

Northern Ohio Watershed (NOW) Corps



AmeriCorps
Ohio



2020-2021 Service Year

Annual Report

SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



2020-2021 Service Year:

Chagrin River Watershed Partners

NOWCorps Watershed Steward

NOWCorps Education & Outreach Specialist

Cleveland Metroparks

NOWCorps Trails Assistant

NOWCorps Natural Resources Technician - East

NOWCorps Natural Resources Technician - Central

NOWCorps Naturalist Assistant

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

NOWCorps Educator & Coordinator

Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

NOWCorps Conservation Program & Outreach Assistant

Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

NOWCorps Outreach Specialist

Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

NOWCorps Outreach Specialist

The Nature Conservancy

NOWCorps Restoration Crew Member (2 positions)

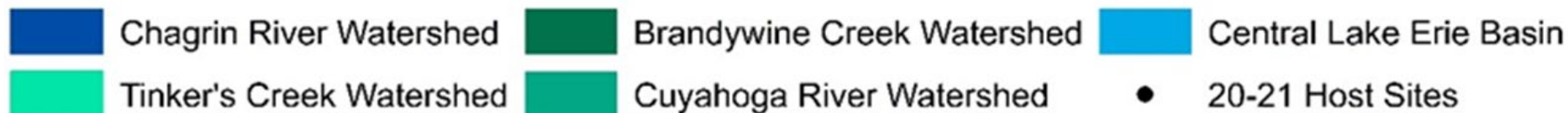
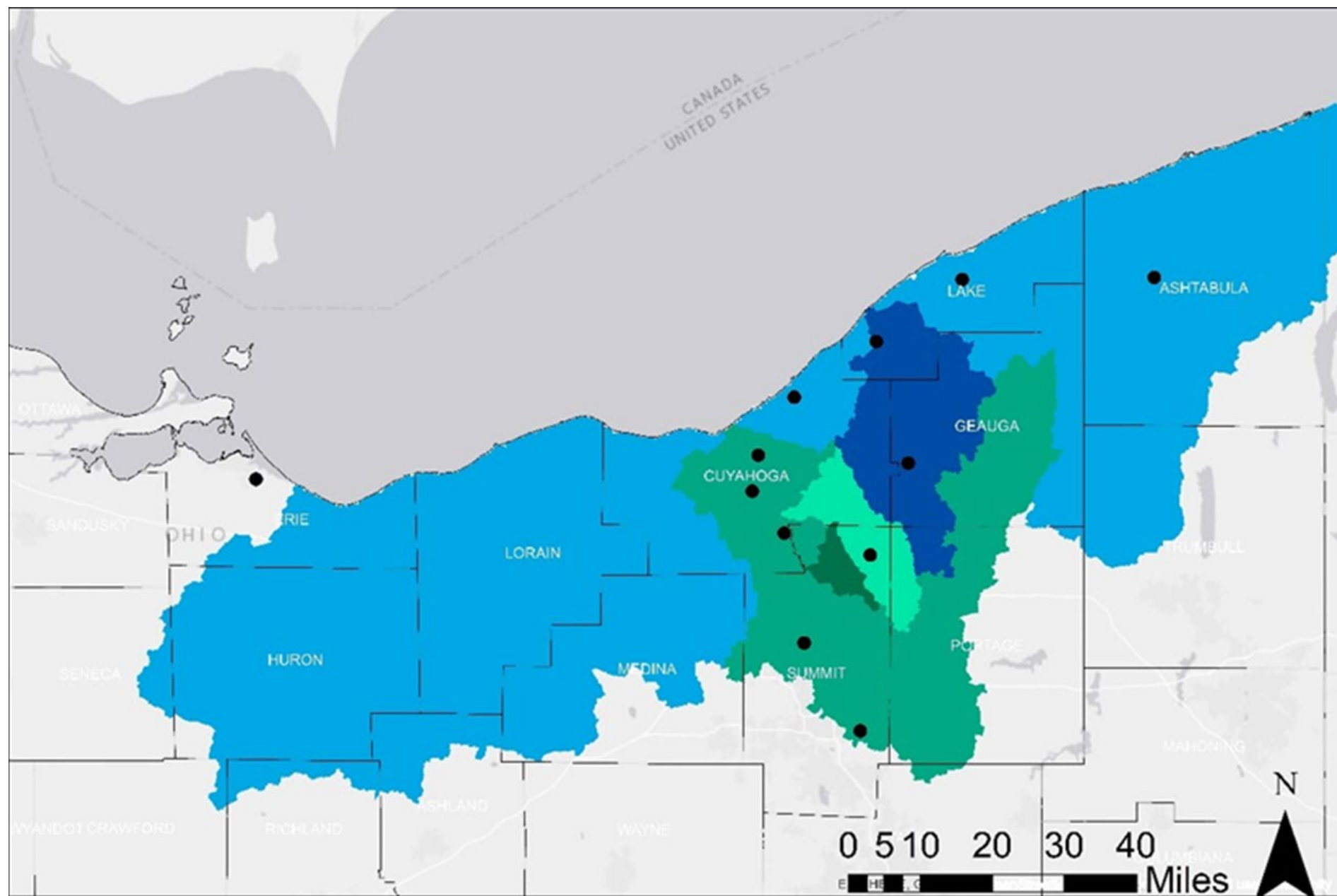
University of Akron Field Station

NOWCorps Field Station Assistant

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

NOWCorps Stewardship Specialist

NOWCorps Community Forestry Specialist



EDUCATED

1,456 People
on eco-friendly practices

SERVED alongside

395 volunteers
over an accumulated
889 hours

PLANTED

1,307
trees

IMPROVED

1,088
acres of land

TREATED

54.6 miles
of river and trail

REMOVED

150 bags*
of debris

REMOVED

205 bags*
of invasive vegetation

* We use standard 45-gallon sized trash bags

CREATED

24 programs
to enhance
Education &
Volunteer
Engagement

CONNECTED with over

944
community
members

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.americorps.gov).

Our 2020-2021 service year ran from October 5, 2020, through September 30, 2021. Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is proud of the impacts NOWCorps members have made on their communities and within their Host Site organizations.



AmeriCorps
Ohio

SERVED

24,783.5 hours

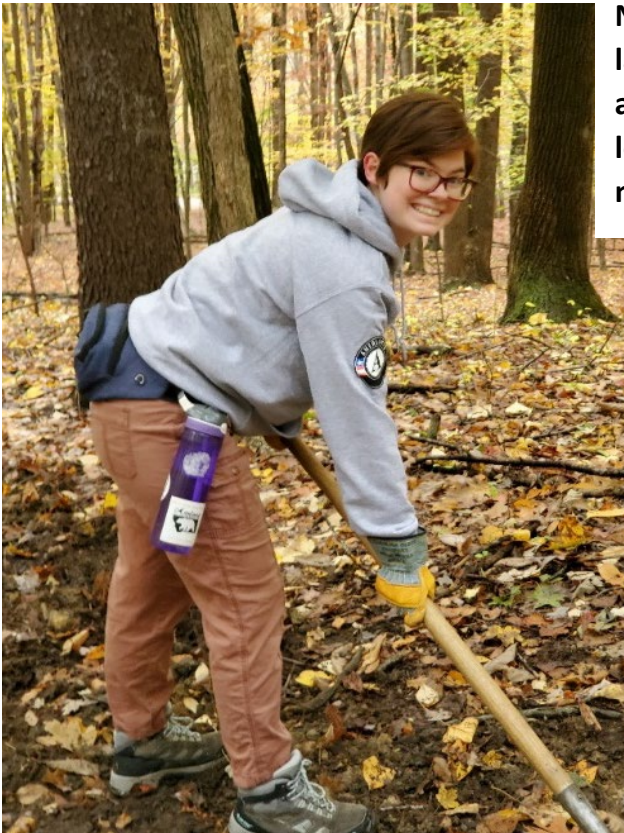


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"The day of service was incredible! I really loved being able to physically get out there and get my hands dirty and do work that I know is important. I loved being able to interact with some of the NOWCorps members and felt a really strong sense of community among the NOWCorps folks. I also realized how much I enjoyed and felt satisfied by a day of manual labor. I was tired and sore for three days after, but I felt a deep sense of accomplishment and pride both in the work that I had done and in myself for being able to work a pretty long day successfully. I hope there are more chances for me to do that kind of work! It made me really, really happy!"





**I will bring Americans together to
strengthen our communities.**





"My proudest accomplishment this month has been volunteering on MLK Day to restore and complete maintenance on a trail in the Rocky River community. As we were working on the trail, we had several community residents reach out to us and thank us for our work. It proves how meaningful our work is to the communities."







Faced with apathy, I will take action.
Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.
Faced with adversity, I will persevere.





"It feels nice to be able to make a tangible difference in the community I am serving in."





Monthly Member Trainings:

November: Project WET Certification (special thanks to CSWCD, UAFS, and SSWCD)

December: Food Justice / Urban Gardening (special thanks to Rust Belt Riders)

January: Project Learning Tree Certification (special thanks to CSWCD, UAFS, and SSWCD)

February: Master Rain Gardeners Part 1 (special thanks to CRWP, CSWCD, and LSWCD)

March: Master Rain Gardeners Part 2

April: Volunteer Management and Introduction to Utilizing Social Media (special thanks to Cleveland Metroparks Volunteer Department)

May: Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) Training (special thanks to CRWP)

June: Ohio Forestry Association Chainsaw Safety Training (special thanks to TNC and Ohio Forestry Association)

July: Life After AmeriCorps (special thanks to our AmeriCorps Alumni for joining our panel)

August: Wilderness First Aid Certification (special thanks to UAFS)

September: Member Annual Presentations



**I will carry this commitment
with me this year and beyond.**





"My proudest accomplishment this month was participating in the chainsaw training. I never thought that I would use a chainsaw and it was way more complicated than I thought! There was a ton of little things to remember...but I was able to set my fears aside and operate the chainsaw safely and correctly."







**I am an AmeriCorps member,
and I will Get Things Done!**





"My proudest accomplishment this month is successfully completing my year of service. This has been a rewarding and challenging experience. I'm proud of the things I've accomplished. I got a lot of things done for watersheds in Northeast Ohio. I've learned so much about the issues that watersheds face, the innerworkings of nonprofits, outreach and educational skills, and technical field skills. I joined NOWCorps to help break into the environmental job sector and I hope that my year of service will help me to accomplish that. I've gotten to help with the installation of two public rain gardens that will help filter stormwater and prevent pollution from entering our waterways. I've also gotten to help people learn about rain gardens and assist them with designing gardens for their own yards, helping to prevent even more stormwater pollution. I've assisted a community with obtaining funds to build a safe, accessible playground for children to enjoy. I've helped people in the community learn more about stormwater and what they can do to address erosion and flooding on their properties. I hope that I've helped to make a positive impact on my environment this past year and I plan to continue doing this important service in the future. "





“Back home I have gained a deeper understanding of the impermanence of the universe. One last long drawn breath in must eventually be exhaled. Letting go of what doesn't serve and being grateful of what does. AmeriCorps has taught me the greatest values of service towards myself and communities across the board. Most importantly it has shown me that within service there is a duality. That when one does "serve" there must be a driving intention behind the action. To serve you must be giving a part of yourself while also taking from the whole; otherwise, one cannot simply give all of themselves, and at the same time one cannot simply only take from the whole.

Service also looks like: setting boundaries, uncomfortability in sacrifice, learning for yourself, taking a risk, asking questions without fear.

It is not simply going to your 9-5 and coming home to disconnect. It tangles itself into every part of your being. It is to my belief that serving your community ties heart strings to the land beneath your feet and to every being that relies on it also. No matter where you end up in the world that an impact made here can affect can something over there. A service year will not dull your experience because of the scarcity of wealth - or transient nature of nomadism - or the rush of that last minute change, but in fact make you sensitive and aware of the world around you and your importance in it.

As my time with AmeriCorps is closing like a book, in this final chapter I can see clearer into the future knowing that this is only the introduction. Many more pages to turn—and taking with me the great stories and lessons learned.”



Together with our partners, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners recognizes the importance of maintaining water quality throughout Northern Ohio. We also believe in educating the public and regional leaders to support behavioral changes that positively affect our water resources. The Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) works with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits to facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. Learn more at

<https://tinkerscreek.org/nowcorps-program/>