Ohio Stormwater Conference 2026 Registration Information

May 6-8, 2026

Kalahari Conference Center - Sandusky

ohstormwaterconference.com

HIGHLIGHTS!

- Kayak Tour/Birding Tour/Speakeasy Event
- Informative Presentations
- Networking
- Incredible Exhibitors and Sponsors
- Preconference Trainings and Exams

OHIO stormwater conference 2026

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19th Annual
Ohio Stormwater Conference

Conference Overview

Recognizing that watershed and stormwater management involves people of varying disciplines and degrees of experience, our conference engages speakers experienced in many aspects of stormwater or water resource management. Speakers will address: examples of planning and design; new standards being developed; incorporating environmental goals into traditional stormwater areas; practice effectiveness; program administration and management; communications; as well as meeting regulatory requirements. Beyond learning from listening and dialogue with speakers, the conference provides an excellent opportunity to meet, network and collaborate with peers.

Who Should Attend?

Planned by a committee of professionals who deal with stormwater issues on a daily basis, the conference is appropriate for public and private engineers, planners, policy makers, scientists, managers, and elected officials throughout Ohio and the region. Those interested in innovative solutions to common issues relating to stormwater management should attend.

Continuing Education

A Certificate of Attendance will be provided to all individuals who attend the conference. This certificate, along with a copy of the agenda, will assist individuals needing to document professional development hours for their technical profession. We are also seeking to get approved hours from a variety of professions. Please contact Harry Stark with any questions at 216-385-5248 or harry@tinkerscreek.org.

Kalahari Conference Center

Kalahari Resort and Conference Center is located at 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Complete directions can be found on the conference website.

Hotel Information

We are pleased to announce that the Conference has secured a block of rooms for the conference. Secure your room today!

Booking Website:
https://book.passkey.com/e/51154352

Go to the conference website and under hotel/travel is a direct link to the reservation page.

Note: The Resort Fee has been waived and will not be charged on any guest room. The standard wording on their website and confirmation letters though cannot be changed so it will reference the Resort Fee but no fee will be assessed.

Presented By

The Ohio Stormwater Conference is presented annually by the Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners and a dedicated group of volunteers and partners.

Tinker's Creek
WATERSHED PARTNERS

Conference Schedule

The Below Schedule is Subject to Change

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Kayak Tour
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Birding Tour
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	MS4 Boot Camp
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	The Hidden Door Speakeasy Event

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Exhibit Area open 8:30 a.m.. - 7:30 p.m.

7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration / Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions with breaks
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon
1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions with breaks
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Reception

Friday, May 8, 2026

Exhibit Area open	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration / Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions with breaks

Registration Type/Fee

Attendee		Speaker	Student	Scholarship: provided by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners
$250.00	In Person ($300 after 4/15/26)	$125.00	$100.00	$100.00
$10.00	Kayak Tour			
$10.00	Birding Tour			
$80.00	The Hidden Door Speakeasy Event			

Registration Includes:

- Unlimited admission to the sessions of your choice on both days
- Admission to morning breakfasts and all breaks
- Admission to luncheon on Thursday
- Admission to the reception on Thursday

Register online: ohstormwaterconference.com

Questions? Contact us at 216-385-5248 or email at harry@tinkerscreek.org or allie@tinkerscreek.org

MS4 Boot Camp and Tours

Envirocert International Classes and Exams

ECI will be providing in person review classses and exams prior to the Ohio Stormwater Conference. These classes and exams will take place at Kalahari before the Conference begins.

Review Classes, May 5, 2026:

- CPESC
- CESSWI
- CPSWQ
- CPMSM

Exams, May 6, 2026:

- CPESC
- CESSWI
- CPSWQ
- CPMSM
- CPISM
- NGICP

Please visit the ECI website for additional information, including class and exam details and registration.
https://envirocert.org/events/category/exams-reviews/page/2/

MS4 Boot Camp

The Ohio Stormwater Association (OSWA) hosts MS4 Bootcamp the day before the Ohio Stormwater Conference. As a pre-conference event, attendees register and pay in a separate process from the conference. Pre-registration is required. Join us for a full day of practical learning and peer exchange at the 2026 MS4 Bootcamp, designed to strengthen compliance and improve real-world stormwater outcomes. Whether you're new to MS4 responsibilities or refining an established program, this bootcamp offers actionable takeaways, candid discussion, and valuable networking.

This in-person training will feature updates from Ohio EPA, step-by-step guidance for building stronger SWMPs, and hands-on insights into MCM implementation, IDDE, pollution prevention, and post-construction controls.

COST: $70 for WMAO-OSWA members, $95 for non-members includes

A day full of experienced and interesting speakers
Topics that include lessons learned, proven tools, funding strategies, and integrated permitting approaches.
5.0 professional development hours certificate, approval by EnviroCert pending
Hot lunch buffet, Coffee, tea, and break snacks

Register today: **https://www.wmao.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=259593&item_id=2884749**

Kayak Tour

Join the Ohio Coastal Training Program for a tour of the barrier beach and the very first Ohio Nature-Based Shoreline Certification Pilot Project before embarking on a paddling tour of the estuary. Staff will discuss some of the different initiatives of the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, including shoreline stabilization techniques, stormwater management practices, and citizen science monitoring. Canoes/kayaks, paddles, and life preservers provided by OWC NERR. Please bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray and dress for the weather.

Price: $10.00 Time: 9am-11am
Place: Old Woman Creek Reserve Boathouse, 2005 Cleveland Rd E, Huron OH 44839

Birding Tour, Tasting Event

Birding Program at Sheldon Marsh, Ohio

Join TCWP Watershed Coordinator Matt Siefert on a guided birding hike as we search for spring migrants. The Lake Erie coast is a major hotspot for bird migration, and participants will have the opportunity to see some of Ohio's most sought-after species. Meet at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, 2715 Cleveland Rd W, Huron, OH 44839. Carpooling recommended if possible. Come prepared to walk 1-2 miles of trails. Binoculars recommended, but some will be provided. Birders of all skill levels welcome. Maximum 10 participants.

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Cost: $10.00

Guided birding tour, including interpretive talks on bird species, migration, and habitat.
Transportation: Participants are responsible for their transportation to Sheldon Marsh. We encourage carpooling where possible. Upon arrival, please gather at the designated meeting point.

The Hidden Door Speakeasy Event

Step behind the velvet rope and into an evening inspired by classic speakeasies, designed for good drinks, good food, and easy conversation.

Low light, smooth pours, and a relaxed atmosphere set the tone. Throughout the night, skilled mixologists will craft both classic and inventive cocktails, while guests can build their own bourbon drink—choosing flavors and finishes to create a personalized pour with a nod to the Prohibition era.

An elevated grazing menu anchors the experience, starting with a generous charcuterie spread featuring salami, capicola, and summer sausage alongside Havarti, pepper jack, and aged cheddar, with olives, pickles, mustard, crackers, toast points, and mixed nuts.

Butler-passed bites keep things moving, including Bloody Mary shrimp shooters and bacon-wrapped stuffed jalapeños.

At the center of the evening, a chef-attended action station features braised short ribs finished with cabernet sauce, served with Boursin-whipped mashed potatoes and tri-color carrots.

The night wraps up with a Bananas Foster station—an interactive dessert experience where chefs caramelize bananas in butter, brown sugar, and cinnamon before flambéing them tableside with rum and banana liqueur.

Come for the cocktails, stay for the flavors, and leave feeling like you've discovered something worth sharing!!

Price: $80.00
Time: 6pm-8pm
Place: Kalahari Resort

Program Sessions and Topics

Thursday May 7, 2026

Opening

Harry Stark, City of Aurora
Welcome to the 19th annual Ohio Stormwater Conference and overview of stormwater regulations in Ohio, regional success stories, and future outlooks on regulations, projects and rainfall.

Program Sessions

Watershed Planning and Restoration

Thursday

30 Years of Watershed Protection & Strategies for the Future
Heather Elmer and Kim Brewster Shefelton
Chagrin River Watershed Partners
Since 1996, Chagrin River Watershed Partners has worked with communities and partners to protect Ohio's watersheds. In celebration of our 30th anniversary, join us as we explore past successes and challenges that will inform future watershed protection in Ohio.

From "No" to "Go": Partnerships & Planning for Restoration Success
Christina Znidarsic, Davey Resource Group
Mark Rufener, NK.E. McCartney & Associates
A case study outlining the scoping and planning process for the Gerber Stream and Wetland Restoration project, with discussions of different methods we examined for restoration, assembling an over $3 million budget from various funding sources, and how the right partnerships can take a project from "no" to "go."

Stormwater Management in the Bellaire-Puritas Neighborhood
Rachel Webb, Lilah Zautner, and Claire Posius
NEORSD
Explore how NEORSD's Regional Stormwater Management Program addresses flooding and streambank erosion in Cleveland's Bellaire-Puritas neighborhood. Learn how interim solutions and long-term planning integrate within the context of historic development patterns. Presenters highlight the role of modeling, phased dredging, and land assembly in managing complex, urban stormwater systems.

Prioritizing Sites for Watershed Restoration
Deanna Bobak Civil & Environmental Consultants
Prioritizing restoration within a watershed is unique to each watershed's needs and the stakeholders who operate within it. This presentation will explore examples and case studies that have employed various techniques in prioritization including collecting physical data, employing technical models, developing databases of spatial data, and relying on local knowledge.

Beyond Compliance: Watershed-Based Design for Resilient Stormwater Solutions
Sarah Shafer, Unified Government of Wyandotte County-Kansas City
Matthew Scott, Black & Veatch
This session explores how a watershed-based planning approach that was guided by 2D modeling transformed a consent decree-driven CSO project in Kansas City, Kansas. Attendees will learn how green infrastructure and strategic design improved flood resilience, water quality, and community amenities, demonstrating innovation beyond compliance in an underserved urban watershed.

Utilizing the Planting Pod Approach in Restoration
Kevin Grieser, Biohabitats
This session showcases a reforestation technique called "planting pods" that Biohabitats has developed as an alternative to the traditional reforestation grids for large scale restoration projects on agriculture fields. The technique replicates the process of succession and increases natural recruitment of vegetation.

Highly Functioning Wetlands on Abandoned Mine Lands; A Restoration Conumdrum
Eric Goddard and Jim Kooser, Atlas Technical Consultants
It is surprising to find communities comprised of rare and valuable wetland plants in heavily disturbed abandoned mine areas. While there are compelling water quality and public safety reasons to restore these areas, we argue that highly functioning ecosystems that have developed over time need consideration as well.

City of Hudson -Not Just Another Watershed Study
Chad Boyer, ms consultants
Hudson, Ohio tackled recurring flooding in the Tinker's Creek Watershed through advanced modeling, strategic mitigation, and public engagement. These efforts led to Ordinance 24-251, introducing stricter stormwater standards and controls. The City continues to promote resilient watershed management through community collaboration and innovative infrastructure planning.

Paper to Portal: Denver's Digital Transformation for Storm Drainage Planning
Patrick Flynn, Stantec
Learn how Denver, Colorado modernized storm drainage planning through a digital portal and advanced modeling techniques. The session will feature a live demonstration of online flood mapping tools and shares practical strategies for agencies to improve decision-making, streamline capital improvement plans, and deliver a "living plan" for stormwater infrastructure.

Friday

Flooding Cessation and Elimination of Maintenance Frustration at Veterans Basin
Derek Vogel, NEORSD
Marissa Giebel, Chagrin River Watershed Partners
The Veterans Basin Improvements project included the design and construction of an expanded stormwater basin to increase storage volume and reduce flooding within a public park. This presentation will describe the project background, summarize the alternatives analysis, and discuss the key challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations for future projects.

"The Ohio Stormwater Conference is a premier event—not just in Ohio and the Midwest, but one of the best stormwater conferences in the country. There is no other conference nationwide that offers a technical program with such breadth and depth. The number of attendees from multiple states across the U.S. is a testament to the conference's quality. I'm very proud that such a respected conference is hosted in Ohio, where I'm from."

Anil Tangirala, PE
Director, Water Resources at ms consultants, inc.

Auglaize River Floodplain Retention Project
Bradley Petru and Ryan Olson
Civil & Environmental Consultants
Providing access to more frequent storm events and retaining all water onsite for infiltration provides maximum efficiency.

Implementing Nature-Based Shoreline Restoration in an Urban Watershed
LaShawna Weeks, City of Toledo
Brandon Hill, The Mannik & Smith Group
Now substantially complete, the restoration of the Ottawa River in Jermain Park project stabilized streambanks, restored wetlands, and improved habitat using nature-based designs. The project enhances water quality, supports native species, and demonstrates how ecological restoration benefits watershed health and community well-being.

Clean Toledo! Protecting Our Waterways through Community Participation and Involvement
Michelle Hughes and Paige Madden, City of Toledo
Household hazardous waste are everyday products that contain potentially dangerous substances. Proper disposal is crucial—not only to conserve resources and save energy, but to prevent hazardous substances from contaminating soil, water, and air. Clean Toledo events provide a safe, convenient outlet to discard these materials correctly and responsibly.

Rosemont Preserve - Restoration in Harmony with Development
Katherine Holmok, Kimley-Horn
Ernie Staten, City of Fairlawn
The Rosemont Preserve transforms a former golf course into a regional model for urban watershed restoration. Through innovative public–private partnerships, creative flow-control design, and long-term planning, the City of Fairlawn is restoring wetlands and streams, improving flood control, and creating new recreational and ecological connections within the Pigeon Creek watershed.

Legal

Thursday

Foundations of Water Law: Ohio and the Clean Water Act
Louis I. McMahon, McMahon DeGulis
Curious about the underlying legal principles that drive stormwater planning? This presentation will review the basics surrounding the multiple sources and regulators of water law in Ohio. Highlights include common law property and tort doctrines, local authority, state regulation and federal jurisdiction, and the practical implications of Sovereign Immunity.

The Evolving Federal Regulatory Framework
Louis L. McMahon, McMahon DeGulis
Changes to the federal regulatory framework drive technical priorities and can require stormwater professionals to shift gears and change programmatic focus. After a whirlwind first year of the second Trump administration, this presentation will bring you update on all the changes impacting stormwater programming.

Lakewood's High-Rate Treatment Facility for CSO-002
Mark Papke, City of Lakewood
Lakewood constructed a $24.5M chemically enhanced high-rate treatment (HRT) facility to reduce CSOs to Lake Erie. This presentation discusses the following: NPDES permit requirements; HRT selection process; equipment procurement; design, permitting, and construction challenges; operation and maintenance; and project funding.

Making Waves: (Legal) Hot Topics & Headlines in Stormwater Management
Megan E. Goedeker, McMahon DeGulis
Get informed on the latest stormwater-related litigation and other timely, legal hot topics and the practical implications for all who have a direct stake in stormwater management, non-point source pollution or the modeling of urban water systems.

Who Owns Which Ditch? Basics and developments in ditch law
Louis L. McMahon and Megan E. Goedeker, McMahon DeGulis
Is it my ditch or yours? Is it even a ditch? What does that mean for me? Questions always swirl around ditches and we hope to answer them. This will include an overview of the legal framework and then take a deep dive into all the aspects of ditches.

The Philosophy of Engineering: How Philosophers Helped Shape Engineering Ethics
Thomas Pannett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
This presentation will explore several philosophers and how their philosophies build the foundation for engineering ethics. It will further explore Ohio's PE/PS Board rules, AI ethics and provide some ethical dilemmas for discussion.

Living in a Post-LTCP World
Louis L. McMahon, McMahon DeGulis
This presentation will examine US EPA's Financial Capability Assessment and explore the impact on post-Long Term Control Plans and US EPA's linkage of those with Clean Water Act Integrated Planning.

Legal Roundtable
Louis L. McMahon and Megan E. Goedeker, McMahon DeGulis
Communities face a number of legal issues related to stormwater management: from assessing the authority to regulate, to the right to inspect and maintain control measures. In this session, facilitated by attorneys but engaged by conference participants, we'll address topics and compare notes on legal issues top-of-mind for participants.

Stormwater Practices and BMPs Planning and Design

Thursday

Rainwater & Land Development Chapter 7: Sediment Controls
Justin Reinhart, Ohio EPA
This presentation will provide a detailed discussion/review of sediment control practice design, implementation, and requirements in the Rainwater and Land Development Manual as well as highlight the (planned) revisions to the Manual's chapter on Sediment Controls. Those include sediment settling ponds and traps, sediment barriers, and inlet protection.

Using Stormwater Program Management to meet Chesapeake Bay TMDL Requirements
Srikanth Gorugantula, HDR
Joey Monheit, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions
This presentation will provide useful information for utility and public works department leaders, and stormwater management staff about creating a program to meet large-scale targets for capital project delivery intended to meet water quality goals or other stormwater related objectives such as resiliency and flood risk reduction.

Managing Stormwater and Enhancing Water Quality through Innovative Canal Restoration
Dr. Mary Szafraniec and Matt Genchur, Resource Environmental Solutions
Implemented through a public-private partnership (P3) between Martin County, Florida and Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC (RES), RES will discuss the development of a pilot project that employs multi-stage channel design to reduce nutrient (TP and TN) and sediment loads from stormwater and agricultural runoff.

Maximize Your SCMs: From Planning to Perpetuity
Carla Regener, Cuyahoga SWCD
Stormwater control measures (SCMs) are infrastructure on the landscape that help to control runoff. They are long-term and should be designed, installed and maintained with thoughtful intent. This session will highlight various considerations to keep in mind during the life of an SCM: from planning to construction to maintenance.

Impact of Roadside Ditch Maintenance and Vegetation on Runoff Quality
Ben Phillips, Ohio State University
Unintended wetland conditions within roadside ditches require periodic maintenance to remove accumulated hydrophytic vegetation and sediment, resulting in unvegetated wetland conditions. The impact of this maintenance on roadway runoff was monitored using automated samplers and compared to co-located grassed and wetland ditch conditions to assess differences in pollutant loading rate.

Clearing the Waters: Demystifying SCM Performance Reports for Regulatory Compliance
Chris Allen, Contech Engineered Solutions
This presentation demystifies lengthy stormwater control measure test reports, offering a practical crash course on standardized performance testing. Attendees will learn key protocol elements, best practices for lab- and field-based testing, factors influencing results, and how to assess whether reported performance meets regulatory requirements.

It's Morphing Time! How Hydrodnamic Separation Has Evolved
Dana Stayer, StormTrap
Hydrodynamic separation (HDS) for stormwater has evolved from baffle boxes to vortex separators and now plate settling systems. Driven by NJDEP protocols, each generation improved performance. This session explores design evolution, regulatory influence, and national verification through STEPP, helping municipalities and engineers select effective stormwater treatment solutions.

Implementing Effective BMP's in the Landing Project, Sandusky
Ed Chrzanowski, Quality Control Inspection
Megan Stookey, City of Sandusky, Department of Public Works
Explore how Sandusky's Landing Project applied Clean Water Act-compliant construction techniques and best management practices to protect wetlands, wildlife, and water quality while delivering public access, elevated boardwalks, trails, and piers. Lessons learned demonstrate sustainable urban waterfront development through collaboration, innovation, and adaptive construction management.

An Overview and Update of the STEPP Program
Seth Brown, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance
The presentation describes the STEPP program, how it is organized, the current status of the program, upcoming evolutions and enhancements, and how end users can benefit from it. In addition, the presentation will discuss an overview of the ASTM Stormwater Committee and how it is relevant to the stormwater industry..

NJDEP: The NASCAR of Water Quality
Kevin Hendrickson, Advanced Drainage Systems
The landscape of post construction stormwater quality for Manufactured Treatment Devices is changing across the United States with newly enforced procedures and protocols. Learn about the evolution of the testing and sizing of MTDs including the recently updated New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Certification protocol.

Friday

Permitting Achievements of the Black River Dredge Material Reuse Facility
Lauren Corrigan, Coldwater Consultants
Kathryn Golden, City of Lorain
To overcome site challenges, innovative engineering and operational solutions including use of GeoPools, active water management, and polymer injection were implemented at the Black River Dredged Material Reuse Facility during the 2024 dredging cycle. The facility operation and sampling program demonstrated compliance with the NPDES permit water quality requirements.

Hidden Hydrology: How Lost Streams Shape Stormwater Challenges
Tanner Adair and McCallah Cooper, AECOM
Two Warren, Ohio case studies show how forgotten culverted streams led to severe flooding—including vehicles frozen in floodwater. Hydraulic analysis shows these areas, absent from FEMA floodplains, are highly vulnerable. Solutions include upsizing sewers, adding inlets, and restoring conveyance to handle larger storm events and improve resilience.

The Golden Age of Golf Course Stormwater Management
Andrew Regnery, V3 Companies
Golf courses face unique stormwater challenges due to increased surrounding development and design constraints. This presentation explores strategic partnerships between stormwater authorities and courses undergoing renovations, demonstrating how to integrate sustainable drainage solutions while preserving course architecture and protecting wetland ecosystems.

Using Filtration to Retrofit Ponds to Provide Water Quality
Jamie McCutchen, Rymar Waterworks Innovations
Retrofitting older ponds to provide water quality is often not feasible because it requires increasing the pond volume. However, by utilizing filtration methods the flows and volume of the pond can be maintained, which makes it much more feasible to retrofit the basin to meet water quality requirements.

Ohio EPA Updates and Roundtable
Wesley Sluga, Ohio EPA
Ohio EPA will provide Stormwater Program updates and take questions from the audience.

Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability

Friday

A Regulatory Legacy: Oversized Detention and Today's Retrofit Opportunities
Phillip Taylor, Streamline
Alison Frye, ACO
This session explains how decades of layered regulations created oversized U.S. detention systems and how small low-flow outlets limit effective storage. Attendees will learn how modern flow-control retrofits can unlock existing capacity, improve resilience to consecutive storms, and strengthen compliance—without excavation or enlarging basins.

Moving Away From Black and White Solutions to the Grey
Suzanne Hoehne and Erin Jennings, Biohabitats
In restoring systems, we are challenged with how to intervene in dynamic natural systems to restore them within the site's context, project goals, and constraints. Often, we focus on physical manipulation. If we instead started allocating more funding towards managing natural stressors, could we achieve more wins for biodiversity?

The Ripple Effect: Lessons from NOWCorps and Evolving Environmental Workforce
Erica Matheny and Angela Brodie, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners
Learn how the NOWCorps AmeriCorps program shaped Ohio's stormwater and conservation workforce, what was lost when it was defunded, and what lessons it offers for rebuilding strong, sustainable pathways for youth and community members entering the environmental field.

Adaptive Resilience: A Decade of Data from Maryland's Smart Stormwater
Viktor Hlas, OptiRTC
Maryland's decade-long use of Continuous Monitoring and Adaptive Control (CMAC) offers a vital roadmap for regions like Ohio facing climate-driven flood risks. Analyzing more than ten years of operational data, this presentation quantifies CMAC's proven, cost-effective flood mitigation. We provide practical insights on performance, maintenance, and cost-benefits for resilient stormwater infrastructure.

East Lansing's Flood Resiliency Plan: Incorporating Climate, Affordability, and Equity
Julie Stein, HDR
Cliff Walls, City of East Lansing, Michigan
In recent years East Lansing, Michigan has been impacted localized flooding by "cloudburst" rain events all in excess of 200-year storms. This presentation will provide strategies for how to develop a climate informed, equitable, and community driven wet weather resilience plan for both CSS and MS4 systems.

Lights, Camera, Action! Setting the Stage for Collaborative Impact
Madison Wisniewski, Franklin SWCD
Christy Walters, Columbus Water and Power
The City of Columbus' GreenSpot community outreach program and Franklin SWCD set the stage for how local funding partners can work together to amplify resources and ensure capacity to fulfil MCM 1 and 2 requirements and achieve MS4 goals.

Stream and River Restoration and Science

Thursday

Floodplain restoration for habitat benefits and nutrient reduction
Stephanie Day, Verdantas
This presentation highlights how the EcoFIP and NutriSink models are used for floodplain restoration site selection. Together these models identify restoration opportunities that mitigate nutrient pollution and restore ecological function. Two case studies on large Midwest rivers reveal how variation in land use patterns impact the distribution of priority sites.

Williamsburg Off-Channel Nutrient Removal Wetland
Lindsay Horan, Ohio State University
This presentation details more than three years of monitoring of hydrology, water quality, and biogeochemical processes at the Williamsburg wetland project, an off-channel riparian riverine wetland. This wetland was built to reduce sediment and nutrient loads in the East Fork of the Little Miami River and reduce algae blooms in Harsha Lake.

Stream Restoration in Developed Neighborhoods
Kimberly Colich and Kristen Buccier, NEORSD
NEORSD highlights three stream restorations in developed neighborhoods that balance community needs, flood and erosion mitigation, and ecological uplift. Through property acquisition, outreach, and adaptive natural design, these projects demonstrate how stream restoration in neighborhoods can improve resilience, reduce flooding, and strengthen neighborhood connections to local waterways.

Restoring Natural Systems to Solve Infrastructure Challenges
Mike Galvin, JMT
This presentation explores how restoring a degraded urban stream created a passive, nature-based stormwater solution that protects aging transportation infrastructure. Attendees will learn how targeted restoration design slowed runoff, reduced sediment transport, and improved ecological and hydraulic resilience within a highly impervious watershed.

From Fairway to Floodplain: Hidden Valley Golf Course Stream Restoration
Crystal Scales and Elsa Saelens, Burgess & Niple
This presentation summarizes a stream and wetland restoration project located at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in Delaware, Ohio. We will examine the site challenges, the design process, including streambank stabilization, riffle and pool design, planting plans incorporating wetlands and riparian buffers, and considerations for working within a golf course.

Change of Plans- Gerber Property Stream & Wetland Restoration Construction
Mark Szakacs, Jr., Marks Construction
Don Romancak, Lorain County Stormwater Management District
A contractors creative approach to the construction and sequencing of a 60 acre stream and wetland project that saved $1 Million Dollars by working with the project owner and design team by creating a new plan to construct the project and still meet all of the project's goals!

Environmental Constructability 201
Mike Thompson, Meadville Land Service
Often in environmental construction, construction drawings don't fit neatly into the real-world setting. We'll explore some examples of permitting requirements and plan components that are difficult to implement in real world situations and cause friction between contractors and inspectors through no fault of their own.

Clark & Delaware/Horseshoe Islands Water Quality & Habitat Improvement Projects
Abigail Calmes, and Jordan Rofkar, Verdantas
Joe Cappel, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
The Clark and Delaware/Horseshoe Islands Restoration is the largest restoration on the Maumee River. Through engineered wetlands, native plantings, and community collaboration, 83-acres of aquatic and upland habitat were enhanced/restored while improving water quality, shorelines, and recreational access. Attend this session to learn lessons to apply to your next project..

Lessons Learned from the Rosemont Nature Preserve Floodplain Restoration
Emmett Krusewaltz, Environmental Design Group
The Schocalog Run Restoration transformed a former golf course into a 62-acre stream, wetland, and floodplain preserve. By using unsteady-flow modeling, the design team demonstrated flood attenuation and habitat improvements obscured in steady-state models, highlighting how advanced hydraulic analysis can better communicate restoration benefits in complex urban watershed systems.

A Stream of Solutions: Demonstrating 19 Stream Stabilization Strategies
Caitlin Ruza, and JP Johns, Woolpert
Urban stream stabilization in confined spaces requires balancing regulatory, utility, and property constraints. This project demonstrated 19 techniques and required collaboration among municipalities to stabilize a stream, protect sewer lines, and improve water quality. Five years later, results highlight practical, durable methods and lessons from collaborative planning.

Gorman Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration
Matthew Cochran, Civil & Environmental Consultants
Water quality improvements in the heavily urbanized Sharon Creek – Mill Creek watershed and providing educational opportunities at Gorman Heritage Farm.

Friday

Mountain Creek Stream Bank Restoration
Terrance J. Dull, SOLMAX
Using public participation and a collaboration of local students, engineers, contractors, and material suppliers highlights this significant stream restoration project. Employing green infrastructure, living plantings, and native soils this project is an example of returning the riparian environment that was in danger of catastrophic failure.

Flooded with Opportunity: Education Meets Stormwater Innovation
Mark Delisio, Verdantas
Eric Diefenderfer, and Laura Frost, Boardman Local Schools
Boardman Local Schools students and teachers return to share how the newly opened Forest Lawn Stormwater Park will support future learning. This session highlights the park's design, partnerships, and educational potential—showcasing a unique collaboration that transformed a flood-prone site into a vibrant, sustainable community resource.

Monitoring, Inspection, and Maintenance

Thursday

Culvert Condition and Risk Assessment Using ESRI Tools
Jennifer Duane and David Zubenko, Fishbeck
This presentation demonstrates a practical, data-driven approach to municipal culvert assessment using ESRI Field Maps and Survey123. Attendees will learn efficient field inspection techniques, key condition metrics, risk-based prioritization with consequence-of-failure factors, integration with asset management systems, and lessons learned for addressing inventory, assessment, and risk evaluation challenges.

Drainage Master Planning Journey with the City of Beavercreek
David DiCesare, Woolpert
Nick Smith, City of Beavercreek
The City of Beavercreek has faced persistent flooding and erosion since its last citywide study in 1983. A drainage master plan was completed to update the City's GIS, perform condition assessment of culverts and streams, model levels of service, identify critical infrastructure threats, prioritize repairs, and guides future capital improvements.

Friday

Invested in Infrastructure: Sustaining Stormwater Success Through Smart Maintenance
Bekah Strait, Davey Resource Group
Proactive, data-driven maintenance is key to sustaining stormwater infrastructure performance and compliance. This session demonstrates how routine inspections, structured maintenance programs, and collaborative planning extend system lifespan, reduce costly repairs, and strengthen resilience. Attendees will learn actionable strategies to transition from reactive responses to sustainable, long-term infrastructure management.

Maintenance Needs and Costs of Permeable Pavement Systems
Keith McClintock and Chris Hartman, NEORSD
NEORSD's Green Infrastructure Grant Program has funded the installation of more than five acres of permeable pavement. Maintenance is challenging and can be costly. NEORSD worked closely with grantees to identify maintenance needs and prescribe restoration actions. Learn about true maintenance costs, lessons learned, and helpful hints to lessen the maintenance burden.

Investigating IDDE and Stormwater Violations: An MS4 Case Study
Todd Haggard and LaShawna Weeks, City of Toledo
This case study presents a detailed account of how the City of Toledo investigated an environmental complaint at an industrial site, uncovering illicit discharges and stormwater violations. The case underscores the value of MS4 programs, proactive inspections, enforcement mechanisms, and interagency collaboration in protecting water quality and ensuring compliance.

SWPPP Compliance: Evolving Reactive Enforcement to Proactive Collaboration
Joe Moore, Erosion & Construction Solutions
Joe Moore shares lessons from field projects and industry discussions that show how early alignment and clear communication improve SWPPP compliance. Attendees gain practical tools and templates that turn enforcement challenges into opportunities for collaboration, reducing rework and supporting stronger water quality results.

Modeling and Research

Thursday

How Wet Is Your System, Really? Try Antecedent Moisture Modeling.
Alex Litofsky and Ashley Wadsworth, OHM Advisors
Donna Friedman, NEORSD
The Hayden Avenue Sewer Study in the City of East Cleveland used antecedent moisture modeling to integrate real-world conditions into the combined sewer model, improving its predictive ability in the study area, allowing for right-sized solutions to surcharging and the proposed elimination of a combined sewer overflow regulatory structure.

Above or below? Monitoring a stormwater pond and underground detention
Jenna Johnston, Ohio State University
Underground detention facilities are a common choice for stormwater detention, and more research will build further understanding of their impact on water quality. This study evaluated nutrients, metals, and total suspended solids removal at an above ground retention pond and a StormTech underground storage facility on Ohio State University's campus.

Low-Cost Approaches for Real-Time Management of Bioretention Systems
Andrew Tirpak, Ohio State University
This 12-month laboratory study examined two real-time control (RTC) strategies using low-cost sensors in bioretention mesocosms. Two RTC algorithms were employed, focusing on runoff capture and soil moisture management. Results of hydrologic, water quality, and vegetation monitoring can inform low-cost, sensor-based optimization of stormwater bioretention systems.

Piogerella: A Rainfall Event Analysis Tool to Support Watershed Management
Michael Brooker, Ohio State University
This session introduces Piogerella, an open-source rainfall event analysis tool. Attendees will learn how to classify storms, extract key metrics, and evaluate management impacts. A case study demonstrates its use for assessing drainage water management, with discussion of future adaptations to support stormwater monitoring and watershed management applications.

Laboratory Permeable Pavement Columns Provide Insight into Long-Term Hydraulic Function
Ryan Winston, Ohio State University
A permeable pavement column study was designed to determine whether aggregate supporting the pavement could be a source of TSS leaching. TSS in the effluent was initially very high (suggesting sediment loss) but sharply declined with successive events, ultimately reaching steady state prior to 1 year of rainfall application.

Solutions for P-ollution
Kelli Duff, SmithGroup
Derek Schlea, LimnoTech
The 11-acre Phosphorous-Optimal Wetland pilot study tests overland filtration to reduce phosphorus in the Lake Erie watershed. Driven by harmful algal blooms, it explores site selection, design, water and soil testing, and replication strategies to achieve large watershed impacts with minimal construction.

Larval mosquito presence and abundance in Ohio stormwater control measures
Joseph Smith, Ohio State University
This presentation explores how weather, land use, and design affect mosquito larvae in Ohio stormwater detention and retention ponds and wetlands. Using two years of field data and generalized linear models, it focuses on two nuisance and vector species and offers practical design strategies to minimize mosquito habitat in SCMs.

Lakeside Stormwater Conveyance - From Study to Construction
Kari Mackenbach and Monica Backs, ms consultants
The presentation highlights how phased storm sewer improvements in the Lakeside neighborhood near Buckeye Lake were modeled, designed and constructed to reduce flooding, improve public safety, and balance technical, regulatory, and community needs through data-driven analysis, funding acquisition and stakeholder collaboration.

Transportation

Friday

Compensatory Off-Site BMPs: Design Challenges and Considerations
Megan Bowman, Burgess & Niple
Meeting local and state quantity and quality control regulations may require off-site compensatory stormwater BMPs. Designing compensatory off-site BMPs comes with unique design challenges and considerations at the local and state levels. This presentation will examine a case study that demonstrates compensatory BMP design and modeling procedures and their implications..

Ohio Transportation Stormwater Roundtable
Jon Prier, ODOT
Mark McCabe, ms consultants
Come learn about the latest ODOT stormwater design and compliance updates. Participate in roadway/highway stormwater management discussions and catch upon the latest state and national research related to stormwater runoff, management, water quality and trending roadway/highway pollutants.

Bridging the Gap: Modeling Solutions for the Complex Bridge Project
Nikhil Reddy and Katie Nolan, Gresham Smith
By diverting all interstate runoff from the corridor's combined sewer system into a new stormwater trunkline, the environmental commitment was met but many challenges had to be overcome to develop a complete model of the existing and proposed separate systems to ensure the same LOS was provided to the community.

Don't be so salty: road salt management in southwest Ohio
Jessica Doty and Carly Dovale, CDM Smith
A variety of storage and management methods are used for salt and other winter deicing solutions. If released into the environment, these perceived solutions can become an even bigger problem. This presentation provides tools for more effective management of winter deicing materials.

Green Infrastructure

Thursday

Catastrophe to Community Amenity: Louisville's Transformational Alberta O. Jones Park
Kelly Kuhbander, Strand Associates
Ryan Geismar, Human Nature
Devastating flash-flooding in Louisville led to property buyouts and created an opportunity to transform a liability into a vibrant community asset: Alberta O. Jones Park. Creating a park in a flood-prone, combined-sewer area was complex. This site is functionally 100% pervious, features two rain gardens, and many park amenities..

Green Stormwater Design Successes Demonstrated in Three Case Studies
Chad Lipscomb, Western Green
Three in-depth case studies will walk the audience through a process of problem identification, design, solution optimization, implementation, and valuation of green stormwater pollution prevention projects. The presentation will be accessible and interesting to audience members of varying levels of experience with the concepts and applications discussed.

Stormwater Wetlands- A Thing of Beauty
Jenny Adkins, MAD Scientist Associates
Doug Boyer, EDGE
Wetlands are among the most diverse habitats in the world. We invite you to celebrate and add these natural resources to your community and your programming.

Dam Good Wetlands: Improving Fostoria's Water Quality by Retrofitting Reservoirs
Chris Rust, Strand Associates
The City of Fostoria successfully implemented a large-scale wetland project in a decommissioned reservoir with funding from ODNR and Ohio EPA. The wetlands provide a significant phosphorus load reduction benefit in the East Branch Portage River agricultural watershed while allowing the City to eliminate a regulated dam.

Moving Beyond the Surface: Design and Performance of Modern Biofiltration
Jason Bailey, Ferguson Waterworks
This presentation explores biofiltration systems covering key benefits such as water quality improvement, scalability, plant survivability, and maintenance. The session compares system alternatives, media selection, and design factors such as ponding depth and pretreatment needs. Attendees will also learn about enhancing system resilience through integration with subsurface storage and soil cells.

Transforming Urban Watersheds through Strategic Stormwater Infrastructure in Harrisburg, PA
Aaditya Pise and Julie Stein, HDR
Claire Maulhardt, Capital Region Water
Capital Region Water is advancing integrated stormwater initiatives in Harrisburg to reduce runoff and pollutant loads to Paxton Creek and the Susquehanna River. The presentation highlights site selection, stakeholder engagement, public outreach, and green infrastructure design, sharing lessons learned to enhance water quality, resilience, and regulatory compliance.

Nature Based Approaches: Transforming Urban Landscapes with Green Infrastructure Solutions
Doug McCluskey, EJ Prescott
This course teaches how to apply Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development strategies to manage stormwater effectively. It covers design principles, cost benefits, and added value like habitat improvement, cooling urban areas, and traffic calming, offering hands-on training in GI/LID concepts, implementation, and best practices.

Restoring Hydrologic Function Lost During Development
Jay Dorsey, OH2O
Land conversion radically alters watershed hydrology with many negative consequences. Many opportunities exist to retain hydrologic benefits, most of which are never considered. This presentation outlines many of those opportunities, quantifies the benefits, and describes how and where they might be encouraged during planning, review, design and construction.

Eureka - Fremont - a Blueprint for Integrated Solutions
Chad Boyer, ms consultants
Explore the Blueprint Hilltop Eureka/Fremont Project's integrated green infrastructure solutions and the lessons learned from constructing two plan sets concurrently with one contractor. The session highlights design selection, construction challenges, and practical strategies for managing complex urban stormwater projects.

Urban Green Stormwater Infrastructure Performance: A Pittsburgh Water Case Study
Eric Gill, Wade Trim
Six Pittsburgh green stormwater infrastructure projects were evaluated using a combination of flow monitoring and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. Resultant performance of projects and lessons learned will be explored in the broader context of Pittsburgh Water's wet weather planning efforts.

Funding

Friday

Tips and Tricks for Accessing State and Federal Funding
Emily Platt, Carollo Engineers
There is funding available for a variety of stormwater projects. Even though acquiring funding sounds daunting, it doesn't have to be. This presentation will explore external grant and loan opportunities and provide tips and tricks for funding critical stormwater projects.

National-level Perspectives in the Stormwater Sector
Seth Brown, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance
The presentation made by National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) leadership will provide updates on policies, regulations, funding/financing programs, legislation, and initiatives at the national level. Information about NMSA will be shared as well as the emerging National Stormwater Leadership Coalition, which was established to catalyze pragmatic/constructive changes in stormwater.

"The Ohio Stormwater Conference consistently brings together more than 900 attendees, with a strong concentration of decision-makers—city engineers, service directors, county engineers, and representatives from conservancy and sewer districts. It's the largest stormwater conference east of the Mississippi, with broad representation from Ohio municipalities, counties, and state agencies including ODOT, Ohio EPA, and ODNR.

What truly sets the conference apart is the networking and culture. The environment is collaborative and approachable, with a long-standing emphasis on knowledge sharing without ego. Presentations are accessible and downloadable, and agencies and consultants genuinely work together toward cleaner water and better stormwater solutions."

Katherine G. Holmok, PLA (OH, PA, IN) |
Surface Water Practice Builder/Landscape Architect (OH, PA, IN)
Kimley-Horn

"I genuinely look forward to the Ohio Stormwater Conference every year. It is our region's annual reunion of top-tier stormwater professionals sharing the latest information and technology. The conference strikes the perfect balance between strong technical sessions, a fun atmosphere, and a real sense of community. Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners works hard to put on a quality event with strong values and a meaningful cause behind it, which makes it even more rewarding. With great networking and plenty of professional credits, it's an easy recommendation for anyone in stormwater—early career, seasoned pros, or anyone in between."

Samantha Robbins, CESSWI
President
BREMA Resources, LLC dba STONE Environmental

Disco Fever Reception

Entertainment by Rock and Roll Express

Thursday May 7, 2026

5:30, Main Exhibit Hall

Karaoke, Dance Floor, Photobooth, Hors D'oeuvres, & Specialty Drinks

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» Williams Forestry & Associates

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- Spartan Construction
- Storm Trap
- SW2
- SWPPPTrack
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- Top Line Hands
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Registration Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

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Select Registration Type Below

❑ In-Person Before April 15, 2026 ($250) After April 15, 2026 ($300)

❑ Speaker ($125) ❑ Student ($100) ❑ Scholarship ($100) - contact Harry@tinkerscreek.org

❑ I am attending Evening Reception, Thursday May 7, 2026
(included in registration fee)

❑ Kayak Tour
Wednesday May 6, 2026, $10.00, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

❑ Birding Tour
Wednesday May 6, 2026, $10.00, 9:00 am - 10:30 am

❑ The Hidden Door Speakeasy
Wednesday May 6, 2026, $80.00, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Vegetarian options at meals will be available. If **Vegan** option is needed, please check box. ❑

Please indicate method of payment:
❑ Check (Please make check payable to **Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners**). Any processing fees will be billed to the registrant.
❑ Purchase Order Number: _____
(PO number must be enclosed with this form. Fee is to be paid in full prior to the 2026 Ohio Stormwater Conference)

Or, register on-line at www.ohstormwaterconference.com under the conference section of our web site.
If you are paying by check or purchase order, please mail the registration form with your payment.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations before April 25, 2026, may be subject to a processing fee. After May 1, 2026, registration fees will not be refunded, but may be applied to another individual's registration fees.

Register on-line at WWW.OHSTORMWATERCONFERENCE.COM
OR
Submit this completed form to:
Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087