

Mission

Preserving and enhancing the scenic and environmental quality of the Chagrin River watershed for people, plants and animals



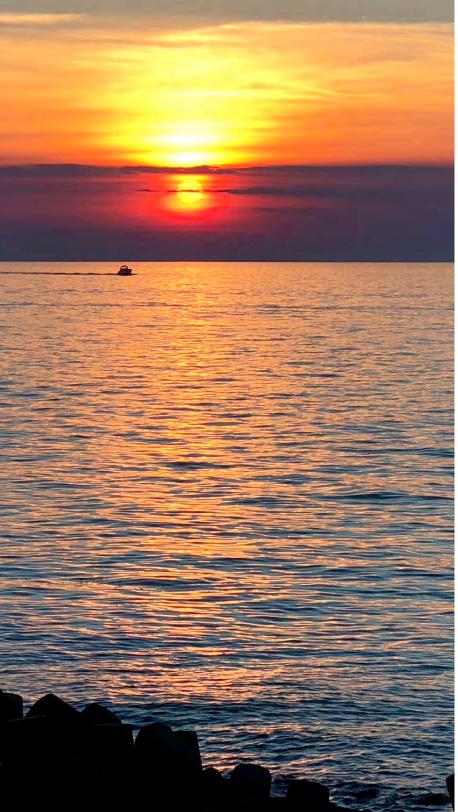
Vision

Healthy waterways that support vibrant communities where we hike, bike, fish, bird-watch and enjoy the great outdoors



#### Members

**Auburn Township** Aurora Bainbridge Township Bentleyville City of Chardon **Chardon Township Chagrin Falls** Chagrin Falls Township Cleveland Metroparks Eastlake Gates Mills Geauga Park District **Hunting Valley** Kirtland Kirtland Hills Lake County Lake Metroparks Mantua Township Mayfield Heights Mayfield Village Mentor Moreland Hills Munson Township **Newbury Township** Orange Village Pepper Pike **Russell Township** Solon South Russell Waite Hill Wickliffe Willoughby Willoughby Hills Woodmere



# President's Message

Dear Friends -

As a longtime resident of Northeast Ohio, I feel a strong connection to the Chagrin River and Lake Erie. Much of the Chagrin River watershed has healthy forest cover due to preservation and restoration efforts from groups like Chagrin River Watershed Partners.

Healthy forests keep streams clear and cold and support aquatic insects, birds, amphibians, and coldwater fish. The Chagrin River watershed has 20 miles of designated coldwater habitat streams, the most of any river in Ohio. When forest canopy is removed and replaced with impervious surfaces like roads and buildings, more polluted runoff reaches streams and contributes to flooding, streambank erosion, and loss of fish habitat.



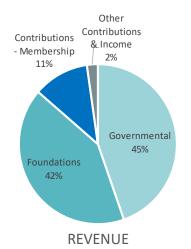
Chagrin River Watershed Partners, a nonprofit corporation, was formed in 1996 by communities, counties and park districts. The Watershed Partners help people address flooding, erosion, and water quality problems as communities grow. Stormwater runoff from hard surfaces is a major cause of water pollution and contributes to flooding and erosion. The Watershed Partners develop cost-effective, prevention-focused solutions to address stormwater problems. We protect and restore streams, wetlands, and forested landscapes to benefit wildlife and minimize flooding and erosion impacts on homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Good for nature, good for people.

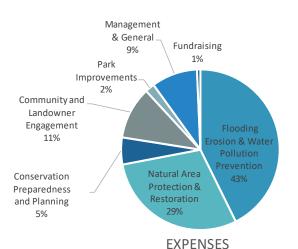
We are excited about what is coming up in 2019. We are working on projects that will restore over a mile of streams and nearly 8 acres of wetland and riparian areas. By working together, we can assure a sustainable future for people, plants and animals in and around our waters. To find out how you can help keep our waterways healthy, we invite you to check out our website at crwp.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for exciting news and updates.

- William Tomko, President, Chagrin River Watershed Partners

(n 2018) Chagrin River Watershed Partners worked with its members and partners to leverage \$51 for every dollar of dues and implement projects for the cannot do this work without your support.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	
As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, Accrual Basis			January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018	
ASSETS	2018	2017	REVENUE	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 300,532	\$ 190,935	Public Support	
Receivables	223,108	66,894	Governmental	\$ 454,940
Investments	280,000	280,000	Foundations	424,574
Deposits	2,750	1,430	Contributions - Membership	116,356
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 806,390	\$ 539,259	Contributions - Other	12,528
			Donated Services	9,632
LIABILITIES			Revenue	
Accounts Payable	\$ 47 <i>,</i> 778	\$ 10,523	Investment Return	545
Accrued Compensation-Related	- 0 -	25,346	Other Income	100
Deferred Revenue	- 0 -	31,522	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	\$ 1,018,675
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 47,778	\$ 67,391		
			EXPENSES	
NET ASSETS			Program Services	\$ 658,352
Without Donor Restrictions			Management & General	68,543
- Undesignated	\$ 141,695	\$ 110,227	Fundraising	5,036
- Designated by the Board for Operating Reserve	280,000	280,000	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 731,931
With Donor Restrictions	336,917	81,641		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 758,612	\$ 471,868	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 286,744
			NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	471,868
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 806,390	\$ 539,259	NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	758,612





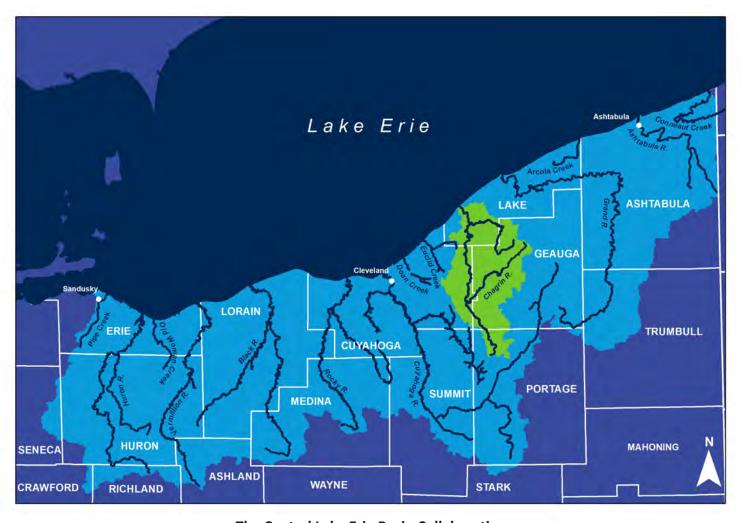


Chagrin River Watershed
Partners co-leads the Central
Lake Erie Basin Collaborative,
a network of organizations
and initiatives that work
together to protect and
restore natural areas and
promote stormwater
solutions for healthy
streams and Lake Erie.

The Collaborative addresses environmental threats to local waterways and Lake Erie on a larger scale than could be achieved through the efforts of individual organizations.

Be on the lookout for highlights about the Collaborative's achievements throughout our Annual Report! To learn more about the Collaborative, visit centrallakeerie.org.

# Collaborating for Healthy Watersheds



#### The Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative

Big Creek Connects • Black River Area of Concern • Bluestone Heights • Brandywine Creek
Breakneck Creek • Chagrin River Watershed Partners • Chippewa Creek • Cuyahoga River Restoration
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership • Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed Program
Friends of Euclid Creek (Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District) • Friends of Old Woman Creek
Friends of the Crooked River • Friends of Vermilion River • Friends of Yellow Creek • Grand-Ashtabula-Conneaut Partnership
Mentor Marsh/Arcola Creek/McKinley Creek (Lake Soil & Water Conservation District)
Middle Cuyahoga River • Mill Creek Watershed Partnership • Plum Creek
Rocky River Watershed Council (Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District) • The Nature Conservancy
Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners • West Creek Conservancy

# Protecting & Restoring Streams & Wetlands



### Did You Know

Protecting & restoring your local waterways bring many long-term benefits:

- More vibrant economy
- Fewer flooding & erosion impacts on homes, businesses, and infrastructure
- Higher property values
- Healthier fish habitat & lower drinking water treatment costs
- Livable & resilient communities
- Less algal blooms & dead zones in streams, inland lakes, and Lake Erie

## Chagrin River Restoration

The Village of Hunting Valley partnered with Chagrin River Watershed Partners to complete a river restoration project using a large woody debris approach. The Village was awarded an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Section 319(h) grant to sponsor a river restoration project on two privately owned parcels along the main stem of the Chagrin River. The project site, located on a bend, was experiencing severe erosion, with streambanks as high as fifteen feet, downed trees, two broken stormwater outfalls, and the absence of a functioning riparian area. These conditions contributed to increased sediment entering the river and impacted the river's ability to properly function and provide habitat.

Before: Severe erosion

This project is estimated to prevent approximately the following amounts of pollutants from entering the Chagrin River annually:

207 tons of sediment, 423 pounds of nitrogen, and 207 pounds of phosphorous.



Since 2014, the
Watershed Partners
and the
Collaborative have



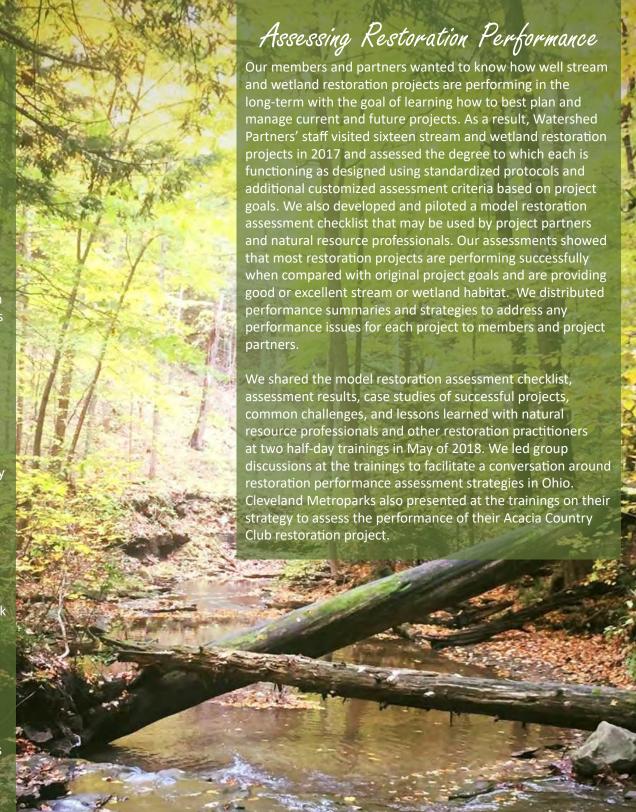
planted OVER
8,000 trees,
protected
26,000 acres
of open space and
17 miles of
streams, and secured
over \$20 million to
protect and restore
streams, wetlands,
and parks.

## Stewarding Lake Erie Streams

Chagrin River Watershed Partners works with the Collaborative to protect and steward healthy stream corridors flowing to Lake Erie. For example, the Watershed Partners assisted Ashtabula County Metroparks with obtaining a \$198,612 Clean Ohio Fund grant to protect 52 acres of riparian forest and wetlands along Conneaut Creek, a state designated Wild and Scenic River. We also assisted them in receiving a funding nomination through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Resources Restoration Sponsor Program to preserve 30 acres of high-quality riparian forest, floodplains, and wetlands along Smokey Run, a coldwater tributary to Conneaut Creek. These projects will help the Metroparks achieve their mission to preserve open space, maintain the high quality of this coldwater stream and its riparian wetlands, and provide benefits for people and wildlife that would be lost if this area were to be developed.

Not every stream mile or acre of wetland can be protected through park-owned land or conservation easements, but communities can adopt natural resource protection codes such as riparian and wetland setbacks. These codes were developed by the Watershed Partners soon after our founding to help protect the free flood control, erosion control, and water quality services provided by healthy riparian and wetland areas. The codes continue to be one of the most effective tools to protect the function of our waterbodies. The Watershed Partners and the Collaborative helped 21 communities adopt or implement riparian and wetland setback codes in 2018. We presented to community officials and staff, shared tailored resources such as draft riparian setback maps and impact analysis data, and identified priority conservation areas. We also reviewed setback variance requests and development plans for communities that adopted these codes to ensure that setbacks are considered early during development planning. If your community is interested in adopting riparian setbacks, please contact us for assistance today!

This work is supported by a \$200,000 award from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities' Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program and matched with \$200,000 of local in-kind contributions.





## Healthy Forests Have:

- Trees of different sizes and ages
- Many different native plant species, including understory plants like spring ephemerals



- Regeneration of future-adapted species
- Dead trees, including snags and logs for habitat
- Thick forest floors made of nutrient rich leaf litter
- Reduced competition from invasive species



## Increasing Forest Resiliency

The Watershed Partners are coordinating a project to enhance the health and resilience of 500 acres of forests near high quality coldwater stream habitats in the Chagrin and lower Grand River watersheds. Forests provide clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, and recreational opportunities. However, our forests face an uncertain future, with many challenges such as invasive plants, insects, and diseases, over-browsing by deer, warming temperatures, and changes in precipitation patterns. These stressors can also interact with each other, increasing the importance of responsible, science-based forest management to ensure that forests stay healthy for the future.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service, the Wilderness Center, The Nature Conservancy, and The Ohio State University provided site-specific forest management guidance on Cleveland Metroparks, Lake Metroparks, and Holden Arboretum properties. Forest management activities on Metroparks and Arboretum properties include girdling and thinning to reduce competition and favor the best-formed and healthiest trees, planting native understory species, managing invasive species, and building deer exclosures to prevent over-browse. Lake Metroparks also treated Eastern Hemlocks, which are critical for shading coldwater streams, for pests including the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid and the Elongate Hemlock Scale.

The project approach was shared at the Great Lakes Adaptation Forum in Ann Abor, Michigan and a Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) workshop to develop a Biodiversity Vision for the region. Think Media Studios also developed a video about the value of healthy forests and the threats that affect them.

This project is funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund through the Doris Duke Foundation.



The Watershed Partners work with communities, private landowners and partners to develop and implement large scale, complex watershed management projects.



Just last year, we worked on 42 projects totaling over 89 million dollars.

# Preparing for the Future

## Watershed Planning

The Watershed Partners received a \$62.575 Coastal Management Assistance Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to develop twelve watershed plans for the Chagrin River, Grand River, Cuyahoga River and Coastal Lake Erie tributaries. The watershed plans cover relatively small geographic areas called subwatersheds and identify opportunities to restore and preserve water resources. The plans focus on non-point source pollution, or pollution that occurs over a diffuse area and for which it is difficult to identify a single source. The plans also identify critical areas that should be targeted to improve impaired waters and describe in detail potential projects to address the impairments. Watershed plans must be approved by both Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Projects must be in approved plans to be eligible for many sources of grant funds. The Watershed Partners and our project partners, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, and





Lake County Planning and Community Development are contributing local match towards this grant.

We are always looking for updates to the watershed plans through public meetings, surveys, or direct input from local governments, park districts, residents, and community organizations about issues such as water pollution, flooding and streambank or coastal erosion. We also need information about natural areas that should be protected and enhanced for public greenspace and recreation. To learn about upcoming public meetings for watershed plans being developed in your community, please visit crwp.org.

# Helping Reduce Stormwater Footprints

With our partners in the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative, we encourage landowners to manage stormwater on their properties and participate in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's stormwater fee credit program.

The Collaborative developed a method for onsite consultations to help residents select and plan stormwater control measures, and conducted 54 residential consultations. Consultations included recommending best stormwater control measures (rain barrels, rain gardens, downspout disconnection, pervious pavement, etc.), assisting with the stormwater fee credit application process, and offering advice on other flooding, erosion, or water quality issues. We also helped 13 businesses apply for fee credits and conducted consultations for five businesses where we recommended stormwater control measures and provided information on how to obtain stormwater fee credits.

The Collaborative also conducted 10 focus groups with residents and community leaders to gauge interest in installing stormwater control measures and

TREE PLANTING & CONSERVATION
DISCONNECTED DOWNSPOUT
WITH SPLASH BLOCK
RAIN BARREL

VEGETATED SWALE
WITH NATIVE PLANTINGS

© Biohabitats, Inc.

Residential stormwater control measures

participating in incentive programs. This process identified that some communities are interested in participating in incentive programs. We will continue the discussion with interested communities, seek more feedback from contractors, and develop models for potential programs. We hope to generate greater community interest by identifying and further defining the roles of potential partners that could manage and implement incentive programs.

"Thank you very much for meeting with us to inspect the drainage issues on our property. We greatly appreciate your ideas and suggestions. We will let you know how we proceed."

- Orange Village landowner



Work highlighted on these two pages was funded by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through a service agreement with the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative.



The Watershed Partners outreach efforts empower people



and communities
to take care of
streams and Lake Erie.
In 2018, we helped
180 landowners
address stormwater,
erosion and flooding
concerns.

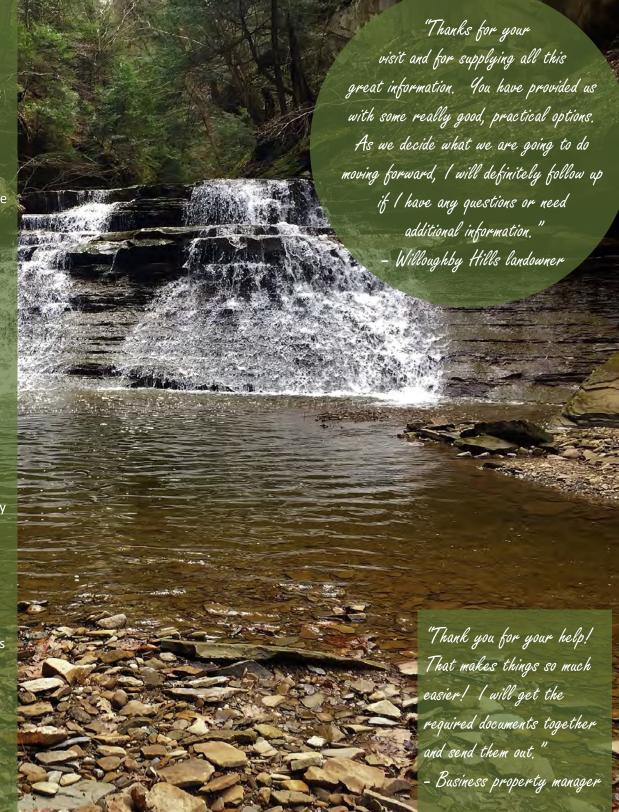
## Enhancing the Tools in your Toolbox

Community Tools: Removing impervious surface is a way for businesses and institutions to lower their stormwater management fee and reduce their impact on storm sewer systems. To target areas where parking is underutilized, the Collaborative developed recommendations for how many parking spaces could be removed and provided calculations of the stormwater fee savings from removing unneeded parking spaces. We included the recommendations in an update to our model off-street parking code that communities can adopt to reduce their stormwater footprint.

We also developed a model downspout disconnection code that communities can adopt. Downspout disconnection is the process of separating roof downspouts from the storm sewer system and redirecting stormwater runoff from roofs onto lawns or gardens. This practice reduces demand on sewer systems and protects the quality of our rivers and streams. The Collaborative presented the codes and implementation methods to municipalities, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency staff, the National Park Service and several private organizations interested in codes and programming that improve stormwater management and reduce impervious cover.

Professional Tools: The Collaborative held two workshops on residential stormwater control measures such as rain barrels, rain gardens, downspout disconnection and pervious pavement for environmental consulting firms, landscaping companies, community development corporations, and city groundskeepers. The workshops included information on the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's stormwater fee credit program, a case study of a residential rain garden initiative, how to design, install, and maintain residential stormwater control measures, and contractor certification programs.

Landowner Tools: The Collaborative developed a stormwater myths brochure, a streamside stewardship guide for property owners, and a fact sheet on how to install live stakes (dormant, live woody cuttings) to stabilize streambanks. The Collaborative will post these educational materials on their websites and distribute them to Northeast Ohio landowners to help them make informed decisions as they manage their landscapes. Visit crwp.org to view these materials and learn more about how you can help preserve the Chagrin River today.



# Connecting People to the River



## Floating the River

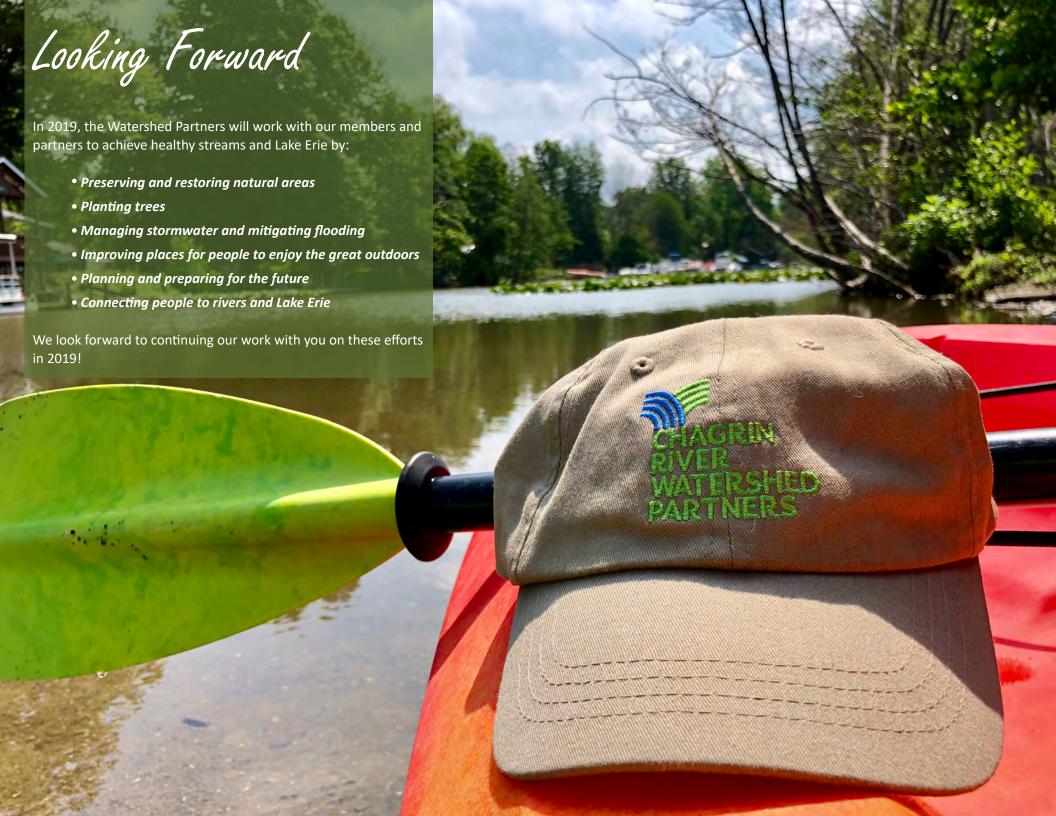
The Watershed Partners celebrated Ohio Scenic Rivers 50th anniversary by conducting two public canoe floats in Eastlake. Thirty-seven people had a blast paddling the Chagrin River thanks to a partnership with the City of Eastlake, Lake County Stormwater Management Department, Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Scenic Rivers Program, and Chagrin River Kayak & Paddleboard Rental & Repair. Paddlers learned about preventing stormwater pollution at home and in their communities.





The Watershed Partners joined the 50th Anniversary of Ohio's State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program to celebrate 50 years of river conservation success stories. Staff participated in Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Northeast Ohio Scenic River events at Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark and Geauga Park District's Bass Lake Preserve.





Thank Gould Chagrin River Watershed Partner's 2018 accomplishments were made possible through partnerships with our members; Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Portage County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, County Planning Commissions and Health Departments; Lake County Engineer; Lake County Stormwater Management Department; Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority; Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Port Authority of Eastlake; the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative; Grant Funders; Sponsors; Donors; In-Kind Services Providers and Volunteers. Together, we're protecting, restoring and enhancing the Chagrin River for this and future generations.

### Executive Committee

William Tomko, President, At Large Director Mary Samide, Vice President, At Large Director Christopher Horn, Secretary, At Large Director Kathy Mulcahy, Treasurer, Director, Orange Village Jason Kasunick, Director, Eastlake Greg Studen, At Large Director Irene McMullen, Director, Munson Township

## Staff

Heather Elmer, Executive Director
Alicia Beattie, Associate Director
Laura Bonnell, Project Manager
Kimberly Brewster, Deputy Director
Kristen Hebebrand, Project Manager
Josh Myers, Project Manager
Linda Moran, Administrative Manager
Mackenzie Snyder, Administrative Assistant
Christina Znidarsic, Associate Director (through October 2018)
Keely Davidson-Bennett, Associate Director (through December 2018)

### Directors

PJ Cavanagh, Auburn Township
Denise Januska, Aurora
Kristina O'Brien, Bainbridge Township
Leonard Spremulli, Bentleyville
John Finley, Chagrin Falls Township
Greta Insolia, Chagrin Falls Village
Jeffrey Smock, Chardon
Michael Brown, Chardon Township
Jennifer Grieser, Cleveland Metroparks
Jason Kasunick, Eastlake
Sandra Turner, Gates Mills
Matthew McCue, Geauga Park District
William O'Neill Jr., Hunting Valley

Douglas Davidson, Kirtland
John F. Turben, Kirtland Hills
Daniel P. Troy, Lake County
Vince Urbanski, Lake Metroparks
John Festa, Mantua Township
Susan Sabetta, Mayfield Heights
Douglas Metzung, Mayfield Village
Tim McParland, Mentor
Randy Nielsen, Moreland Hills
Irene McMullen, Munson Township
Glen Quigley, Newbury Township
Kathy Mulcahy, Orange Village

Richard Bain, Pepper Pike
Gary Gabram, Russell Township
Dan Driscoll, Solon
William Koons, South Russell
Christine Sherwin, Waite Hill
Joe D'Ambrosio, Wickliffe
Robert Fiala, Willoughby
Janet Majka, Willoughby Hills
Benjamin I. Holbert, III, Woodmere
Alison Ball, At Large
Mark Cain, At Large
Roger Gettig, At Large

James R. Gills, At Large
George "Chip" Hess, At Large
Christopher Horn, At Large
Donna Klements, At Large
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Brett Rodstrom, At Large
Timothy A. Miller, At Large
Mary Samide, At Large
Greg Studen, At Large
William A. Tomko, At Large
Peter J. Whiting, At Large

### Funders

The Cleveland Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
The William Bingham Foundation
Great Lakes Commission
Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Foundation through
the Great Lakes Commission
Lake County Stormwater Management
Department
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division
of Real Estate

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Section

319 Grant Program

US Endowment for Forestry and Communities through the US Environmental Protection Agency and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service US Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes

Restoration Initiative US Forest Service

Western Reserve Land Conservancy through the Dominion Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund matching funds provided by Village of Gates Mills and Village of Moreland Hills and Lake County Stormwater Management Department

### Sponsors

#### \$250

Biohabitats, Inc.

Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.

CT Consultants

Davey Resource Group

Dominic A. Visconsi Jr.

**Environmental Design Group** 

Flexible Pavements of Ohio

Good Nature Organic Lawn Care

GPD Group

**Gresham Smith & Partners** 

**Holden Forests & Gardens** 

HZW Environmental Consultants, LLC

NTH Consultants, Ltd.

Ohio Landscape Association, Inc.

Ohio Stream Preservation, Inc.

Osborn Engineering

Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc.

Portage Park District

**Process Technology** 

RiverReach Construction

Stephen Hovancsek & Associates, Inc.

Tetra Tech Inc.

TGC Engineering, LLC

The CW Courtney Company

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

### Other Donations

#### \$3,000

Anonymous

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous

#### \$250 - \$499

Adam Zimmerman
EarthShare Ohio Donors
Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders
Ohio Stream Preservation, Inc.
Process Technology

#### \$100 - \$249

Nolan Beck

Chagrin River Salmon Association

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Protect Geauga Parks

#### under \$100

AmazonSmile Foundation

Jim Bonafonti Katherine Cox James Gazso David Kiessling

Angela Pohl Mary Purcell

Kattya Romero Mike Sanson

Troy Szabo

#### **Donated Services**

Chagrin River Kayak & Paddleboard Rental & Repair Christopher Horn

Think Media Studios

Freepik (sketches in sidebars)

#### In Kind

Big Creek Connects

Cleveland Metroparks

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation

District (including Rocky River and Euclid

Creek Watershed Programs)

Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

Holden Forest & Gardens

Institute for Conservation Leadership

Jay Dorsey, The Ohio State University

Lake County Port and Economic

**Development Authority** 

Lake Metroparks

Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine

Research Reserve

Portage Soil and Water Conservation District

Ryan Winston, The Ohio State University

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners

West Creek Conservancy

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

& all our volunteers in 2018!





Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

Street address: 38238 Glenn Avenue Willoughby OH 44094

Mailing address: P.O. Box 229 Willoughby OH 44096-0229



440-975-3870 www.crwp.org @chagrinriverwatershed @chagrin\_river