



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners receives multiple Grants.

TWINSBURG, Ohio, March 27, 2012 – [Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners](#) (TCWP), a non-profit organization working to restore and protect the Cuyahoga River's largest tributary, announces its receipt of a three-year, \$32,000 per year operating grant from the [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#) (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, Oestreicher will implement the State of Ohio-endorsed Tinker's Creek Watershed Action Plan. Additionally, the grant will support Oestreicher's outreach efforts within the 24 watershed communities that encompass Tinker's Creek to develop and execute educational programs, fundraising initiatives and other awareness campaigns.

"Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is very lucky to have the support of ODNR with this grant. It will allow us to enrich our current relationships with regional and state-wide agencies, both public and private, to bring Tinkers Creek back into attainment," said Justin Czekaj, president of the TCWP board of directors.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners was additionally awarded \$3,594 from the [Burning River Foundation](#) Fresh Ideas for Freshwater grant program to implement a sustainable lawn care demonstration project at the Hudson Montessori School in Hudson, Ohio. The funding, which was awarded to TCWP in January of this year, will be directed toward removal of invasive species, planting of native vegetation and installation of two rain barrels and two composting bins on the school grounds. As part of the project, the school will also reduce overall use of chemicals to treat its lawn and gardens. Project efforts will be incorporated into the 6th grade student curriculum and completed by July 2012.

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“The receipt of this grant is a significant benefit to both TCWP and to the Hudson Montessori School,” said Czekaj. “The grant will allow us to implement the educational outreach goals of the Watershed Action Plan. This funding also helps us produce a compelling demonstration project that exemplifies the type of projects that can be implemented at additional schools in the watershed.”

For additional information, visit www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org or contact: Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners, P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087. Phone: 216-789-6479. Email: info@tinkerscreekwatershed.org.

About ODNR, Division of Soil and Water

The [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](http://www.odnr.gov) (ODNR) ensures a balance between wise use and protection of the state’s natural resources for the benefit of all. The mission of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation is to provide leadership and services that enable Ohioans to conserve, protect and enhance soil, water, and land resources.

About Burning River Foundation

The [Burning River Foundation](http://www.burningriverfoundation.org) is dedicated to improving, maintaining and celebrating the vitality of Northeast Ohio’s regional freshwater resources. The organization’s vision is to establish Northeast Ohio as the recognized environmental leader in its dedication to the sustainability of its high-quality freshwater resources.

About Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP)

Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, works to protect and restore water quality and habitats of Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnership. As the largest tributary of Northeast Ohio’s Cuyahoga River, Tinker’s Creek drains sections of 24 political jurisdictions, and spans Portage, Geauga, Summit, and Cuyahoga counties. With a drainage area of 96.4 square miles and a total length of approximately 30 miles, the water quality of Tinker’s Creek impacts the Northeast Ohio communities of Aurora, Bainbridge Twp., Beachwood, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Franklin Twp., Glenwillow, Highland Hills, Hudson, Macedonia, Maple Heights, Northfield, North Randall, Oakwood Village, Orange, Reminderville, Solon, Streetsboro, Sugar Bush Knolls, Twinsburg, Twinsburg Twp., Valley View, Walton Hills, and Warrensville Hts.