



# 2020 *Annual Report*







**Mission:** To protect and restore water quality and habitats in the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships.



2020 Member Communities

Aurora

Beachwood

Bedford

Bedford Heights

Boston Heights

Glenwillow

Hudson

Macedonia

Maple Heights

Northfield

Northfield Center Township

North Randall

Oakwood

Reminderville

Streetsboro

Twinsburg

Twinsburg Township

Valley View

Walton Hills

Warrensville Heights

TCWP is a nonprofit that strives to Rediscover, Respect, and Revitalize our connection to our lands and waters. We'd like to share some of these efforts with you and thank all of the members and supporters who made our work possible this year.



**Vision:** Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, Engaged Communities

# President's Message

*Our mission is to protect and restore the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds, including their tributaries.*

*As we close on 2020, I'm happy to report that we have survived, grown, and evolved alongside a pandemic. Our outreach activities are uniquely appropriate for physically distanced activities, and our community members agreed, with excellent participation. Thank you to all of our members, volunteers, and stakeholders. Mother Nature, our ultimate constituent, cooperated throughout the year with abundant opportunities of outdoor engagement.*

*Further expanding our outreach across northern Ohio, The AmeriCorps NOWCorps program served over 18k hours treating a marathon (26.7 miles) of rivers, 34 miles of trails, and planting 858 trees. Thank you to our NOWCorps members and host sites responsible for this achievement.*

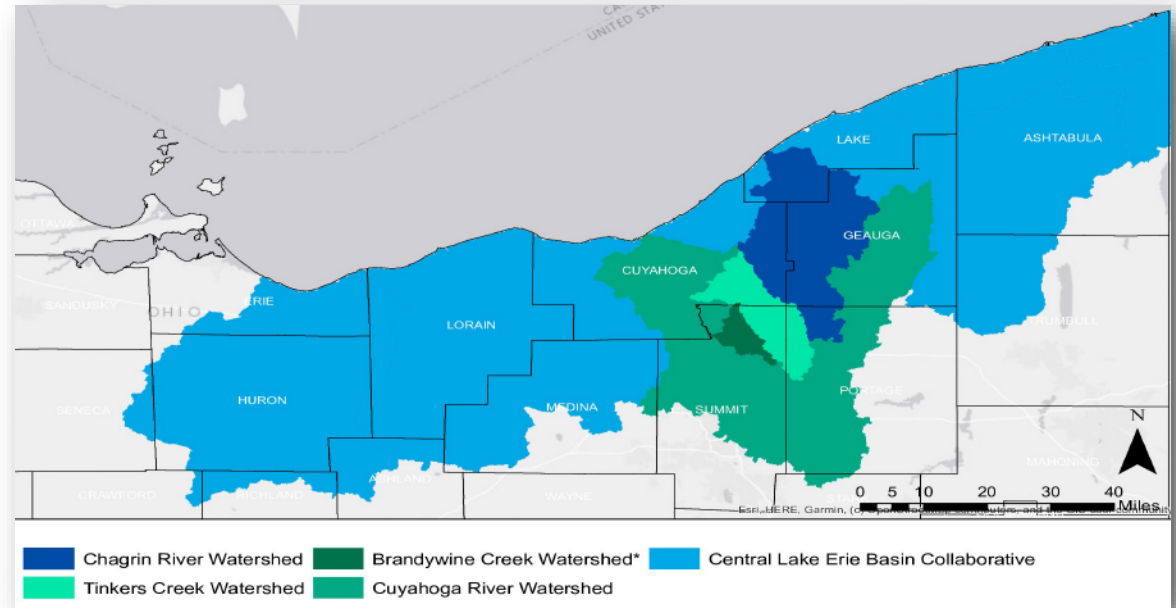
*Starting 2021 will close out a significant number of milestones for TCWP. Our Board of Directors welcomed three new board members and transitioned two to Emeritus Status. Congratulations to founding board member Chris Vild and long-time President Justin Czekaj; thank you for your contributions to the advancement of TCWP initiatives. Your work has helped take TCWP from a small grassroots volunteer only organization to one of the region's largest and most effective watershed protection groups. We also welcome Ana Burns to the Presidency of TCWP, and we appreciate her leadership and guidance as we look forward to an updated strategic plan for TCWP.*

**Josh Herchl, TCWP Board President**





# Partners in Stewardship

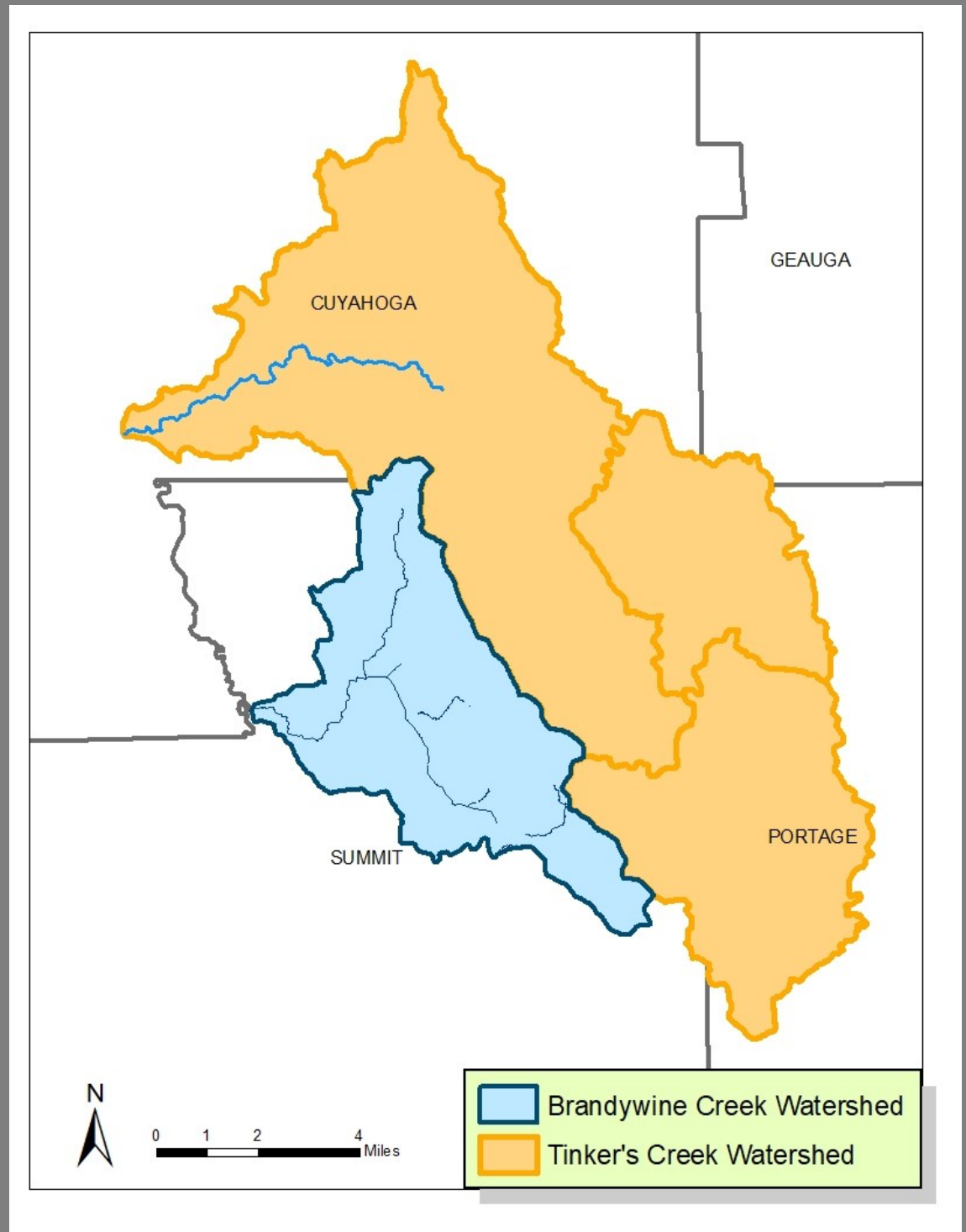


Strong partnerships make our work possible! This not only strengthens what we do in our member communities, but amplifies stewardship through the Central Lake Erie Basin. We're honored to serve on collaborative groups in the region including the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee, the working group Northeast Ohio Public Involvement/Public Engagement (NEOPIPE), the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative, and the Cuyahoga River Cooperative Weed Management Area. Another key partner is the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) whose service agreements allow us to work so closely with our community partners.



# *Expanded Reach*

TCWP is now fully serving both the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds. Through community membership and grant support, we can provide technical assistance and stewardship coordination to more communities. Our first major stream restoration grant for Brandywine was awarded in 2020 and we're excited to construct it in 2021.





# Ohio Native Plant Month

On July 18, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 59 of the 133 General Assembly into law designating the month of April as Ohio Native Plant Month.

This legislation makes Ohio one of the first states in the country to have an entire month dedicated to our native plants.

Ohio Native Plant Month encourages everyone to plant native. Planting native trees is one of the greatest things you can do for future generations. We also encourage folks to plant pocket pollinator gardens, no garden is too small!



Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



# COVID Can't Stop Good

Today, more than ever, our watersheds need us.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, TCWP had to adapt and remain resilient in the face of a crisis. We took cues from the watershed in how to respond. We adapted our events for safety by utilizing drive-through events. We diversified our options for ourselves and our volunteers through social media and Individual Acts of Conservation. We found new ways to connect with you on virtual hikes.

As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed, we've seen more individuals turn to their local greenspaces as a way to get outside, exercise, and simply maintain their quality of life.



## *Did You Know?*

TCWP engages with hundreds of volunteers each year to remove hundreds of pounds of invasive vegetation and trash from our watershed. Each volunteer has a huge impact!



# Fundraising Events

TCWP hosts fundraisers each year to drum up support for our mission. With COVID precautions and social distancing, we were able to host two of our traditional events: the Golf Outing and Drinkers for Tinker's.

Thank you to our sponsors who made these events possible! And thank you to Hop Tree Brewing for creating our collaborative ale, Boatsman.





# Drive Up, Pick Up, & Go

TCWP adapted our popular rain barrel workshops to drive-through events this year to keep everyone safe. Rain barrels are a great way to capture stormwater and put it to good use in gardens and landscaping. NEORSD households may even be eligible to receive a credit on their stormwater fee by installing these systems!



## *Did You Know?*

In one storm event, the barrels purchased this year will capture 2,145 gallons of storm water!



# Northern Ohio Watershed (NOW)Corps

The Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is an AmeriCorps program funded by ServeOhio and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS engages thousands of Americans in citizen service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs every year and leads the nation's volunteer and service efforts. For more information, visit [nationalservice.gov](https://nationalservice.gov) and [serve.ohio.gov](https://serve.ohio.gov). Our 2019-2020 service year ran from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. NOWCorps members served a collective 18,656 hours and engaged with 4,600 volunteers and community members. Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is proud of the impacts NOWCorps members made on their communities and within their Host Site organizations.

## Our Host Site Organizations are:

Cleveland Metroparks

Erie SWCD

The Nature Conservancy

University of Akron Field Station

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Chagrin River Watershed Partners

Summit SWCD

Cuyahoga SWCD

Lake SWCD



**AmeriCorps**  
Ohio





# Restoration Projects

**Bedford Hts. Bus Garage Project** In fall 2019 TCWP, in conjunction with Hull & Associates and Mark Haynes Construction, restored a tributary behind the Bedford Heights Bus Garage. The modified creek was causing severe flooding every year. We stabilized the hillside and restored natural creek shape and riffle structure. A riparian zone was installed and native vegetation was planted.

This project restored 534 linear feet of stream channel and stream bank. Invasive species were treated, and five acres of natives were installed.



Funding generously provided by a Section 319 grant through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Bedford City School District





# 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. In 2020, we moved our event to an all virtual format. With over 750 attendees, 73 sponsors, and over 100 speakers, we were still able to bring a very informative and educational event during the pandemic to those who in stormwater and watershed management.

As part of our annual conference, we also introduced a stormwater webinar series as well. We had monthly webinars on specific stormwater and watershed management topics. We will continue in 2021 with this webinar series and look forward to continued growth in the future.

## *Did You Know?*

Stormwater is caused by precipitation such as rain or melting snow. Unlike waste water, it is not treated at a water treatment plant. Instead, it flows directly into a waterbody. Runoff becomes polluted as it runs off of roads, parking lots, and lawns.



**STORMWATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

# Water Quality Monitoring

TCWP's water quality monitoring program serves multiple purposes. By utilizing volunteer assistance, TCWP is able to provide stewardship opportunities for citizen scientists throughout the watershed.

If any water quality parameters come back unusual, an atypical discharge is entering the creek, or the surface of the creek looks oily or otherwise polluted, volunteers can serve as a first alert reporting potential issues to TCWP and surrounding municipalities.

We continued to study our watershed in 2020 with 12 sites each month from May through September. Our volunteer force has expanded this year, and we are so grateful to the folks that spend time with us each month and each season to help us understand our watershed. With multiple years of data, we will be able to start seeing trends and making comparisons.

## *Did You Know?*

You can adopt a collection site and provide invaluable data to TCWP! We use this data to prioritize our work. A training is held in March of every year.





*Thank you,* Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners could not have accomplished its 2020 goals without the help of its staff, board members, and mostly its community and business members. We look forward to all we can accomplish in 2021.

## *Staff*

**Executive Director , Harry Stark**

**Senior Project Manager , Kate Chapel**

**Watershed Coordinator , Kelli Herrick**

**Environmental Education Coordinator , Sonya Mottram**

**NOWCorps Program Manager , Julie Stark**

## *Board of Directors*

**Josh Hershl, President**

**Ana Burns, Vice President**

**Michael Liptak, Treasurer**

**Katherine Holmok, Secretary**

**Sandy Barbic**

**Justin Czekaj**

**Elizabeth Dobnikar**

**Hope Jones**

**Chad Reel**

**Samantha Robbins**

**James Rodstrom**

**Jennifer Syx**

**Chris Vild**

**Maureen Wise**





# Grants & Support

## Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)

NEORS has entered into two contracts with TCWP in the amount of \$80,000 to support stormwater and water quality efforts in the Tinker's Creek & Brandywine Creek watershed communities. These service agreements support staff time to fulfill our mission, provide education, purchase equipment, and host public outreach events.

## Funded in 2020, to be accomplished in 2021

TCWP received a few other grants in 2020 that we'll be putting on the ground in 2021. This includes a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund to provide macroinvertebrate lessons to local K-12 schools, a Western Reserve Land Conservancy/Dominion mini grant to educate communities about cigarette butt litter, and a Dominion Charitable Foundation Grant to install permeable surface on the TCWP office driveway.

## Webinar sponsors

TCWP hosted a bi-monthly webinar series from May-July 2020 to lead up to our 2020 Ohio Stormwater Conference. We were able to waive the registration fee for our August events thanks to the generous sponsorship of the below companies:





# *Individual Membership*

|                            |                         |                       |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bekah Berry                | Tara Florida            | Matt Lascola          | Jim Rodstrom          |
| Gina Beim                  | Alyssa Givens           | Albert Leonard        | Heather Russell       |
| John & Megan Bell          | Brian Gorog             | Michael Liptak        | Joe Rustic            |
| Tony Burgoyne              | Scott Hadder            | Emil Liszniansky      | Daniel Sansone        |
| Ana & Shawn Burns          | Janie Hanna             | Matthew Mace          | Anne Schoeffler       |
| Stephanie Canfield         | Dennis & Lou Ann Hanink | Kathleen Mackey       | Todd Sciano           |
| Gabi Cardozo               | Josh & Michelle Herchl  | Tim McCann            | Andrew Skeriotis      |
| Anne Chapel                | Martin Hilovsky         | Dave McCallops        | Rachel Spadafore      |
| Bill & Esther Chapel       | Katherine Holmok        | Matthew Neigh         | Jennifer Syx          |
| Ken & Heather Christensen  | Laura & Scott Holman    | Daniel Peters         | Todd & Jenilee Taylor |
| Mike Cook                  | Kristen Jezek           | Jill Pfeiffer-Ward    | Tony Urankar          |
| Tom Denbow                 | Richard Johnson         | Sean & Shafali Powell | Mark Urycki           |
| Katherine DeMuesy          | Hope Jones              | Chad Reel             | Chris Vild            |
| Elizabeth & Frank Dobnikar | Meredith Junko          | Ian Reider            | Shawn Welsh           |
| Mike & Stacey Faile        | Josh Kusnier            | Sheryl Reynolds       | Amy Wilson            |
| Jordan & Ben Feltoon       | Tyson Lamielle          | Samantha Robbins      | Corey Wojcik          |



# Business Membership

## Pond Brook Premier Membership

Advanced Drainage Systems

## Beaver Run Membership

Civil & Environmental Consultants

Davey Resource Group

GPD Group

## Wood Creek Membership

Hull & Associates, Inc.

HR Gray

## Deer Lick Run Membership

Good Nature Organic Landscaping

inSite Advisory Group

Mark Haynes Construction

Mannik & Smith Group

OPN Seed

Partners Environmental

## Watershed Friend

OHM









www.tinkerscreek.org  
330-963-6243  
PO Box 444, Twinsburg, OH 44087  
@Tinkers\_WP