

## The Tinker's Creek Watershed

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.



### What is a watershed?

**A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake.**

Our landscape is made up of multiple, connected watersheds.

**We ALL live in a watershed!**

## Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP)

**Vision:** Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, Engaged Communities

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

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization officially established in 2006. 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 functions of the organization are carried out by the Tinker's Creek Watershed Coordinator with support of the Board.

We provide educational assistance and outreach to the communities within the watershed.

Want to learn more or help support TCWP?

Visit: [www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org](http://www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org)



Search: Tinker's Creek Watershed



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**Sustainable Lawn Care:  
Healthy Lawns and  
Healthy Waterways**



# Sustainable Lawn Care: Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waterways



## Being Water-wise for Healthy Water

Proper care of your lawn and garden requires being **water-wise**. Being water-wise means understanding the way that we care for our lawn and garden can impact water health.

### The Problem

Chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, are washed off land by rain into our waterways. This polluted runoff can harm or kill plants and animals that depend on that waterway. This can affect humans by increasing the cost to clean the water for drinking and recreational use, such as fishing, swimming and other water activities.

**Waterways = creeks, streams, ponds, wetlands or lakes.**

## Easy Water-Wise Tips for Your Yard

- **Plant Natives!** Most native plants require less watering and chemicals to grow because they are adapted to local conditions.
- **Compost!** Help reduce debris that enters and decays in our waterways. Large amounts of decomposing organic matter (such as leaves and grass) reduce the oxygen content of a waterway which can lead to poor water quality.
- **Harvest rainwater!** Rain barrels can be used to capture some of the water that falls on your rooftop – diverting it away from the storm sewer system and allowing it to be reused as water for your plants and lawn.
- **Don't mow too short!** Keep your grass at 3 ½ inches or higher. This will help water soak into your lawn better, and shade out weeds, reducing the need for weed killers.



## Tips continued...

- **Use lawn and garden chemicals correctly or switch to alternatives!** Follow instructions on packaging closely and **avoid using chemicals when wet weather is in the forecast**. Switching to organic lawn care, not only creates a better environment for you family, but will help you protect your community and watershed!
- **Clean off hard surfaces!** Sweep grass and fertilizers off sidewalks and driveways to prevent it from being washed down the storm drain.
- **Don't put it down the storm drain!** Never put grass clippings, pet waste or other products down the storm drain, they often lead directly to local waterways!

**Protecting OUR water begins at home!**