Watershed at a Glance

What is a watershed?

A *watershed* is land that drains to a common waterbody, like a stream or lake.

Rain and snowmelt carry sediment, pollutants, and debris across roads, yards, and fields, into local waterways, shaping the health of people, fish, wildlife, and habitats.



The above Stonecat Madtom catfish found in Tinker's Creek is an indicator species of healthty water quality.

Tinker's Creek:

- **Largest tributary** to the Cuyahoga River
- Watershed spans **96 sq.** miles across **24** communities (Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, Geauga)
- **~250 miles** of stream, including headwaters, wetlands, and developed areas
- Home to sensitive habitats and ongoing restoration

This publication was completed by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners using funds from NEORSD.. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NEORSD.

Learn More & Get Involved

Interested in volunteering?
Visit https://tinkerscreek.org/get-involved/

Take a deeper dive into our watershed data at:
https://tinkerscreek.org/what-we-do/stewardship/water-quality-monitoring/

Explore our interactive StoryMap

https://arcg.is/0j89uW0

About Us

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring water quality and habitats in the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds through community partnerships.

For questions contact:

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Tinker's Creek Report Card 2025



Tinker's Creek WATERSHED PARTNERS

Rediscover • Respect • Revitalize

Data Collection

We collect water samples twice a month from April through October. This data helps us spot pollution, solve problems, track changes, and keep our streams healthy for people, plants, and wildlife.

Below are the key water quality indicators we monitor.

Indicators of Stream Health

Water Temperature: Many organisms require a specific range of temperatures.

pH: Healthy streams have a small pH range where organisms can live and grow.

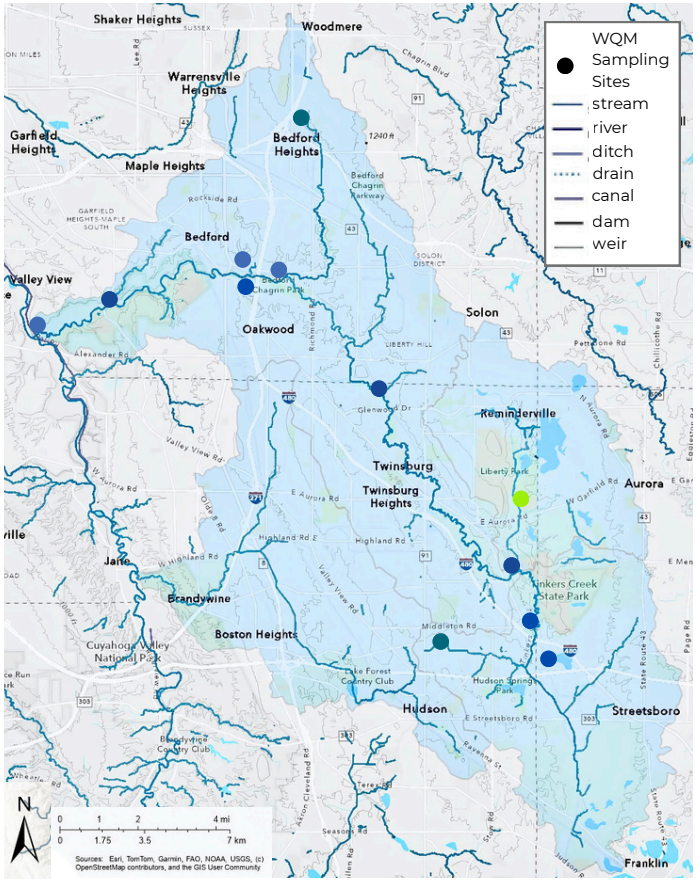
Dissolved Oxygen (DO): Essential for fish and aquatic life.

E. coli: High bacteria levels can mean harmful waste in the water.

Chloride: Winter road salt washes into streams and makes them salty, which hurts animals and plants.

Tinker's Creek 2025 Report Card

Tinker's Creek Watershed scored an overall grade of **96 (A)**, with all 3 parameters scoring 94 or higher. These scores indicate healthy water **for aquatic organisms**. *Please note that this grade does not necessarily reflect health conditions for **human use***. To see all our water quality data, including E. coli, explore our water quality monitoring map at *https://tinkerscreek.org/wqm-data*.



Water Quality Grades

A B C D F

Common Concerns in Our Streams



E. coli



Nitrate



Chloride



Microplastics



Stormwater flow

Take Action

Pick Up Waste - Collect pet waste and maintain septic systems to reduce E. coli bacteria contamination. Learn more at *https://tinkerscreek.org/pick-pet-waste/*

Reduce Fertilizer - Use sparingly or plant native species to lower nitrate impacts.

Use Salt Wisely - Shovel first, apply only what's needed, and sweep up extra. Check out our winter salt guide at: *https://tinkerscreek.org/sensbile-salting-practices-tips-home/*

Limit Plastic - Avoid single-use plastics such as bottled water and plastic straws and prioritize natural fabrics (like cotton) to reduce microplastics in our water.

Capture Rainwater - Install a rain barrel or rain garden to slow runoff and reduce pollution. Register for an upcoming rain barrel workshop on our **Events** page.