



NOWCorps –Watershed Program Assistant

Contact for interested Members: Claire Ilersich, NOWCorps Member Coordinator at claire@tinkerscreek.org or 330-963-6863 x5104. Applications preferred by December 16, 2024, but position is open until filled.

About Us:

Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is a State and National AmeriCorps program, funded by AmeriCorps and ServeOhio, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. *This is a paid service year position.* The NOWCorps program is sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization, whose mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. NOWCorps partners with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits who serve as host sites for our members. Through the host site, members facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. NOWCorps position descriptions vary depending on the host site and service year focus and prospective members may apply to multiple NOWCorps positions at the same time.

Together with our partners, **The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH)** 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.

Host Site Information:

CCBH has a dedicated staff of 180 professionals, delivering over 40 programs and services across Cuyahoga County. CCBH does this work through four service areas, of which one is Environmental Public Health (EPH). EPH is focused on our natural and manmade surroundings, looking at how it affects our health and also the ways in which we impact the environment. CCBH's staff collaborates closely with local, county, regional, state, and national officials to address the needs and concerns of residents and community partners; thus, preventing environmental health hazards to protect and promote public health.

EPH has a Watershed Program Manager, who is an ecologist and who is CCBH's lead for all things related to ecology and climate action. One of his accomplishments include co-authoring CCBH's report titled "Climate Change Impacts on Human Health and Ecosystem Health in Cuyahoga County--Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (2021)". Of the many recommended strategies, one is to promote the planting of urban trees. CCBH aims to do this promotion and education in eastern Cuyahoga County communities that are vulnerable to stormwater risks.

Location: Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130.
Reports to: Robert F. Brand, Ph.D., Watershed Program Manager.

Member position begins January 16, 2025 and ends September 30, 2025. This position is a **Reduced Full-time member** position and requires a minimum of 1200 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$15,500, and the stipend will be paid twice monthly.

Usual hours of service will be Monday - Friday during the hours of 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. 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.

Benefits:

- Paid Orientation and training included.
- Programmatic and site-specific training. Content may include but is not limited to: First Aid, CPR, native species identification, hand and power tool training, volunteer engagement, and more.
- Federal Loan Deferment
- May be eligible for education award of \$5,176.50.
- Additional training reimbursement stipend of \$125/quarter (\$375 total).
- Eligible mileage reimbursement
- Ample opportunity for professional development and networking.
- Free attendance to the Ohio Stormwater Conference.

The member will not be an employee of Cuyahoga County Board of Health and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Cuyahoga County Board of Health provides to its employees.

AmeriCorps Requirements:

- Must have a GED or high school diploma.
- Must be 18 or older by January 16, 2025.
- Must successfully pass a comprehensive National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC).
- Must be a US citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Possess a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation
- Have an interest or plan to pursue a career in environmental or public health, water quality, stormwater management, wetland restoration, vegetation ecology, climate impacts, human and ecosystem health, urban forestry, environmental policy, environmental science, or related field

- Be self-motivated and able to work independently and on a team
- Strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate maturity and cultural competency
- Desire to serve the local community

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member:

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.
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description.

Host Site Responsibilities

Work with the Education and Public Outreach AmeriCorps member on the EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government grant (EAP EJG2G). The overall goal of this project is to help address the local environmental and public health issues of poor air quality, stormwater vulnerability, climate change, urban heat island effect, and disaster resiliency in overburdened areas of Cuyahoga County. Specifically, areas of East Cleveland, Euclid, and Maple Heights have disproportionately high environmental burdens including particulate matter, ozone, air toxics, and lead paint and health burdens including low life expectancy, heart disease, and asthma compared to the U.S. and state of Ohio. Additionally, these areas have low tree canopy cover contributing to urban heat island effects. Further activities will include assistance with tree and ecosystem health projects related to restoration of the County's tree canopy project focused on healthy urban tree canopy and healthful homes programs, and subsequently co-create community-led interventions aimed at improving indoor and outdoor air quality in under-resourced communities in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Additional responsibilities; compile and present educational materials and information on macro, micro and nanoplastics, and their pathological effects on ecosystem and public health. A second focus of the role will concentrate on reduction of plastic usage, pollution and single use plastics. This will involve working with other plastic reduction groups, in particular the City of Cleveland Sustainability Department. Additional activities will be to engage with communities, local governments and various watershed groups to form alliances to carry out regular stream and river cleanups.

Responsibilities include:

- Compile material for workshops, presentations, brochures and other printed material.
- Attend workshops, meetings and presentations with some Saturday morning events.

- Assist with projects field work; air quality monitors installation and inspection, data collection and site monitoring for trees projects, plastic cleanup and sample collection projects.
- Find venues for presentations, workshops and public engagement
- Execute workshops, presentations and other public relationship events
- Apply the latest science to effectively implement watershed health initiatives
- Coordinate logistics and volunteers for watershed cleanups on Cuyahoga County's rivers/streams and Lake Erie beaches including removal of debris
- Become a community engagement resource
- Develop and nurture private and public collaborations
- Write reports on project activities; tree and air quality monitoring site reports, stream and plastic cleanup work, other activities as needed to document progress, compile data and social media presentations.
- Assist the Media and Marketing NOWCorps member at CCBH, by providing website content
- Create a database and compile information on plastics pollution

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

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.
- Capacity to position self to bend, kneel, and lightly lift.
- Fluency in communicating in the English language, can convey information and listen.
- Capacity to utilize close vision, depth perception, and adjust focus.

Additional information: Cuyahoga County Board of Health is accessible to individuals with disabilities. **Cuyahoga County Board of Health**, 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.

The below signed recognize this as the Member Position Description and that the Member is to perform the duties detailed above during their Member Service Year. The below signed

recognize that activities outside of the scope of this description require prior written approval by all the below signed prior to execution of those activities.

NOWCorps Member Signature

Host Site Supervisor Signature

NOWCorps Staff Signature