberty Park in Twinsburg, Twinsburg Township, and Reminderville.** Pond Brook had been reduced to a ditch that was straightened, drained, and widened for agriculture, development, and flood control. Restoration efforts have focused on restoring habitat and allowing the stream access to a floodplain.



Funding for the restoration efforts has come from several sources, including mitigation funding from Ohio Department of Transportation (Phase I) and grant funding from Ohio EPA (Phase II) prior to 2013. In 2013, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County was awarded an Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program grant (Phase III), with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as the project sponsor. This funding will allow the restoration of Pond Brook up to its confluence with Tinker's Creek. This portion is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2016 and will restore an additional 6,500 linear feet of stream.

Completed restoration in Phase I includes 6,000 linear feet of stream, 14 acres of wetland, and 18 acres of floodplain, as well as enhancement of an additional 53 acres of wetlands. Phase II of restoration project was completed in 2013 by Davey Resource Group, the design team for restoring an additional 5,000 linear feet of stream. TCWP participated in design meetings for this phase, which is expected to be completed in 2014.



Outreach and Events

TCWP strives to increase understanding and protection of the watershed through public outreach. Below is a list of events and activities in which TCWP participated, organized or contributed in 2013.

TCWP Hosted Events:

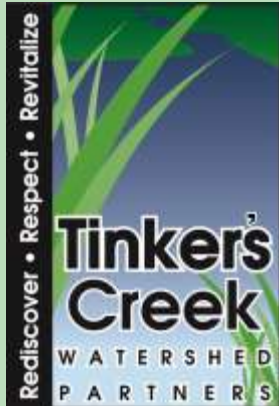
- Ohio Stormwater Conference Host and Presenter – Cincinnati
- Eighth Annual Watershed Festival – Bedford
- Macedonia Rain Barrel Workshop
- Minimum Control Measure 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Training – Twinsburg, Reminderville, Valley View
- Sustainable Lawn Care and Landscaping Workshop – Twinsburg

Community Partner Hosted Events:

- District 6 Superintendent Meeting Presentation – Brecksville
- Earth Day at Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds – Berea
- Herrick Fen Tour – Streetsboro
- Hudson Green on the Green Event
- Hudson High School Stream Restoration Planting
- Laurel Creek Restoration Planting – Twinsburg
- Lawrence School Presentation – Northfield
- NASA Glen Sustainability Day – Cleveland
- State of the River: Cuyahoga River Symposium – Cleveland
- Streetsboro Rain Garden Planting
- Twinsburg Stream Clean Up
- Watershed Stewardship Center Grand Opening – Parma
- WKYC Conservation Crusader Segment – televised



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 habitat 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.

2013 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.	Scott Winograd, Esq.		

2013 Grant Coordinator	Harry Stark
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2013 Watershed Coordinator	Babette Oestreicher
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How You Can Help

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization sustained by community memberships, grants, and public donations.

Please consider supporting the efforts of TCWP by becoming a member or giving a tax-deductible donation.



P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org

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