



# Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners





# THANK YOU!

*Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners would like to thank the following partners for their support throughout 2015. These relationships are essential to help protect and restore the Tinker's Creek watershed.*

## 2015 Board of Directors

Justin Czekaj, P.E., CPESC - President  
Ana Burns - Vice President  
Josh Herchl - Treasurer  
Michael Liptak, Ph.D - Secretary

Sandy Barbic  
Petar Bojovic  
Kendrick Chittock  
Katherine Holmok  
Dr. Chris Miller, Ph.D., P.E.  
Jim Rodstrom, P.E., CPESC  
Daniel Svoboda  
Jennifer Syx  
Charlie Uray, Jr., P.E., P.S.  
Scott Winograd  
Maureen Wise

## Staff

Harry Stark, Jr., RS, MPA, CMS4S - Executive Director  
Babette Gowda - Watershed Coordinator

## Community Members

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

## Because of You...

*Our most important partnership.*

This annual report is all about the partnerships that help us meet our mission.

## Community Partnerships

Biohabitats, Inc.  
Chagrin River Watershed Partners  
Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.  
Cleveland Metroparks  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Cuyahoga Land Bank  
Cuyahoga River Restoration  
Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District  
Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District  
NEO PIPE Council  
Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Ohio Prairie Nursery  
Ohio Stormwater Association  
Portage Soil and Water Conservation District  
Summit Metro Parks  
Summit Soil and Water Conservation District  
Tetra Tech  
The Nature Conservancy  
West Creek Conservancy  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

## Grant Providers

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio EPA  
KeyBank Foundation  
WRLC and Dominion

## Business Members

Davey Resource Group  
EnviroScience, Inc.  
Kurtz Bros, Inc.  
Mar-Mac Construction Products  
Neenah Foundry

# *Letter From Our President*

Justin A. Czekaj, P.E.



As President of Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), it is an honor to report on our accomplishments over the past year. These accomplishments are directly related to efforts of the individuals that makeup the organization. Our volunteer Board of Directors is populated by dedicated professionals from a variety of industries. Ana Burns, Joshua Herchl, and Michael Liptak served as officers and have been the key decision makers bringing structure to the organization. Additionally, I would like to thank Charlie Uray for his 10 years of dedicated service to the Board of Directors. Each and every one of our board members brings professional excellence that forms the core of the organization.

The Board of Directors is anchored by the efforts of our staff. Babette Gowda has been the Watershed Coordinator since 2011. Mrs. Gowda provides on-the-ground assistance to our community members as well as grant writing, event coordination, program management, and education outreach. TCWP continues to contract with Harry Stark as our Executive Director. Mr. Stark's duties include long-term planning, grant management, fiscal accountability, and leading the Ohio Stormwater Conference.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners continues to host the extremely successful Ohio Stormwater Conference. Over the past eight years, the Ohio Stormwater Conference has grown from a small local forum to an internationally recognized event. The 2015 conference was held at Kalahari in Sandusky and included 741 attendees, 93 exhibitors, and 92 speakers. The 2016 conference will be held at the Sharonville Convention Center May 4 – 6.

I would like to extend our gratitude to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Dominion, and KeyBank. The grant dollars provided by these organizations enabled TCWP to provide key services to our member communities and complete projects within the watershed.

TCWP is proud of our accomplishments during the past year. The Ohio EPA, Area of Concern Support Grant (AOC) has allowed our organization to study multiple areas for improvement and begin implementation of those projects. TCWP also assisted in the preservation of various properties throughout the watershed to help protect Tinker's Creek.

TCWP continues to provide community assistance and outreach to our member communities in the form of the annual Mayors' Breakfast, workshops, and training opportunities. These outreach activities can be used to fulfill the requirements of the Ohio EPA NPDES permit. We strive to provide quality services to our member communities and look forward to their expansion in the years ahead.

TCWP continues to be one of the premier watershed organizations in the state. The ultimate success of TCWP is built on partnerships throughout the watershed and the surrounding region. We appreciate the community, business, and organizational partnerships that we have built over the past ten years. We remain dedicated to growing these relationships to protect and restore the Tinker's Creek watershed.



# *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 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 community 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.
- Representation in an advisory capacity at local government meetings.
- 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.
- 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

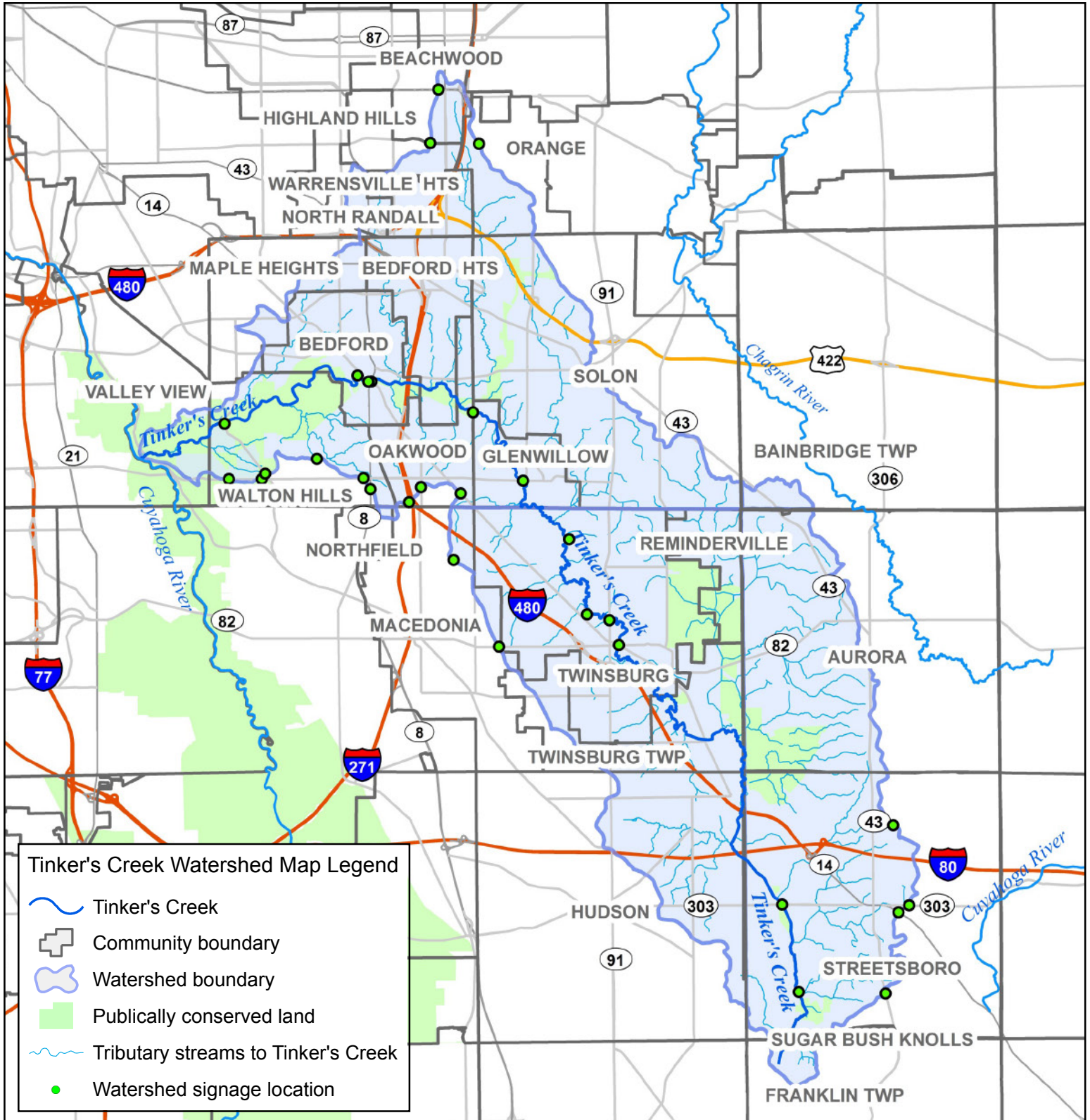
**Tinker's Creek Watershed (TCW) Spans 4 Counties and 24 Communities!**

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



# Grants Awarded in 2015

## Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Operating Support Grant

NEORSD provided \$35,000 to support the organization's mission in 2015. A portion of this grant provided funding for the watershed coordinator and other contracted positions that helped TCWP serve our communities. This grant also helped fund educational outreach to public officials and collaboration efforts to conserve important land parcels.



## Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Dominion 2015 Watershed Mini Grant Program

The nonprofit Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), in partnership with Dominion, launched a Watershed Mini Grant program to serve working watershed groups throughout the state. TCWP is grateful to have received funding, in the amount of \$1,500, from this new grant source to help update our website to make it more user friendly and mobile friendly. Updates are expected to be completed in early 2016. Visit our website [www.tinkerscreek.org](http://www.tinkerscreek.org) to see updates!



## KeyBank Foundation Grant

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was awarded a \$500 grant through the employee foundation grant program. This funding is provided to organizations of employees of the bank to help encourage and promote employee volunteerism and give back to the community. Daniel Svoboda, a new TCWP Board Member in 2015, helped secure the funding.

## Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Cuyahoga AOC Restoration Project Planning Grant



Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) was awarded a \$50,000 Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Project Planning grant from Ohio EPA. Funds will be used to create plans for habitat restoration projects in the watershed.

Four projects have been identified in Hudson, Streetsboro, and Warrensville Heights based on the Tinker's Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP), a state endorsed document that identifies the issues in the watershed and projects to improve watershed conditions. TCWP also worked with watershed communities to identify three additional projects that received restoration planning.

## Ohio Department of Natural Resources 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. This grant ended February 2015.



# Engaging Communities

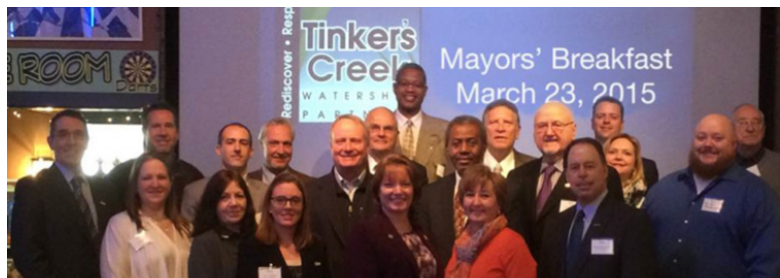
## **Eighth Annual Ohio Stormwater Conference May 6-8, 2015 Kalahari Conference Center, Sandusky**

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 and is now ranked as one of the largest regional stormwater conferences in the nation. The 2015 Conference was held in Sandusky, Ohio on May 6-8. The conference had a record-setting 741 attendees, 92 exhibitors, and 92 speakers. The 2016 conference will be May 4-6 at the Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville, Ohio.



## **Mayors' Breakfast March 23, 2015 Southeast Gears and Cheers, Bedford Heights**

A large representation of watershed communities attended the annual Mayors' Breakfast, where they had the opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of TCWP in 2014 and goals for 2015. Mayor Berger Fletcher welcomed guests to the Southeast Gears and Cheers and the City of Bedford Heights. This year we were honored to have two special speakers, Congressman David Joyce and State Representative Marlene Anielski who spoke about recent legislation to protect Lake Erie and the importance of watershed protection. Representatives from the watershed communities of Aurora, Bainbridge Township, Beachwood, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Glenwillow, Hudson, Macedonia, Twinsburg, Reminderville, Streetsboro, and Warrensville Heights were present. Discussion amongst the attendees focused on strengthening partnerships and developing new relationships throughout the watershed. Following the breakfast, TCWP held individual meetings with the community leaders to help identify specific needs within the watershed.





## New Year, New Yard: Alternative to the 'Perfect' Green Lawn

March 31, 2015

City of Beachwood



This event was a collaboration with NEO Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE) and was held at the Beachwood Community Center. The event brought in author Anita Sanchez to speak on her book *Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion*. Her talk focused on the barrage of chemicals we use on our lawn which is polluting our waterways and putting our environmental health at risk. She introduced a new perspective on the home landscape, one that involves using less chemicals and more native plants to filter pollutants and soak in rain and stormwater. Copies of her book were sold at the event as well as a raffle for a rain barrel, mason bee hive, and a gift basket of items from Good Nature Organic Lawn Care. There were 100 attendees at the event.

## Rain Barrel Workshop

September 22, 2015

City of Macedonia



The City of Macedonia requested a rain barrel workshop for the residents in the community. In urban and suburban communities, runoff to roadside drainage ditches and the storm sewer system is the primary pathway through which nonpoint source pollution is delivered to the stream network. When designed appropriately, rainwater harvesting systems slow and reduce runoff and provide a source of water for lawns and gardens. TCWP provides workshops to Community Members as requested.

# Engaging Communities

## Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 6, Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Training Cities of Streetsboro and Valley View

TCWP provided a number of training sessions 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. All Community Members have the opportunity to take advantage of these training sessions. The communities of Streetsboro and Valley View participated in these events.




## Watershed Festival: Bad Weather, Great Partners October 3, 2015 Beachwood, Ohio

Unfortunately the 2015 Watershed Festival, which was to be held at University Hospital in the City of Beachwood, was canceled due to bad weather. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those organizations that agreed to exhibit at the festival. We appreciate your willingness to participate in the event and educate the public. Thank you to the following organizations:

Barefoot Life Products, LLC  
Because I Said I Would  
City of Cleveland  
Cleveland Animal Rights Alliance  
Cleveland Water Department  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Cuyahoga River Restoration  
Earth Day Coalition  
Genius Loci, Inc

Good Nature Organic Lawn Care  
LoCo 'Yaks  
NALU SUP  
National Wildlife Federation  
NEORS  
Ohio Sea Grant  
Perfectly Posh  
Tails From the City  
University Hospital





## **Seed Saver Basics and Planning Your Garden and Rain Garden Tour**

### **October 17, 2015**

#### **City of Streetsboro**

This event was held at the Pierce Streetsboro Library where attendees learned the importance of seed saving and methods from local experts with the Cleveland Seed Bank. Attendees also learned the significance of reducing the use of chemicals and using native plants for healthy soil, stormwater retention, and reducing pollution that enters local waterways. The event was followed by a tour of the nearby rain garden to explain how they work and what type of plants work best. Attendees were given soil testing kits and seeds, as well as educational materials on native plants, seed saving, and methods to protect the watershed.

## **Newsletters, Articles, and Social Media**

The TCWP newsletter is produced quarterly and distributed to over 450 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 2015 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.

## **Regional and Collaborative Events**

- Burning River Fest—Cleveland
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens Sustainability Symposium—University Circle
- Drink Local Drink Tap's 4 Miles 4 Water—Cleveland
- Earth Day at Eaton—Beachwood
- Earth Day Fest—Berea
- Green On the Green—Hudson
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Open House—Cuyahoga Heights
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy Mini Grant Award Ceremony—Moreland Hills
- World Water Day at Cleveland Metroparks—Parma
- Year of Clean Water Kickoff and Closing Ceremony—Cleveland

# *Planning Projects Throughout the*

TCWP was awarded a Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Planning grant. Many of the following planning projects were selected to develop conceptual plans. These plans will help in acquiring funding for these projects.

## **Bear Creek Continuation Project**

This project is part of the AOC funding project and is currently within the Watershed Action Plan (WAP). A previous grant had restored a portion of the stream. The consultant hired for this project was BioHabitats, Inc. Bear Creek drains a watershed of about 450 acres, and is comprised of developments that are residential and light commercial alongside woodlands and open spaces. Altered hydrology and damaged stormwater outfalls have changed the character of the creek, deepening the stream bed and leaving steep streambanks instead of a broad floodplain. Streams in this condition cannot store water and allow it to infiltrate into the soil, and they cannot



support the rich diversity of invertebrates and animals that inhabit healthy streams. To address the existing issues, the second phase of the project would first repair a damaged stormwater outfall. The conceptual design also redirects Bear Creek away from the existing overhead utilities, creates floodplain wetlands in the old channel, and creates a shallow “floodplain bench” to provide structural diversity, shallow habitat, and a place to slow and store water during storm events. In addition, the design re-establishes native riparian woody vegetation to create a natural vegetated buffer and protect the stream.

## **Bedford Heights Service Department Project**

This project is part of a subgroup of projects funded from the AOC Grant that were not currently within the WAP and was investigated by Environmental Design Group (EDG). The perennial unnamed tributary to Tinker’s Creek is located east of Interstate 271 and north of Solon Road. The tributary drains into another larger tributary that then drains to the main stem of Tinker’s Creek just south of Solon Road, downstream of stream mile 8. The project starts approximately 320 linear feet (along the channel) from the confluence of this tributary with Tinker’s Creek. The project extends approximately 720 linear feet east along the existing stream channel. The Bedford Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant outfall discharges to this tributary north of Solon Road. The tributary drains approximately 442.4 acres and has approximately 17.4% impervious surfaces (USGS Streamstats). The proposed project will restore 700 linear feet of entrenched stream and construct a ½-acre floodplain wetland. This project will significantly reduce sediment and nutrient input into Tinker’s Creek. A portion, about 150 linear feet, of this stream has extremely steep slopes which will require slope stabilization and reforestation. In this area, the stream has historically flooded properties, further exacerbating sediment transport, habitat degradation, and oil/grease runoff from the flooded bus garage.





# Watershed

## Glenwillow Stream and Floodplain Wetland Restoration

This project is part of a subgroup of projects funded from the AOC Grant that were not currently within the WAP and was investigated by Environmental Design Group (EDG). Tinker's Creek, south of Pettibone Road, has been straightened to allow for a landfill. The straightening of this portion of the creek has significantly impacted the natural flow regimes and ecological habitat. Tinker's Creek is naturally meandering, which allows for the dynamic scour and deposition of sediment. Straightening and channelizing the stream eliminated those natural stream dynamics, ultimately affecting aquatic life. Invasive plant species thrive throughout this stretch of stream. The lack of trees and native vegetation throughout this portion of the stream causes higher temperatures, which impairs native aquatic life and encourages algae growth. EDG proposed to improve normal flows through the area by creating a two-stage channel which allows increased velocities without significantly compromising discharge capacity for larger flow events. EDG also proposed removing invasive species in the area and replacing them with trees and native shrubs to help provide shade for the stream. It is also proposed to increase floodplain storage at the downstream section along the west bank where development has encroached upon the natural floodplain.



## Hudson Mainstem Project (Streetsboro WWTP Project)

The consultant hired for this project was Davey Resource Group. During the site visit, Davey Resource Group biologists and restoration ecologists inspected the creek and riparian corridor to identify existing habitat and locate features to enhance its overall physical condition. The stream was characterized by calculating the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) at several locations along its 3,100-foot length. Davey also documented the bank condition along the creek, to identify areas where the bank may need to be stabilized in order to minimize the amount of silt that is eroding into the stream channel. In addition to evaluating the mainstem of Tinker's Creek, Davey also identify those topographic features that may be inhibiting the stream from interacting with its floodplain. The mapped floodplain of Tinker's Creek on the Streetsboro WWTP property is extensive. However, dredge spoil piles that exist along the east bank of the creek may be inhibiting the stream's ability to discharge onto the floodplain at lower flow elevations. Extensive wetlands also exist on portions of the property. Conceptual designs focus restoration efforts on 575 linear feet of Tinker's Creek in an area where soil has been sidecast and habitat assessment scores are low. This includes removal of sidecast soil along the channel to provide a reconnection to the floodplain, install grade control structures and partial weirs within the channel, planting of native woody vegetation in the riparian zone, and control invasive, non-native vegetation.



# Planning Projects Throughout the Watershed

## Streetsboro 303 Project



This project is part of the AOC funding that was already within the WAP and preselected for conceptual design. The consultant hired for this project was EnviroScience, Inc.. The main stem of Tinker's Creek flows from the south to the north under State Route 303 through a culvert. Tinker's Creek has been ditched and channelized through the entire project reach and over much of its headwaters primarily for drainage and development. In the project area, Tinker's Creek is moderately incised with streambank heights approaching 5 feet in most areas. Low gradient streams such as these require

regular access to wide floodplains due to fine particles composing the streambanks. Confinement of stream energy through incision leads to erosion and massive channel adjustment. A wide floodplain exists in this area as a large wetland community but it is inaccessible during frequent storm events. Currently the wetland exhibits signs of degradation by drainage and invasive species on both sides of SR 303. The conceptual designs for this project include creating a new channel to narrow the stream and add natural meanders and connection to the floodplain and wetlands. A natural streambed with riffles and invasive species control will also help improve flow and habitats within the stream and surrounding wetlands.

## Streetsboro SR 14 Drainage Ditch Project

This project is part of the AOC funding that was already within the WAP and preselected for conceptual design. The consultant hired for this project was EnviroScience, Inc.. Headwater streams are vital to the health and water quality of Tinker's Creek. This potential restoration contains two tributaries located on the south side of Route 14 behind the Home Depot in the City of Streetsboro. Both streams empty into a man-made retention pond. Each of the streams are functioning poorly, displaying bank erosion and down cutting. EnviroScience, Inc. proposed conceptual designs that will remove the berms that separate the streams from their floodplains and add natural curves or meanders back to the streams. This will aid in stream functioning by restoring the streams ability to transport sediment. Controlling invasive species in the wetland will also help improve habitat.

## Twinsburg Project

This project is part of a subgroup of projects that is not currently within the WAP and was investigated by Environmental Design Group (EDG). EDG performed stream surveys and created a conceptual design for restoring functioning to the stream. This perennial unnamed tributary to Tinker's Creek is located within Twinsburg City School district owned property, just north of Officer Joshua T. Miktarian Memorial Pkwy near Twinsburg High School. The tributary drains approximately 493 acres, which consists of approximately 40% impervious surfaces. The proposed project will restore 150 linear feet of eroded streambank and degraded stream channel. This project will significantly reduce sediment and nutrient input into Tinker's Creek while providing habitat.





# *Restoration Projects Throughout the Watershed*

## **St. Mary's Stream Restoration Project**



The City of Solon restored 430 linear feet of stream and 1 acre of riparian corridor on Hawthorne Creek, a large tributary to Tinker's Creek, near the St. Mary's Ukrainian Church. Prior to the restoration, the severely eroded streambank polluted the water with sediment and nutrients and threatened a nearby city sewer line. Toe rock material and erosion control matting were installed along with trees and shrubs to stabilize the stream and restore access to the floodplain. This will help reduce flooding and erosion downstream. Chagrin River Watershed Partners assisted the city with project reporting, plan review, construction oversight, and project outreach. TCWP helped with watershed background and project outreach.

## **Bedford Property (Columbus Rd) Acquisition**

This project is an example of dedicated property owners, the Gries, and multiple agencies including the City of Bedford, Cuyahoga Land Bank, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), and West Creek Conservancy (WCC) working together towards a common goal of greenspace protection for a healthy community and watershed. The Gries property consisted of 3.65 acres of land with Bear Creek, a tributary stream to Tinker's Creek, bordering the property. The inherited property had four buildings on site, which were not up to code. Two of the buildings were also built within the floodplain of the stream, constricting the natural habitat and flow of the stream. Deborah (Gries) Zawislán contacted TCWP about the property she and her brothers Joe, Ed, and Dennis had inherited. They had a vision of transforming the property into a protected greenspace and naming it Lorry's Woods, in honor of their mother. TCWP worked with WCC and the Land Bank to acquire the parcels. With the cooperation of the City of Bedford, the Cuyahoga Land Bank helped to bring the property back to its natural state by demolishing the structures at their cost. This will help the community and watershed by providing an area for the stream to flood its banks, reduce flooding, and create habitat.

## **Bedford Heights Property Acquisition**

A Clean Ohio Fund grant was awarded to the City of Bedford Heights to purchase this 17-acre parcel. The parcel is forested with 850 linear feet of stream tributary to Tinker's Creek. The parcel connects to an existing park in the city and could potentially provide additional walking trails. TCWP provided support for the grant application, in particular riparian planting. TCWP, along with Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) coordinated a planting event where 500 potted trees and shrubs, and 400 live stake plants were installed. Over 20 volunteers assisted in the planting event, including volunteers from the City of Bedford Heights, Cleveland Metroparks, and WRLC.

## **Warrensville Heights Country Lane Project**

This project is a land acquisition project off of Emery Road in Warrensville Heights. The property has 3 acres of emergent and forested wetlands with numerous vernal pools scattered throughout. In addition, the parcels contain 240 linear feet of Hawthorne Creek and 215 linear feet of intermittent headwater stream channel for a total of 455 linear feet of waterways. The remaining acreage contains second growth beech-maple forest and mature red oak-hickory forest. Permanent preservation of these properties and the associated streams and uplands will improve downstream waters by capturing sediment, treating runoff, and protecting important habitat for aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Protection of these parcels will ensure that the ecological functions provided by the habitats will stay intact and will continue to provide beneficial physical, biological, and chemical functions for this watershed. TCWP submitted a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund application for the purchase of this parcel.

# 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 and Executive Director 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

- Increase understanding about the natural and economic and social 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.



P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

[www.tinkerscreek.org](http://www.tinkerscreek.org)

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter: @TinkersCreek\_WP