



OUR MISSION

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



OUR VISION

Clean water, Healthy habitats, Engaged communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

Become a leader in community-centered environmental stewardship. Mobilize resources and capabilities to improve the health of individuals, communities, and the environment, using the five objectives outlined below:

- 1. Implement science-based initiatives to improve watershed health.
- 2. Drive watershed-based education/ outreach and act as a community engagement hub.
- 3. Facilitate private and public collaborations to support the development and implementation of our fundraising strategy.
- 4. Develop and implement a targeted marketing and communications strategy.
- 5.Align internal structures and capacities with our mission and fiscal goals.

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

Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, Engaged Communities



66 Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on another year, the Board and Staff of Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners extend our heartfelt gratitude to the communities, partners, and supporters who make our work possible. Your dedication to protecting and restoring Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds drives our mission forward.

Since 2006, TCWP has safeguarded Tinker's Creek, the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, spanning 96.4 square miles and 24 communities. Through strategic partnerships, science-based planning, and community engagement, we continue to make measurable strides toward a healthier watershed.

This year, we advanced key initiatives, including the Darrow Road stream restoration, another record-breaking Ohio Stormwater Conference, and the expansion of our NOWCorps program, which equips members with the skills and experience to lead critical conservation efforts. We also remain committed to our five-year strategic plan, driving initiatives that improve water quality, expand outreach, and strengthen partnerships.

Looking ahead, we will build on this momentum, knowing that real change happens through collective action. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we can ensure these vital waterways thrive for generations to come.

With appreciation,

Becah Troutman **Board President**

Dr. Erica Matheny Executive Director

OUR TEAM



Dr. Erica Matheny Executive Director



Angela Brodie NOWCorps Director



Matt Siefert
Watershed Coordinator



Harry Stark Finance & Events



Claire Ilersich NOWCorps Member Coordinator



Kraken Mouser-in-Chief



Nina White NOWCorps '23-'24



Brooke Michael NOWCorps '23-'24



Grace Grosel
Summer Intern



TINKER'S CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERS, INC. 2023-24 WATERSHED ACTIVITY REPORT

This report celebrates the impact of **Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP)** in 2023 and 2024, and outlines exciting opportunities for collaboration in 2025. With the steadfast support of our members, TCWP has emerged as a leading organization in environmental education and technical services, proudly serving over 20 communities across the **Tinker's Creek** and **Brandywine Creek** watersheds, as well as at **NOWCorps (Northern Ohio Watershed Corps) AmeriCorps** host sites throughout the **Central Lake Erie Basin**.

Our dedicated team of six professionals brings a wealth of expertise in watershed protection, environmental education, planning, policy, and stormwater management. Since 2015, our partnerships have secured over \$5 million in restoration funding for watershed communities—funding that has played a pivotal role in reducing flooding and erosion, while improving water quality and enhancing natural habitats.

Over the past two years, our efforts have resulted in the restoration of nearly 2,000 linear feet of stream, engaged over 200 participants in rain barrel workshops, and developed two educational stormwater Storywalks®. Through events like the Ohio Stormwater Conference, webinars, workshops, and a variety of community, library, and school programs, we have educated more than 3,000 individuals on topics critical to both professionals and residents. These educational touchpoints empower community members with the knowledge to make sustainable choices in backyard conservation and land management.

Investing in stormwater management and watershed-based education offers significant economic returns for communities, including:

- Reduced Infrastructure Costs and Mitigated Flood Damage
- Increased Property Values and Property Tax Revenue
- Lower Water Treatment Expenses for communities that treat their own water
- · Enhanced Climate Resilience
- . Engagement and Pride among residents, fostering a stronger sense of community

By becoming a member of TCWP, your community is actively contributing to a healthier, more sustainable environment, reducing future costs, and safeguarding the well-being of both upstream and downstream areas. We look forward to building on our shared successes and achieving even greater environmental benefits together in the coming year. Let's continue to make a lasting impact—join us in 2025 to protect and enrich our watershed communities.







HABITAT!

ENHANCING AQUATIC HABITATS FOR A THRIVING ECOSYSTEM

In 2024, we witnessed significant progress in restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats across our watersheds. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) launched fish translocation efforts to strengthen native fish populations upstream of artificial barriers. These efforts focus on species commonly found in Ohio streams, including various darters and shiners. Fall sampling following the initial translocation showed encouraging results, mirroring the success of NEORSD's past work in Plum Creek to boost stream fish populations. This marks an exciting first step in restoring aquatic connectivity, and we look forward to tracking the long-term impact of these efforts on our watershed's biodiversity.

SUSTAINING BRANDYWINE CREEK WATERSHED

Brandywine Creek watershed remains a vital refuge for diverse plant and animal species, stretching from its headwaters in Hudson to its confluence with the Cuyahoga River. This watershed provides critical habitat that supports regional biodiversity.

Looking ahead, Brandywine Creek will be a focal point for restoration efforts as we enhance habitat health and monitor past projects for invasive plant establishment to ensure a resilient and thriving ecosystem.

TINKER'S CREEK



BRANDYWINE CREEK



RESTORING DARROW ROAD PARK DITCH FOR A HEALTHIER WATERSHED





A \$250,000 OEPA Section 319 grant will support the restoration and permanent protection of riparian habitat and wetlands in this key Tinker's Creek headwaters area. The project will remove invasive species, reintroduce native plants, and enhance stormwater management for long-term resilience. Darrow Road Park Ditch has long suffered from historic dredging and sediment buildup, leading to erosion, poor water quality, and habitat loss. This project will restore the stream's natural flow, reconnect it with its floodplain, and create diverse habitats to support fish and wildlife. Wetlands will also be improved through native plantings, stabilizing the ecosystem and enhancing water quality.

Currently in the design phase, construction is slated for 2025. Once completed, this project will increase habitat resilience, protect water quality, and preserve this important headwaters site in Hudson for both wildlife and the community. We are excited to advance this effort in partnership with the City of Hudson, OEPA, and Friends of Hudson Parks.

AN WATI







Presenters, **7** tracks





Registrants



 Hours Volunteered

OUTREACH & EDUCATION



2 Storywalks



9 Rain barrel workshops



19 Educational programs



5 Guided hikes



7 Educational webinars



7 Tabling events



19 Bags trash cleaned up



6 Bags invasive plants removed



4 Rain/ pollinator gardens

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Warrensville Heights stream clean-up



Twinsburg stormwater storywalk





Warrensville Heights schools community rain garden

INERSHIPS IN

WORKSHOPS



869 Attendees 28 Educational Workshops



We collaborate across the region to drive meaningful change. Our partnerships span volunteers, schools, businesses, local government, and community organizations, working together for a healthier environment.

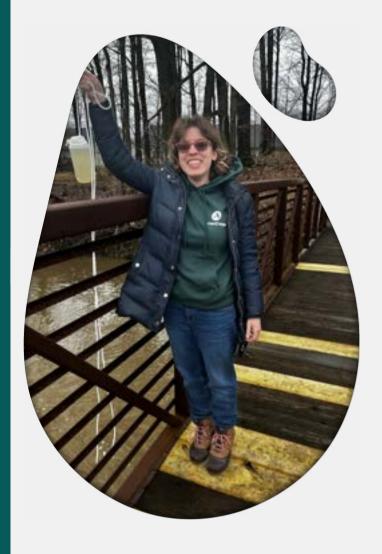
Planting trees in our watershed communities not only enhances natural beauty but also improves water quality, reduces stormwater runoff, stabilizes streambanks, and provides critical habitat—making our environment more resilient for future generations.



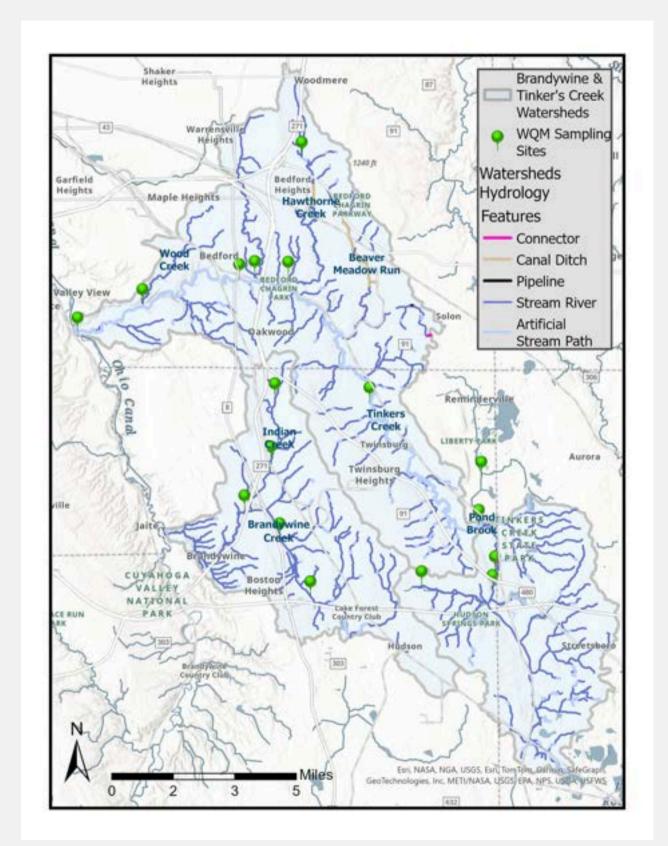
WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

Our volunteer water quality monitoring program remained strong in 2024, thanks to the dedication of 11 committed volunteers. Together, they helped TCWP monitor 17 sites across the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds throughout the sampling season. By measuring key water quality parameters—including pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and water temperature—we continue to track the health of our local waterways. This program not only provides critical data but also empowers volunteers to take an active role in protecting the watersheds they call home.

With the completion of the 2024 season, TCWP has now compiled over five years of water quality data for the Tinker's Creek Watershed—a major milestone in our monitoring efforts! Building on this foundation, we are excited to announce the development of the Tinker's Creek Watershed Report Card. This new public resource will serve as an outreach and education tool, helping us communicate the health of the watershed to residents and stakeholders. The report card will provide a clear, accessible overview of current conditions and will be updated regularly to highlight trends and changes in water quality. Stay tuned for its release in 2025!



WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM



NOWCorps (Northern Ohio Watershed)









Our 5th program year garnered 28 members placed at 17 host sites.

NOWCorps members 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 all that they accomplished: from helping restore Cleveland's urban tree canopy to teaching thousands of youth and adults across Northern Ohio—our members **get things done!**

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



NOWCORPS IMPACT

The greatest story I can add is my newfound confidence... I am excited to put this learning into action to help others understand the amazing resources we have in NE Ohio, and why we need to protect them.

-Callie Sommers, hosted at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

2023-24 NOWCorps Host Sites







































16

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

FORAGED FEAST









DRINKERS FOR TINKER'S





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Rebecah Troutman - Holden Forests & Gardens

Vice President - Ana Burns - Davey Resource Group

Secretary - Karen Farkas - The Plain Dealer *(retired)*

Treasurer - John Day - Wabash Valley College (retired)

At-Large - Elizabeth Myers - Enviroscience, Inc.

Executive Director - Dr. Erica Matheny

DIRECTORS

Samantha Robbins - Beaver Excavating Co.

Josh Herchl - ADS Drainage

Sandy Barbic - Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

Katherine G. Holmok - Kimley-Horn Consultants; Case

Western Reserve University

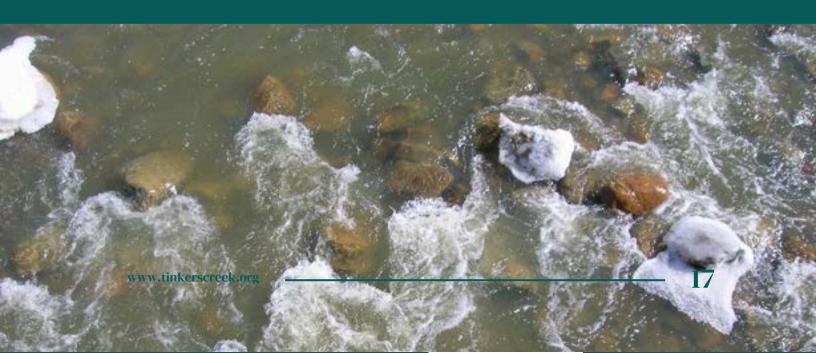
Mike Cunnington - Enbridge

Jesús Sanchez - Restore America's Estuaries

Erik Lange - Squire Patton Boggs

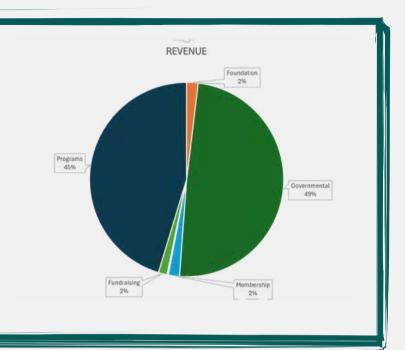
DIRECTORS EMERITUS

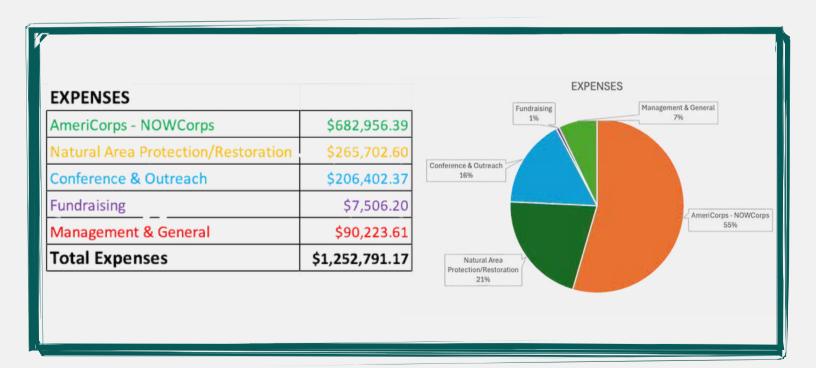
Dr. Michael Liptak, Justin Czekaj, Stacey Faile, Charlie Uray, Chris Vild



Financials

Programs	\$560,164.59
Fundraising	\$17,782.74
Direct Public Support	\$2,685.00
Membership	\$22,840.00
Governmental	\$609,008.59
Foundation	\$23,492.00
REVENUE	





OUR GENEROUS GRANT FUNDERS





SERVE OHIO
Ohlo Commission on Service and Volunteerism

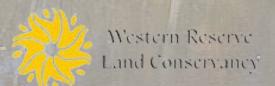


















Our reason is water.™













PARTNERS & IN-KIND SUPPORT 2024

Ashtabula SWCD

Bia Creek Connects

Bluestone Heights

Chagrin River Watershed Partners

City of Avon Lake

Cleveland Metroparks

Cleveland Water Alliance

Coca-Cola Consolidated

Collaborative for the Lake Erie Basin

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Cuyahoga River AOC

Cuyahoga SWCD

Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

Erie SWCD

First Energy Green Team

Friends of Euclid Creek

Geauga SWCD

Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network

Lake SWCD

Lorain CWCD

Medina SWCD

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public

Education

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Portage County Health District

Portage SWCD

Summit Metro Parks

Summit SWCD

U.S EPA Region 5

West Creek Conservancy

Western Reserve Land Conservancy



Thank You



Contact Info

- TinkersCreek.org
- facebook.com/TinkersCreekWP
- instagram.com/tinkerscreekwatershed/
- info@tinkerscreek.org
- 2 10075 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087 PO BOX 444, Twinsburg, OH 44087
- (330) 963-6863

