

NOW Corps Annual Report 2022-2023





Back Row (L-R): Kathryn Burnsworth, Heather Beukeman, Isabel Neeley, Maura Montague
Front (L-R): Max Bauders, Blake Erman, Julio Olivarez

Welcome to NOWCorps!

Northern Ohio Watershed Corps, NOWCorps, began its fourth year by welcoming 17 members at 12 host sites. Our host sites extended as far east as Huron, westward to Ashtabula, and as far down as Ashland. NOWCorps members serve at one host site for an entire service year. As a Corps, we focus on Stewardship, Conservation, Education, and Capacity Building as a means to improve water quality and promote healthy habitats within Northern Ohio. We are immensely proud of our members and are excited to share with you all that they accomplished.

NOWCorps is a State and National AmeriCorps program funded by ServeOhio, and sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners.



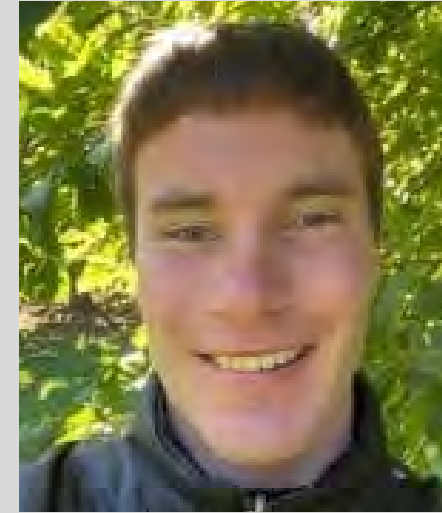
2022-2023 NOWCorps Members



Heather Beukeman,
Watershed Steward,
Chagrin River Watershed Partners



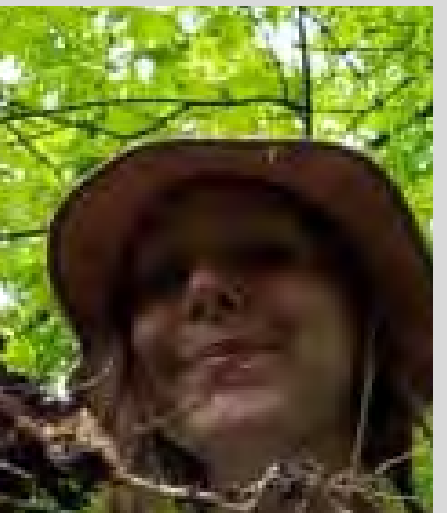
Sarah Brunot
Education and Outreach Specialist,
Chagrin River Watershed Partners



Max Bauders
Core+Outer Trails Assistant,
Holden Forests & Gardens



Kathryn Burnsworth
Conservation Program and Outreach Specialist,
Erie SWCD



Mel Dopirak
Conservation Specialist,
Holden Forests & Gardens



Julie Olivo
Educator/Coordinator
Cuyahoga SWCD



Blake Erman
Natural Resources Technician,
Cleveland Metroparks



Isabel Neeley
Field Station Assistant,
UAFS





Cora Crilow
Conservation
Program
Assistant,
Ashland SWCD



**Chynna
Ingram**
Trails
Assistant,
*Cleveland
Metroparks*



**Hannah
Goulder**
Core Natural
Areas Asst.,
*Holden Forests
& Gardens*



**Maura
Montague**
Natural
Resources
Technician,
*Cleveland
Metroparks*



Julio Olivarez
NEOH/CLEB
Restoration
Crew Member,
*The Nature
Conservancy*



**Patrick
Trauernicht**
Community
Forestry
Specialist,
WRLC



Claire Hardi
Outreach
Specialist,
*Summit
SWCD*



**Rachel
Clingman**
Outreach and
Education
Specialist,
TCWP



**Victor
Serrano**
Outreach
Specialist,
Lake SWCD



2022-2023 Host Sites

Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District

Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Chagrin River Watershed Partners

The Nature Conservancy

Cleveland Metroparks

Summit Soil & Water conservation district

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners

Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

University of Akron Field Station

Holden Forests and Gardens

Western Reserve Land Conservancy



NOWCorps Members Reflect on their year of service

"I am so thankful for the people I got to serve with this year. ***I am so excited to see where this path takes me.*** Here is to a lifetime of great stories. Thanks, AmeriCorps!"

- Kathryn Burnsworth



"I can wholeheartedly say now that this service year has absolutely been ***the best decision I could have made for my future career!*** This experience is unique because it truly allowed me to dedicate this year to the pursuit of knowledge."

- Hannah Goulder

"I'm feeling appreciative of the NOWCorps program because it was everything I wanted and needed...I not only have support from my supervisor and friends who I have served alongside, I now have a newfound sense of belief in myself to go out and make a difference.

I hope to carry the notion of service with me throughout my professional career."

- Patrick Trauernicht



"I have spent the past year serving in Northeastern Ohio as a NOWCorps member partnered with The Nature Conservancy.... I have served with [communities] side by side, putting forth our effort for the same goals. We have shared the same highs and lows, laughed and complained... I've been exposed to a variety of perspectives and backgrounds. ***I have received so much and can only hope that I've given enough in return."***

- Julio Olivarez



NOWCorps MONTHLY TRAININGS

November 2022 **ESWCD, Tree Planting**

Tree planting and maintenance training with Breann Hohman



December 2022 **TCWP, Data and Celebration**

Data recap and mindfulness

February 2023 **TCWP, Ethnobotany**

Ethnobotany with Dr. Nick Kawa from The Ohio State University



March 2023 **Holden Forests & Gardens, Networking and Nature Hike**

Speed networking with Holden FG staff and Nature Hike led by Becah Troutman



April 2023 **TCWP, Stormwater Prep**

Stormwater Conference Poster Prep

May 2023 **Cleveland Metroparks, Green Infrastructure**

Bioswale maintenance and G.I. surveys with Josh Philipps and Elizabeth Hiser

June 2023 **UAFS, Rain Garden Cleanup**

Rain Garden maintenance and bog educational tour with Dr. Lara Roketenetz

July 2023 **Beach Cleanup! Life After AmeriCorps**

Edgewater Beach cleanup, Life After AmeriCorps Panel discussion, and resume prep with Bob Kissling from WRLC

August 2023 **ESWCD, Kayaking**

Deep water kayak rescuing 101 with Breann Hohman

September 2023 **End-of-Year Presentations**

Members share their year of service



DAYS OF SERVICE



Make a Difference Day

10/22/22

Walton Hills Stream Cleanup

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

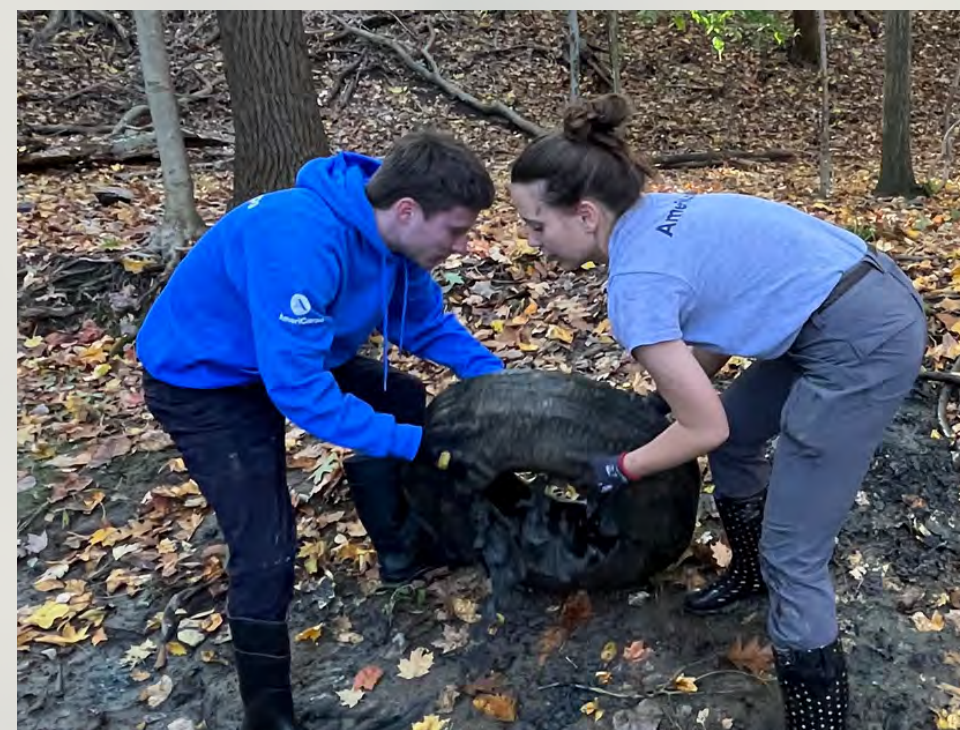
01/16/2023

Cleveland Seed Bank Seed Swap

Global Youth Service Day

5/19/2023

Maple Heights High School invasive plant removal (with CSWCD)



ServeOhio Day

6/24/23

Highland Heights river cleanup (with CSWCD and SCA)



NOWCorps Members Become Master Rain Gardeners



NOWCorps Members Victor Serrano, Heather Beukeman and Sarah Brunot amend the soil in preparation for planting.



NOWCorps Member Melissa Dopirak prepares a hole for planting.



NOWCorps Members pause to enjoy their rain garden installation..

NOWCorps members and staff participated in the Master Rain Gardener (MRG) course hosted by Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) and Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. The MRG course teaches individuals how to create and install rain gardens, which work with nature to collect and filter rainwater before it flows into streams, creeks, and storm drains. Rain gardens can help reduce flooding and stream bank erosion.

After completing the online course, which included creating detailed plans for a real or hypothetical rain garden installation, individuals must participate in a rain garden installation to become certified Master Rain Gardeners. To fulfill this requirement, NOWCorps members and staff designed and installed a rain garden at the TCWP office. The rain garden, which will be used for community education and outreach, was funded

through a Dominion Western Reserve Land Conservancy mini watershed grant.

With a little help from the Twinsburg Service Department who dug the required 6" hole, the team then amended the soil and began planting. The garden was filled with a variety of 17 different native plants, including blue flag iris, bottle gentian, and swamp milkweed (which later became host to several monarch caterpillars).

After installing the plants and adding a generous layer of mulch, the rain garden was complete. CRWP provided a Rain Garden sign to display and everyone received their official Master Rain Gardener shirts!

Already the garden has grown so much since its installation. We're excited to watch the garden grow and be used as a demonstration for years to come!

2022-23 NOWCorps Impact

Presented
Educational
Programs to
1,265 people



Treated 559 acres of
land.



Planted
1,790 Trees



Improved*
114 Acres of Land
*Received 3 or more
treatments



Managed
1,355
volunteer
hours and 385
volunteers



Received
87
certificates



AmeriCorps Pledge



I will get things done for America—to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.



I will bring Americans together to strengthen our community.



Faced with apathy, I will take action.



Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.



Faced with adversity, I will persevere.



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



I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done!



Back Row (L-R): Max Bauders, Julie Olivo, Maura Montague, Hannah Goulder, Sarah Brunot
Front Row (L-R): Blake Erman, Julio Olivarez, Victor Serrano, Heather Beukeman

Thank you!

Thank you to ServeOhio, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, AmeriCorps, and Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners for sponsoring and hosting our program as well as the Gund Foundation for providing funding support.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to all the members, host site supervisors, and collaborators who made this year full of learning, mentorship, and growth.

Thank you!





THANK YOU