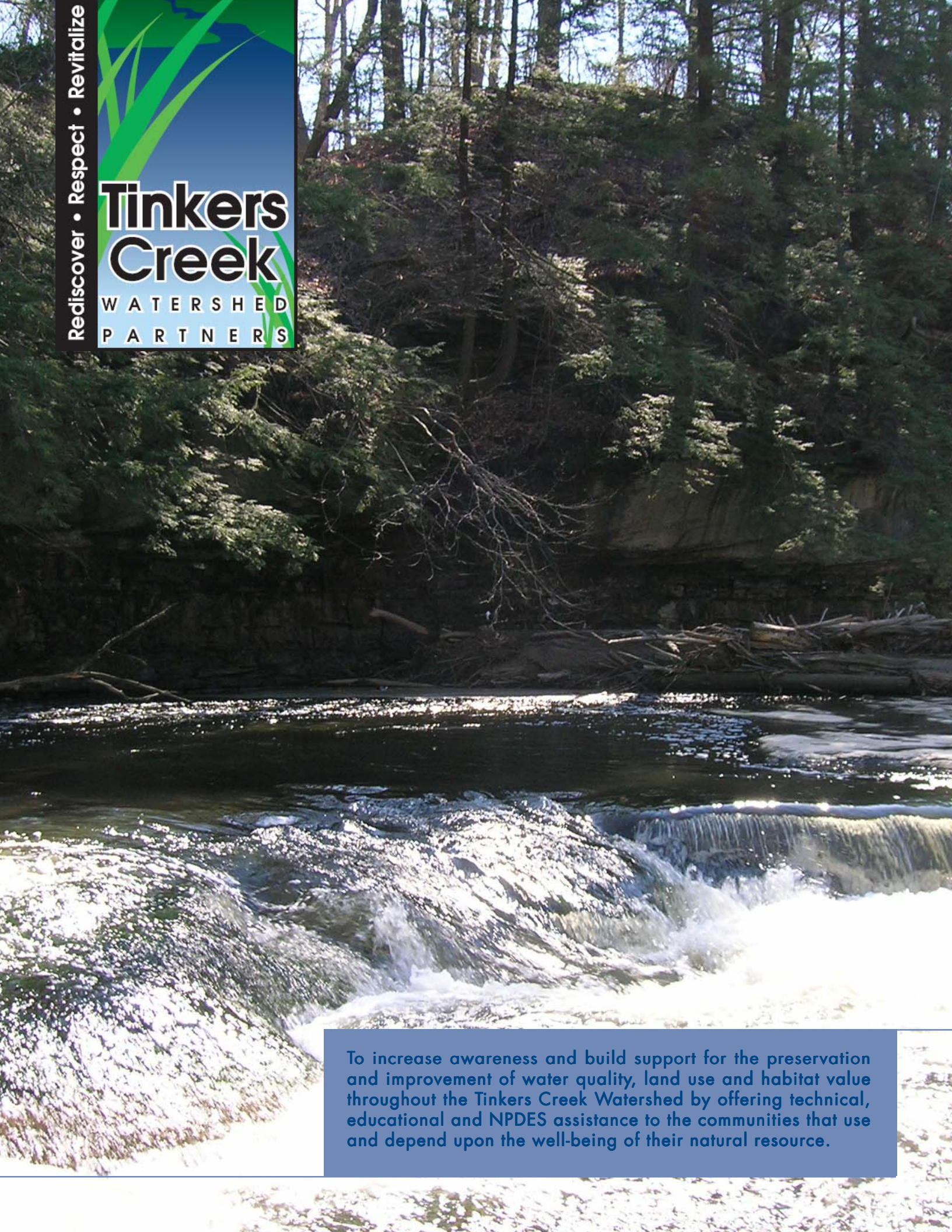


To increase awareness and build support for the preservation and improvement of water quality, land use and habitat value throughout the Tinkers Creek Watershed by offering technical, educational and NPDES assistance to the communities that use and depend upon the well-being of their natural resource.

Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners

Goals . . .

To Improve the appreciation and understanding to protect water resources.

Promote low-impact and conservation development practices, that demonstrate the balance between environmental integrity and human progression.

Educate watershed communities about the daily activities which impact the surrounding natural environment.

Encourage wetland protection and enact a watershed mitigation policy.

Promote watershed based planning activities.

Increase recreational opportunities by connecting greenways, corridors and bike-paths.

Watershed Information

Tinkers Creek meanders 30 miles from its headwaters in Streetsboro, Ohio until it reaches the Cuyahoga River within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The watershed is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River basin and drains 96.4 square miles of land. All, or a portion of, 24 communities within 4 counties reside inside the watershed. The watershed contains high class wetlands, a State Park, Nature Preserve, nationally recognized gorge, the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, and a scenic overlook. The watershed also contains fens, which is a rare type of wetland that is characterized by continuous sources of ground water rich in minerals and nutrients.

The watershed is experiencing rapid growth and unprecedented development. Zoning ordinances that specifically address development practices have now become a necessary tool to assist in balancing the need for progression and maintaining environmental integrity. Adoption of these ordinances into community plans and municipal regulations are needed to preserve the function of our natural systems while promoting smart growth and a viable economy for the future.

Non-Point Source Pollution

Clean water makes a healthy community. "Point Source" water pollution can be traced to a specific location. "Non-Point Source" water pollution, however, cannot be pin-pointed and is very difficult to control and regulate. Gasoline, oil, lawn clippings, yard fertilizers, radiator fluid, detergents and sediment are examples of "Non-Point" pollutants.

During rain events, these impurities are washed into storm drains which flow to the nearest waterway. This is called urban runoff. Often, regular tasks that we perform can cause harm to our environment. Slight changes in our individual daily activities can have a significant impact on improving water quality.

All jurisdictions within the Tinkers Creek Watershed are under the US EPA Phase II Storm Water regulatory guidelines and are required to create a plan to address non-point source storm water pollution.

Storm Water

Storm water is the precipitation that collects upon the landscape in the form of rain, snow, ice and sleet. As the rain moves or snow melts and flows across the surface, it picks up different pollutants such as, sediment, oil, grease, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural runoff and many other toxic substances that collect on the ground. The water drains into the storm sewer system and flows through a series of pipes eventually reaching our streams, rivers, wetlands and lakes. This water adversely affects water quality. Bacteria, nutrient loading, other harmful pathogens and chemicals can cause health risks to the ecosystem and to the community population.

Treating storm water before it drains into nearby waterways using wetlands to remove pollutants, reducing the velocity of water entering the waterway by retention, and reducing the amount of water entering the storm water system at its source are just three ways of addressing the problem.

Water Quality Impairments found in Tinkers Creek

Organic Enrichment
Nutrient Enrichment
Low In-stream dissolved oxygen
Toxicity
Sedimentation
Habitat Degradation

What You Can Do

Oil Maintain regular tune-ups to ensure optimum engine performance. This helps reduce leaky valves and gaskets. Never pour oils into the storm drain.

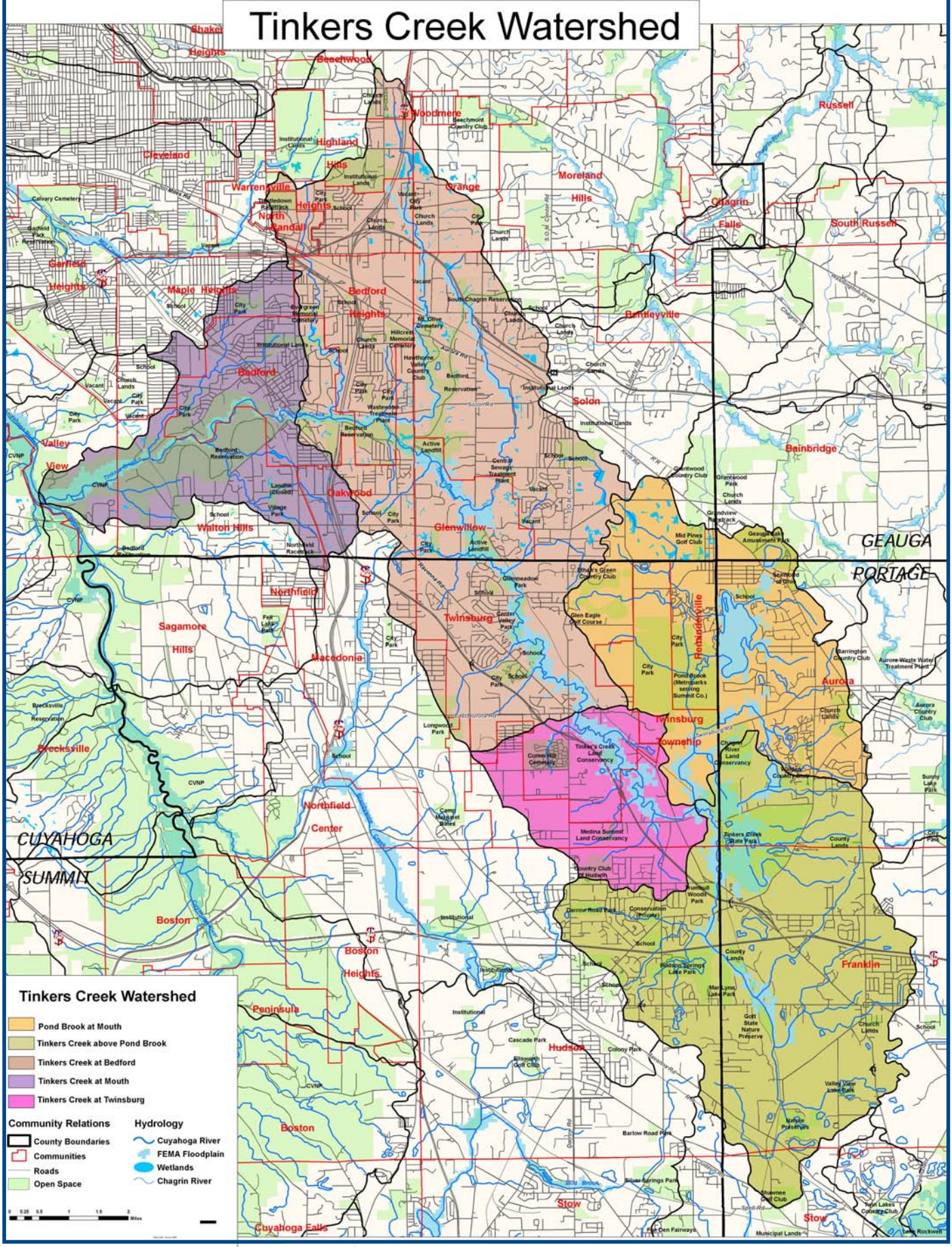
Fertilizer Lawn fertilizers are good to maintain a green and aesthetically pleasing yard. Never apply fertilizer before a large rain event. Follow the directions and only apply what is needed.

Septic System Maintenance Many Home Sewage Treatment Systems discharge into nearby creeks and waterways. Often, these systems do not function properly and can cause raw, untreated organic matter to flow into the waterway. Like routine tune-ups on your car, regular maintenance will ensure proper function of your septic system.

Soaps and Detergents Soaps that are carried to water bodies via storm drains can cause excess algae blooms which rob the water of oxygen. The decomposition of the algae further depletes oxygen from the water and causes a collapse in the biology of the stream, river, lake, or wetland. Washing your vehicle in grassy areas or taking it to a commercial wash location will help remove additional detergent loads entering the storm water system.

Litter The most visible form of pollution is litter. This debris is not only unsightly but can also clog storm water systems. Proper disposal of trash is the most preventable way to eliminate litter pollution in our water.

Pet Care When walking your pet, pick up and properly dispose of your animals waste. Leaving your pet's waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm water system.



TinkersCreek WATERSHED PARTNERS
Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROVIDE™

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