



NOWCorps Conservation Program Assistant

Contact for interested Members: Angela Brodie, NOWCorps AmeriCorps Program Director at angela@tinkerscreekwatershed.org or 330-963-6243. Applications preferred by July 22, 2022, but position is open until filled.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization officially established in 2006. Our mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. The Tinker's Creek watershed drains 96.4 square miles and is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed area spans 24 communities in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, and Geauga counties.

Together with our partners, **Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District (ASWCD)** 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.

Ashland SWCD is celebrating its 77th year as a leader in implementing on-the-ground conservation practices in Ashland County. Ashland SWCD works with farmers, landowners, and residents of the county to protect and preserve our county's soil and water resources. In 2020, Ashland Water named *Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District of the Year* by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

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.

Skills and Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must have a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation; eligible mileage will be reimbursed for service-related travel. Must be able to safely drive during daylight and after dark. Must successfully pass a comprehensive background and criminal investigation check. Must have an interest in or plan to pursue a career in natural resources, conservation, environmental engineering, environmental science, civil engineering, or closely related field. Must be self-motivated and able to work independently and in a team. Must possess good organizational and communication skills and be capable of working with little supervision. Must have the ability to effectively communicate in both oral and written forms and must be confident in the use of technology and computers. Must be able to work effectively and politely with all clients and agencies; must possess excellent personal relationship skills. Demonstrates maturity, cultural competency, and garner respect of all populations. Experience communicating with diverse audiences preferred.

Must be willing and able to work outdoors in all weather, traverse by foot across rough and/or uneven terrain and load items weighing up to 50 pounds. Must have a passion for and understanding of the importance of agriculture and conservation in our community. Usual hours of service will be M-F during the hours of 8am to 4pm. The ability to serve flexible hours, including weekend days and some evenings, is needed. Scheduled hours may fluctuate, increase, or decrease in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities.

The NOWCorps member will receive programmatic training in addition to site specific training. Programmatic training is provided monthly and covers a variety of topics. Training content may include, but is not limited to first aid, CPR, volunteer engagement, native species planting techniques, facilitating public involvement, environmental education, minimum control measures, and land management.

Location: **Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District, 1760 SR 60, Ashland, OH 44085**

Reports to: **Ashland SWCD Program Administrator, Jane Houin**

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member serving this role:

General Member Responsibilities

- Promote the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps through education and outreach activities
- Enhance skills and knowledge applicable to position through participation in related workshops, conferences, and training
- Plan, Facilitate, and Participate in group service projects for National Days of Service
- Attend all NOWCorps required meetings and trainings
- Complete activity & data reports monthly, required timesheets weekly, and any other reporting in a timely manner in the OnCorps online system
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description

Host Site Specific Member Responsibilities

Improve water quality by addressing both point and non-point pollution sources

- Promote stormwater education and adoption of best management practices for Ashland County residents, including outreach events such as Rain Beat on Main Street and educational workshops and events
- Provide assistance in watershed planning activities with a special emphasis on the Jerome Fork watershed, including water quality data research, establishing partnerships with other community organizations and coordinating water quality sample collection and analysis
- Encourage conservation programming and outreach to our Amish and Mennonite communities
- Maintain knowledge of current conservation topics, events, and activities
- Assist with SWCD outreach events and activities, including maintaining current knowledge of conservation and water quality topics including, but not limited to, pond management
- Work with SWCD staff to conduct floodplain site reviews and evaluations throughout the county

Encourage implementation of best management practices for manure

- Educate farmers and landowners on best management practices to minimize pollution risk with special emphasis on the Jerome Fork watershed
- Work with farmers to keep livestock and manure out of waterways with special emphasis on the Jerome Fork watershed
- Build trust and relationships with Ashland County landowners and farmers

- Provide assistance and support as needed to SWCD staff in responding efficiently and effectively to emergent ag pollution complaints

Improve agricultural productivity & soil health through conservation practices to improve water quality

- Increase public awareness of soil health issues
- Work with Ashland County residents to conduct soil nutrient analysis and assist in the development of nutrient management plans
- Support Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator in connecting farmers with precision conservation tools, including crop and nutrient modeling, to support 4R principles and on-farm sustainability of those practices
- Aid SWCD staff in conduction conservation status checks on existing practices to ensure proper function
- Provide assistance to Ashland SWCD volunteer program and outreach activities

Reduce soil erosion on cropland

- Educate Ashland County farmers and landowners about best management practices and benefits of reduced erosion, conservation
- Increase the use of cover crops in Ashland County with special emphasis on the Jerome Fork watershed
- Encourage growth in the implementation of no-till and minimum-till production practices to reduce erosion and improve water quality
- Work with other SWCD staff to provide technical assistance to farmers who are not participating in cost-share programs

Additional activities that fall within the goals of the program may be assigned with approval of the member, site supervisor, and NOWCorps staff.

Additional information: **Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District** is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District, Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners, and the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps will adhere to all regulations concerning nondiscrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital or parental status, genetic information, military service, and religion.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment

The physical requirements and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an individual to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the following:

- manual dexterity sufficient to operate telephones, computers, and other office equipment
- physical ability to kneel, bend, and perform light lifting
- ability to write and speak clearly using the English language to convey information and be able to hear at normal speaking levels both in person and over the telephone
- specific vision abilities required include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus

Generally, the working conditions are good with little or no exposure to extremes in health, safety hazards, and/or hazardous materials. Though work is often performed in an office setting and outdoors, this person must have the ability to travel as required to work with Host Site staff/board, volunteers, partners, other members, and the public, participate in conferences and outdoor activities such as but not limited to site visits, volunteer or program activities, training events, and meetings.

Benefits: Member position begins October 11, 2022 and ends September 30, 2023. The member will be provided with a mandatory orientation October 11-14, 21, and 28, 2022 and relevant training monthly. This position is a **part-time member** position and requires a minimum of 900 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$10,000.00, and the stipend will be paid biweekly. If the term of service is completed successfully, the member may be eligible for a **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award** of \$3,247.50. The member will not be an employee of Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation ASWCD provides to its employees. Housing is not available.