

# Tinkers Creek Watershed Fact Sheet



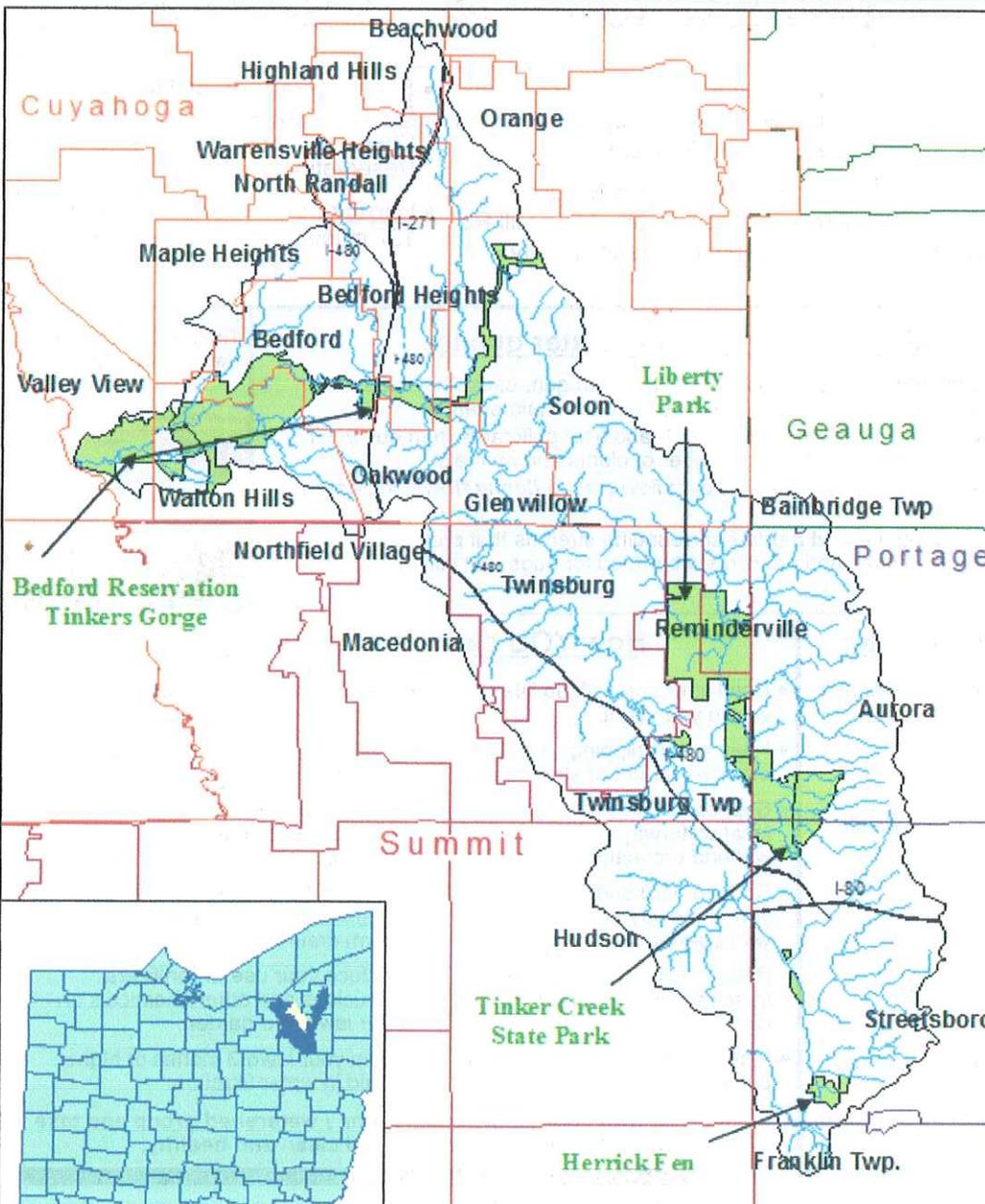
## Tinkers Creek (TC) Watershed Spans 4 Counties and 24 Communities!

Cuyahoga has 13 communities= 41.68% of county in TC watershed

Geauga has 1 community= 0.59% in TC watershed

Portage has 4 communities= 27.18% in TC watershed

Summit has 6 communities= 30.55% in TC watershed



### Map key

- Tinkers Creek Watershed Boundary
- Managed Natural Areas



### Tinkers Creek

...Watershed collects water from 96.4 square miles of land!

...is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River and is 30 miles long!

### Did you know??

- Tinkers Creek Watershed hard surface cover ranges from about 6 to 44%!
- As water moves across lawns and hard surfaces into storm drains, pollution is picked up and sent untreated to creeks and rivers which eventually empty into Lake Erie.
- Vegetated surfaces, like rain gardens, help water to soak in which allows for natural filtration of polluted runoff.
- The rate of extinction for freshwater animals is 5 times greater than that for land animals.

*Only Rain Down the Drain!*

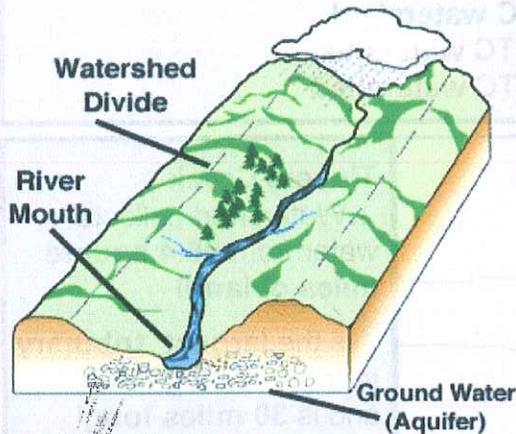
**What is a watershed????  
Flip to find out!**

# WATER—THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE!

**What is a watershed?** A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. Our landscape is made up of interconnected watersheds.

**We all live in a watershed!**

## A Watershed



## Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP)

Non-profit organization established in 2006.

**Mission:** Protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinkers Creek Watershed through community partnerships.

Become a TCWP member today and become a part of the solution to protect our water, our watershed, our future!

Visit [www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org](http://www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org) for more information!



## Natural Highlights of Tinkers Creek Watershed

- **The Great Falls of Tinkers Creek** is in Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation Viaduct Park
- **Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve** located off of Old Mill Rd at the Summit/Portage County Border.
- **Scenic Overlook at Tinkers Creek Gorge**—located in the Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation
- **Herrick Fen** in Portage county, 127 miles with a walking trail

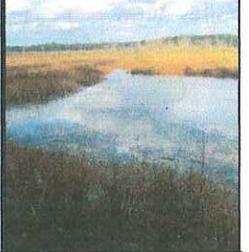
Great Falls of Tinkers Creek



## Major issues impacting water quality

- **Excess nutrients**, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, caused by urban pollution and fertilizers from gardens, lawn and turf maintenance.
- **Loss of wetlands.** Wetlands help absorb and filter pollutants from our water and provide habitat for a diverse number of plants and animals.
- After major storms, high intensity stream flow (called **flashy flows**) increases **stream bank erosion**.
- **Loss of green space and habitat** surrounding streams that provide a buffer zone to filter pollutants and provide shelter/food for bugs and fish.

Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve



## How the TCWP protects your water

- Secures funding for a full-time Watershed Coordinator.
- Provides educational outreach through:
  - In school education presentations
  - Community workshops and seminars
  - Newsletters, articles, website and social media.
- Educational Watershed Events:
  - Watershed Festival
  - Community Leader Breakfast
  - Stormwater Conference
- Stormwater ordinance reviews for communities
- Community Rain Garden Grant Program
- Creating partnership to strengthen protection of our communities waterways
- Helps communities institute good stormwater practices by providing guidance and support.

## How YOU can protect your water

- Don't litter and pick up litter where you see it.
- Keep grass clippings, paper and other waste out of storm drains.
- Support policies that protect your local waterways, such as wetland protection ordinances.
- Reduce hard surfaces. Replace your driveway and walkways with permeable paving.
- Retain water on your property! Install a rain barrel and/or plant a rain garden.
- Pick up outside pet waste and put it in the trash.
- Clean paint from brushes, rollers and pans in the sink.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a carwash.
- Reduce toxic substance usage around your home and on the lawn and garden.
- Never put motor oil, antifreeze, pet waste or other foreign materials in storm drains.
- Reduce your use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals on your lawn and garden.
- Keep your lawn 3 inches or higher to aid in water filtration.

**Get involved with your local conservation / watershed group and take part in keeping your watershed clean and healthy.**



Search: Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners



@TinkersCreek\_WP



[www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org](http://www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org)

Babette Oestreicher  
Tinkers Creek Watershed Coordinator  
PO Box 444  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087  
216-789-6479

Email: [babette@tinkerscreekwatershed.org](mailto:babette@tinkerscreekwatershed.org)  
(email to sign up for e-Newsletter)

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