

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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MISSION

To protect and restore water quality and habitats in the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds through community partnerships

VISION

Clean Water,
Healthy Habitats,
Engaged Communities

2021 Member Communities

Aurora
Beachwood
Bedford
Bedford Heights
Boston Heights
Glenwillow
Hudson
Macedonia
Maple Heights
Northfield
Northfield Center
North Randall
Oakwood
Reminderville
Streetsboro
Twinsburg
Twinsburg Township
Valley View
Walton Hills
Warrensville Heights



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To our partners, collaborators, and supporters, thank you for another year of protecting and restoring your home watershed. Thanks to you, we celebrate a milestone of 15 years!

We've grown quite a bit since 2006, in staff, in budget, and in programming. We've been able to add staffing capacity to better serve our communities, and we continue to leverage grant dollars into restoration projects and public outreach.

We are also reaching and serving the greater Northern Ohio region with the growth of our NOWCorps program. This program is in its third year, with 15 current members working across our region gaining valuable experience in stewardship and environmental education.

Our mission gained a different perspective during the COVID-19 pandemic, as so many people turned to green and open spaces as a way to cope. We continue to see more individuals turn to their local green spaces as a way to get outside, exercise, and maintain their quality of life.

TCWP embarked on a lengthy strategic planning process in 2021 to create a living document that will serve us for the next five years. The theme of the plan is "to become the leader in community-centered environmental stewardship". This ties directly back to our mission statement where everything we do is through community partnerships. That means we'll be turning to our community to learn, prioritize, and mobilize resources to improve the health of the watershed and the people that rely on it.

So we hope you'll get outside this year to enjoy our local parks and waters, come to one of our events, volunteer with us, and let us know what part of the watershed is special to you.

In partnership,

Ana Burns

Ana Burns

TCWP Board President

PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP

TCWP is honored to serve on collaborative groups in the region, including the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee, the working group Northeast Ohio Public Involvement/Public Engagement (NEOPIPE), and the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative (CLEB). Another key partner is the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), whose service agreements allow us to work closely with our community partners. Our regional partnerships allow for coordinated outreach, education, and joint grant applications that amplify stewardship throughout the Central Lake Erie Basin.



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

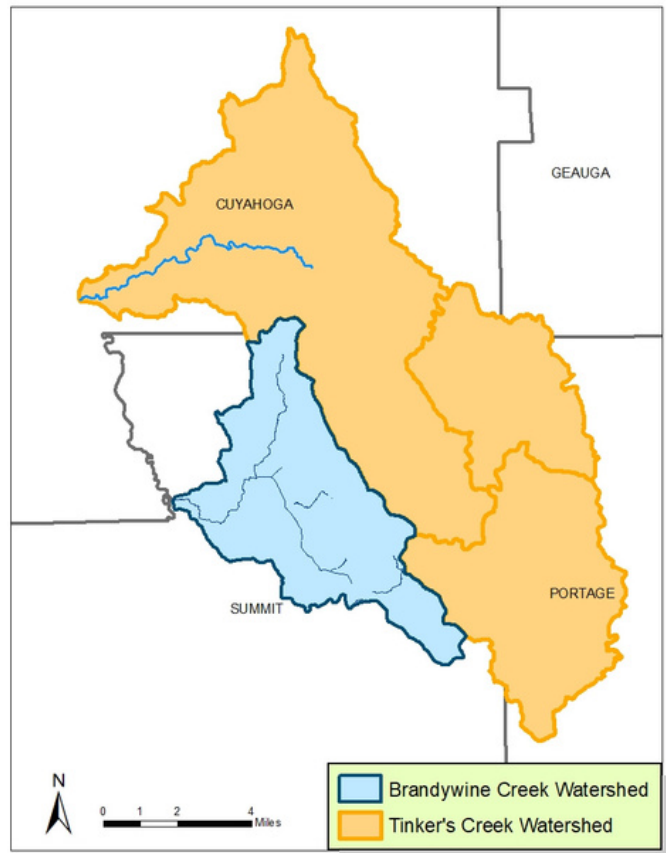


DID YOU KNOW?

There are 300 communities served by the CLEB.

THE WATERSHEDS WE SERVE

Tinker's Creek is 28.2 miles long and is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed drains 96.4 square miles and spans 24 communities in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, and Geauga counties. Sedimentation, organic enrichment, low in-stream dissolved oxygen, nutrient enrichment, toxicity, and habitat alteration are considered the main water quality issues facing Tinker's Creek.



Brandywine Creek is 11 miles long and is also a tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed drains 27 square miles and is comprised of 9 communities in Cuyahoga and Summit counties. Unknown toxicity, nutrients, organic enrichment, dissolved oxygen, flow alteration, direct habitat alterations, and total dissolved solids are considered the main water quality issues facing Brandywine Creek.

TINKER'S CREEK WATERSHED HIGHLIGHTS



Portions of the Tinker's Creek watershed are located in the Summit Metro Parks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Cleveland Metroparks. The Tinker's Creek Gorge located in the Bedford Reservation in the Cleveland Metroparks was declared a National Natural Landmark in 1967.

Tinker's Creek watershed provides important habitat for threatened and endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recorded the following species in the four counties where the watershed is located: **federally endangered**-piping plover, Kirtland's warbler, Indiana bat, and Mitchell's satyr butterfly, as well as species that are **federally threatened** including northern monkshood, red knot, northern long-eared bat, and eastern massasauga.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Mitchell's satyr is restricted to rare wetlands called fens, like Herrick Fen located in Streetsboro.

TINKER'S CREEK RESTORATION PROJECTS

HUB District Riparian Enhancement Project: Warrensville Heights (behind the YMCA)

The City of Warrensville Heights was awarded over \$34,000 from a Clean Ohio grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission with matching funds of over \$11,000 from the City. TCWP provided grant writing support for the application. Grant funds will be used to enhance and permanently protect 5.6 acres of riparian habitat and wetlands along Bear Creek, a major tributary to Tinker's Creek. Invasive vegetation will be treated, and native species will be planted to add diversity, resilience, and stormwater function to this area.

This site is an important water resource in Warrensville Heights that will be protected from development and made accessible to the public. The project will increase our progress towards restoring habitats and water quality in the watershed. The project will be completed in 2023.



BRANDYWINE CREEK WATERSHED HIGHLIGHTS



Portions of the Brandywine Creek watershed are located in the Summit Metro Parks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recorded the following species in the two counties that the Brandywine Creek watershed spans: **federally endangered** – piping plover and the Indiana bat, as well as species that are **federally threatened** including northern monkshood, red knot, and northern long-eared bat.



DID YOU KNOW?

Brandywine Falls is approximately double the height of the Great Falls of Tinker's Creek.



BRANDYWINE CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Brandywine Creek Restoration at Owen Brown (located at
Morris and Prospect Streets in Hudson)**

TCWP was awarded a \$185,194 Great Lakes Restoration grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to restore the natural flow to 1,800 linear feet of stream in the Brandywine Creek watershed. TCWP, in partnership with the City of Hudson, awarded a contract to Hull & Associates and Mark Haynes Construction to design and construct the project. The restoration project will reconnect the stream to the floodplain and improve the riparian corridor with enhanced natural habitats and stream stability improvements without diminishing the stream's flow.

This project will address nutrient and sediment loading and habitat alterations from the natural floodplain.



REGIONAL IMPACTS

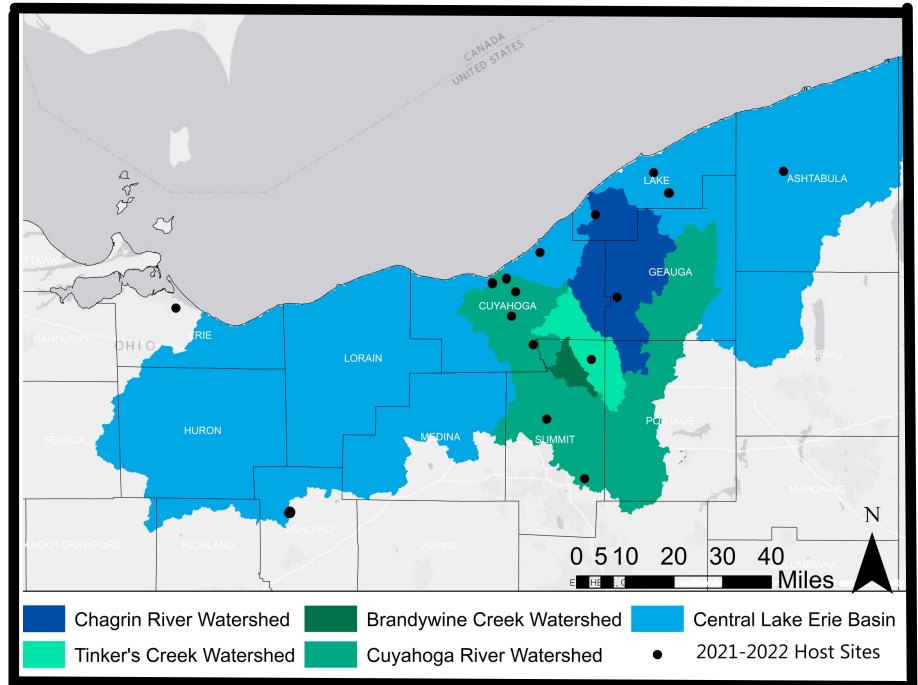
2021 Ohio Stormwater Conference

The annual Ohio Stormwater Conference is dedicated to advancing the knowledge and understanding of comprehensive stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation, and regulatory compliance. Attendees could participate in-person or virtually in 2021 with 860 attendees, 45 sponsors, and 240 speakers with 102 presentations.

TCWP also offered our stormwater webinar series to complement our annual stormwater conference. We held six webinars with topics ranging from stormwater and watershed management, engineering ethics, and restoration. TCWP will host another series of webinars in 2022 to provide continuing education opportunities for Ohio Professional Engineers, EnviroCert Certifications, Surveyors, and other related professions.



NORTHERN OHIO WATERSHED CORPS



AmeriCorps 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) and [serve.ohio.gov](https://www.serve.ohio.gov).

The Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is an AmeriCorps program funded by ServeOhio and the federal agency AmeriCorps. NOWCorps is sponsored by TCWP and strives to facilitate outreach and environmental education while improving the health and quality of our local watersheds. In our 2020-2021 program year, we had 15 members serving with nine host site organizations. NOWCorps members served a collective **24,783.5 hours** in their 12 months of service.

For the 2021-2022 Service Year, we anticipate to surpass over 29,000 service hours spent serving our communities and watersheds.

TCWP is proud of the impacts NOWCorps members have on their communities and within their host site organizations. Visit our website to learn more and to check out our Service Yearbook.

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

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



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



ALL BUTTS LEAD TO THE CREEK



TCWP was awarded \$5,000 from a Dominion Watershed Mini-Grant and \$5,000 from an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant for the "All Butts Lead to the Creek" program. Cigarette litter is not only unsightly; it is also a major environmental and public health concern. Cigarette butts release toxins such as arsenic into the water and adjacent land, which is harmful to the health of animals, plants, and people. Additionally, cigarette butts never truly decompose; instead, they release harmful microplastics into the environment, which never go away.

TCWP developed signage to educate local communities about the harmful effects of cigarette butt litter and distributed cigarette butt receptacles to local bars and restaurants. To complement this program, TCWP developed an educational activity booklet that will be distributed to local students in grades 4 through 6 in 2022.

Additionally, TCWP will use the remainder of the funds to rent billboards throughout the region to highlight the campaign. Look for the billboards in Spring 2022!



WINGS AND VOICES OF THE CUYAHOGA



With generous support from the Akron Community Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and more than 20 community partners, TCWP and the National Park Service presented the traveling art exhibit- Wings and Voices of the Cuyahoga: How Birds Connect Us.

This exhibit displays the masterful bird photography of Jim Roetzel, a Summit County native whose photos have appeared in many local and national publications. The exhibit explores the relationships between people and nature. Jim strives to reveal the beauty and the wonder in the world just beyond our doorstep. He finds photography one of the most powerful ways to share the spirit of natural places.

Upcoming 2022 venues include Akron-Summit County Main Library, Summit County Courthouse, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport, and Cuyahoga Community College.



LOCAL IMPACT

Our local impact starts with our commitment to serving our member communities. The services we provide are varied and tailored to each community's needs. The list below provides a snapshot of our work in the community:

- Assistance to local governments and councils
- Assistance with community stormwater programs
- Training opportunities on watershed management practices for landowners and municipal workers
- Assistance in the preservation and protection of critical areas for habitat, biodiversity, and resilience
- Zoning ordinance review and assistance
- Grant writing assistance for stormwater, watershed, and green space protection

TCWP staff also provide opportunities for volunteers, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, garden clubs, businesses, and more.



DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteers have removed over 200 lbs of invasive garlic mustard at a single event!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TCWP provides outreach and education to our member communities. Whether it's a workshop, planting, or clean-up, our events are meant to educate the public on their impact on our shared watershed.

In 2021, we provided six community rain barrel workshops, including drive-through workshops. Each barrel can hold 55 gallons of stormwater which many folks use to water their gardens. These can also be used for a credit in the NEORSD service area.

TCWP also worked with communities to educate the public on the importance of planting native species. With the help of volunteers, we added more native species to a rain garden at Matthew Thomas Park in Boston Heights and planted 150 native trees at Dunham Road Park in Maple Heights.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The 2021 field season included five sampling events from May through September. Last year, five new monitoring sites in Brandywine Creek watershed were added for a total of 16 sites across both watersheds.



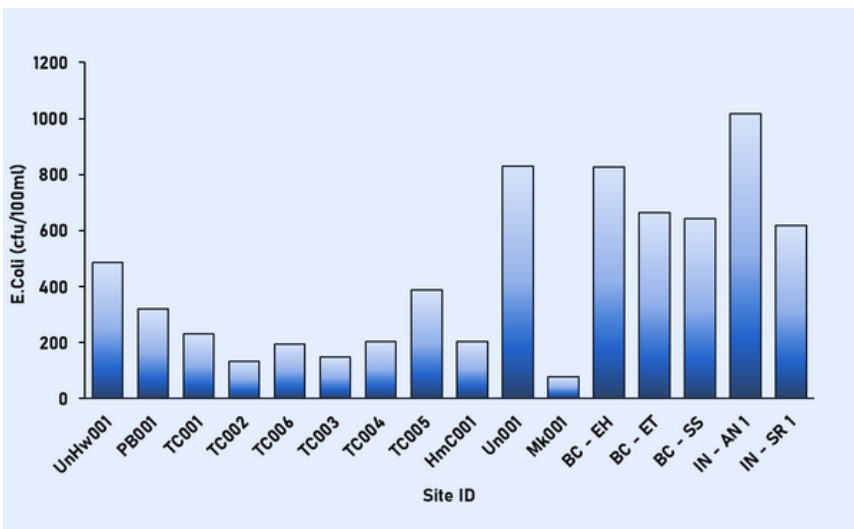
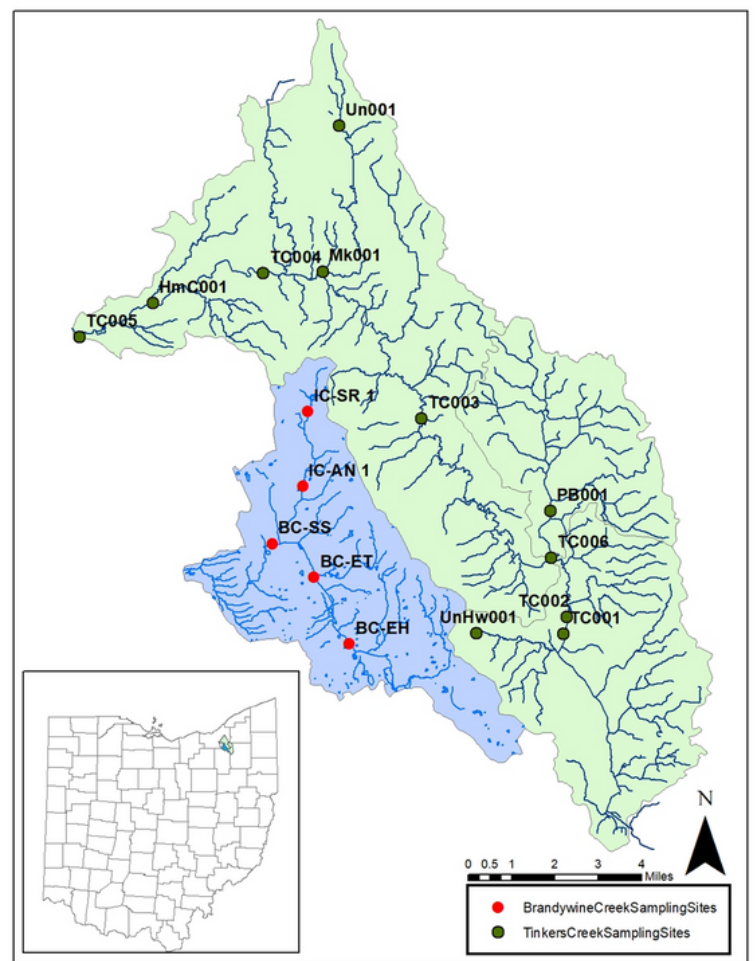
This program teaches volunteers how to monitor a stream properly, shows what conditions to look for that are cause for concern, and whom to contact with questions and data. The data is compiled and shared with our partners to monitor the creek's health and find sites for future restoration projects. Volunteers are encouraged to adopt a site where they sample once every month at their favorite spot in the watershed.

Thanks to our service contract with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, we purchased new sampling equipment, a YSI Pro Quatro meter, and a Hach pocket pH probe. This equipment has allowed TCWP to collect more accurate data while minimizing the risk of sampling error. Additionally, the equipment allows TCWP to sample additional parameters, including conductivity and O₂ pressure, which provides a greater understanding of the health of the watershed.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

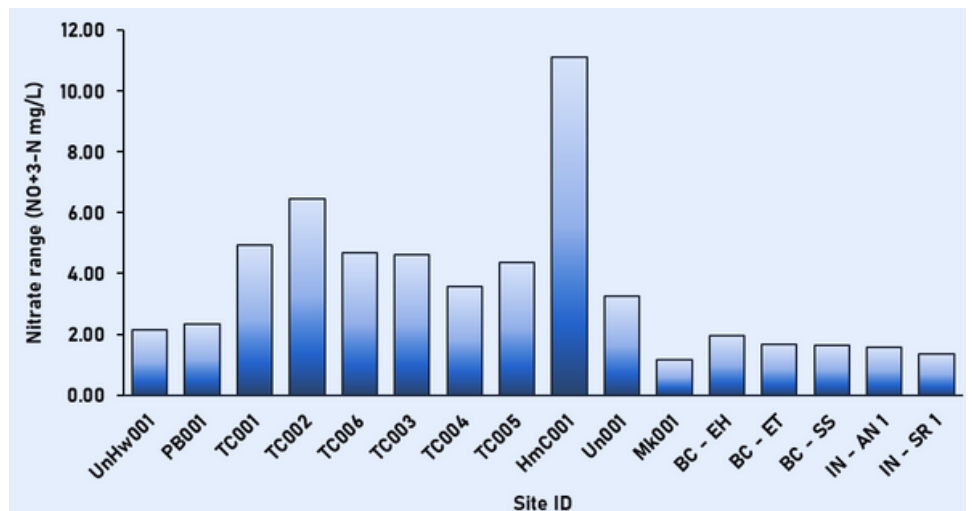
The results of the monitoring program were in line with data from the previous year.

However, there were some improvements near the locations of two previous restoration projects.



Bedford Heights Bus Garage had the lowest E. coli levels of all sites sampled and was the only site within the EPA thresholds for both warm-water habitats and primary recreation contact.

Tinker's Creek Aqueduct (TC005) had a significant decrease in average nitrate levels with a 4 mg/L difference from the previous year.





FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TCWP traditionally hosts two annual fundraising events. With COVID precautions in place, we held both events in-person this past year. Thank you to our sponsors who made these events possible!

Top Golf Fundraiser

The TWCP annual golf fundraiser was held at Top Golf this year. Team registration included a bay for tournament play, drink tickets, a lunch buffet, and a swag bag. A standup paddleboard was raffled off. Attendees appreciated the change in the setup and commented that it was much easier to talk and network as opposed to a traditional golf outing.

Drinkers for Tinker's Fundraiser

We were able to host Drinkers for Tinker's at Hop Tree Brewing in Hudson again this year. Attendees enjoyed wonderful food and specially brewed Boatsman Ale for the event. Thank you to Hop Tree for your generous support!

Stacey Faile

Memorial Fund



Last year, we lost a great friend, colleague, and member of our watershed family.

Stacey Faile had an infectious personality, a passion for life, and endless positive energy. She loved to socialize, travel, play volleyball, hike, bike, exercise, and she loved animals, natural health, and local foods. Stacey was a Board member for Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and always helped out whenever needed.

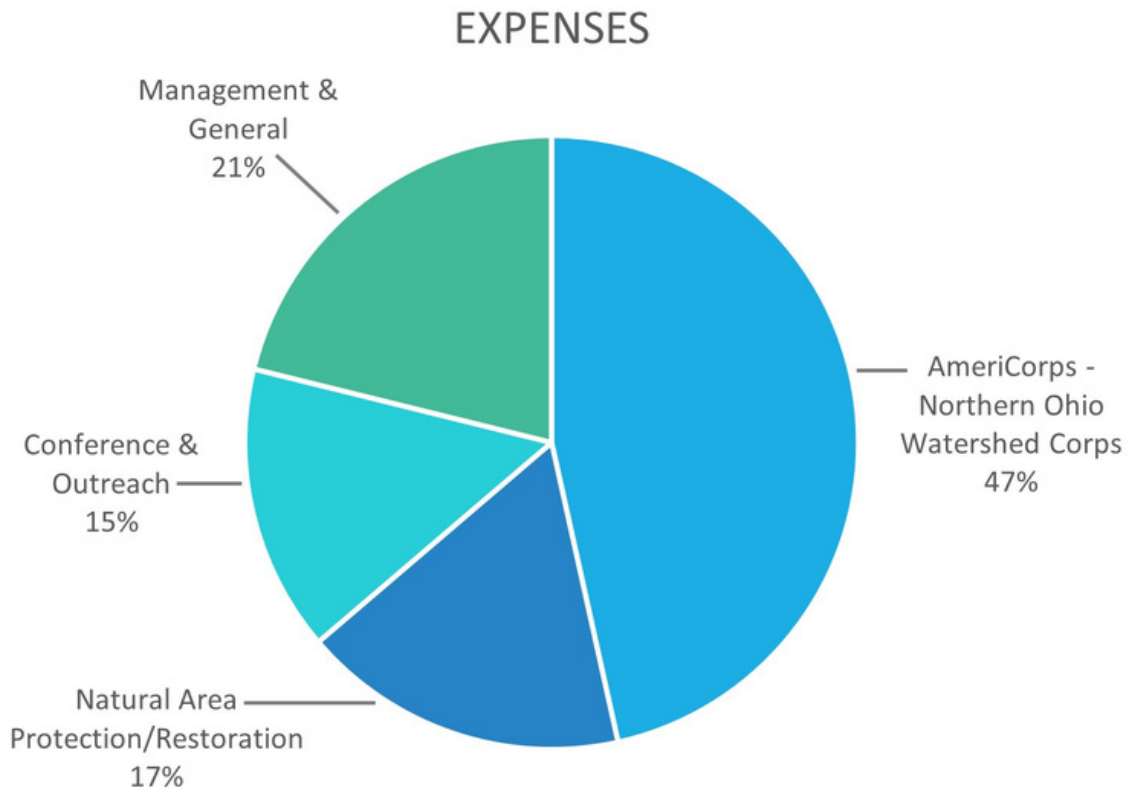
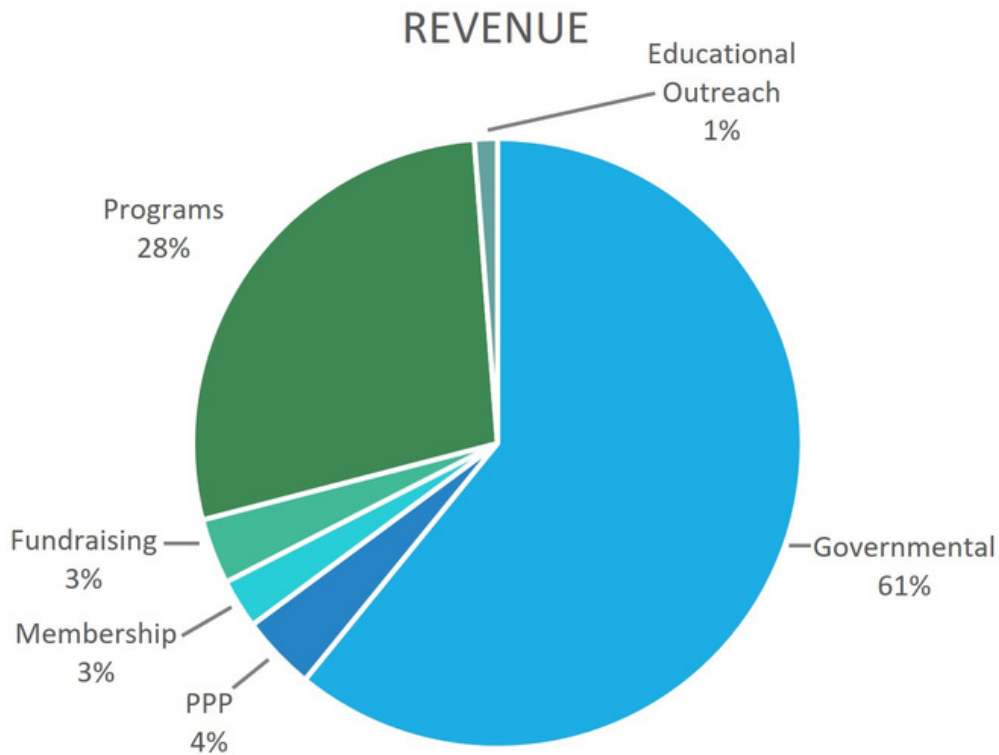
Stacey was an Ohio certified Professional Engineer and was a MS Candidate in Water Resources Engineering at Cleveland State University. She worked for OHM Advisors as the Northeast Ohio lead of their Environmental & Water Resources Group and previously as a Project Engineer for AECOM and Metcalf & Eddy.

The Stacey Faile Memorial Fund has been established to support the next generation of environmental scientists and environmental engineers who will positively impact Northeast Ohio.

Donations can be made through our donation page:
<https://www.tinkerscreek.org/online-donation/>.

Please note in the special instructions that your donation is for the Stacey Faile Memorial Fund.

2021 FINANCIALS



2021 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2021, Accrual Basis

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$382,317
Receivables	\$14,913
TOTAL ASSETS	\$397,230

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$14,410
Credit Cards	\$964
Accrued Vacation	\$4,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$19,374

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$267,946
Net Revenue	\$109,910
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$377,856

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$397,230
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of December 31, 2021

REVENUE

Public Support

Governmental	\$658,597
PPP	\$43,045
Membership	\$28,400

Revenue

Fundraising	\$37,581
Programs	\$300,939
Educational Outreach	\$13,180

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$1,081,743
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EXPENSES

AmeriCorps - Northeast Ohio Watersheds	\$335,233
Natural Area Protection/Restoration	\$124,061
Conference & Outreach	\$108,894
Management & General	\$152,360
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$720,548

2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

A subcommittee of the Board of Directors in conjunction with TCWP staff and CLCarty Consulting created a strategic plan to identify objectives that will guide the next five years.

TCWP encourages public input on this plan! To do so, simply email info@tinkerscreekwatershed.org.

5-year theme:

Become the leader in community-centered environmental stewardship. Together we will mobilize resources and capabilities to improve the health of individuals, communities, and our environment.

Business Objectives:

1. Apply the latest science to effectively implement watershed health initiatives
2. Become a community engagement hub
3. Extend and facilitate private and public collaborations
4. Develop and implement a fundraising strategy
5. Develop and implement a marketing and communications strategy
6. Align structures and capacities with our mission and fiscal goals

GRANTS AND SUPPORT



**Northeast Ohio
Regional Sewer District**



**AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1955



AmeriCorps
Ohio



**Dominion
Energy**SM



Western Reserve
Land Conservancy



Clean **Ohio** Fund
Green Space Conservation
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Natural Resources Assistance Council



**OHIO
PUBLIC
WORKS**
FOR YOU

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Visit our website to learn more about our business membership levels.

Pond Brook Premier:



Hawthorne Creek:



Beaver Run:



Wood Creek:



Deer Lick Run:



Watershed Friend:

MCD Consulting LLC



Partners and In-Kind

Thank you to all who support Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners.
We could not fulfill our mission without you!

Ashtabula SWCD
Big Creek Connects
Bluestone Heights
Chagrin River Watershed Partners
City of Avon Lake
Cleveland Metroparks
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Cuyahoga SWCD
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Erie SWCD
Friends of Euclid Creek
Geauga SWCD
Lake SWCD
Lorain County Stormwater Management District
Lorain SWCD
Medina SWCD
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Portage County Health District
Portage SWCD
Rocky River Watershed Council
Stark SWCD
Summit Metro Parks
Summit SWCD
U.S. EPA Region 5
West Creek Conservancy
Western Reserve Land Conservancy



STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

Staff

Harry Stark, Executive Director

Kate Chapel, Senior Project Manager

Kelli Herrick, Watershed Coordinator

Sara Borse, Administrative and Fundraising Coordinator

Julie Stark, NOWCorps Program Manager

Kraken, Office Cat, Chief Mousing Officer

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Michael Liptak, Treasurer

Samantha Robbins, Secretary

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Sandy Barbic

Hope Jones

Chad Reel

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Jennifer Syx

Becah Troutman

Maureen Wise



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View our website and join
our mailing list!

Scan the QR code by pointing
your camera at the image and
click on the link!

