

Hudson Earth Week
Storm Water Management Panel Discussion
4/19/22

Notes by: Karen Farkas, EAC Chair

Speakers

Kate Chapel, senior project manager for Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners

— <https://tinkerscreek.org/>

Sandy Barbic, education specialist for the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

— <https://sswcd.summitoh.net/>

Notes:

According to Chapel and Barbic - Everything going on with land affects the water. If we are taking out forests and putting in pavement that will have an effect. A lot of the events we do include planting native plants, removing invasive plants and removing impervious surfaces. We work with communities to talk about ordinances that are impactful to watershed health. Also to alleviate flooding and keep ecosystems healthy.

We want to educate residents. We believe people really like to help the environment but don't know how. They need the tools to do that and can do certain things in their own yard.

Everything on everyone's lawn here goes up to Lake Erie and the Atlantic Ocean. If you live in Barberton or south, it goes to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.

Studies show the agricultural impact on the watershed is dwarfed by what comes off urban and suburban areas.

Our storm water system is not built to the high volume storms, which are occurring more regularly. People need to test their soil to see if fertilizer is needed. There is a lot of phosphorus in Summit County soils due to the glaciers and mica in the clay. (Sandy said her organization sells soil test kits). People should plant native species plants. They thrive in wet areas.

ODNR has lists online of native plants for all environments - <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/nature-preserves/Documents/native-plants-lists>

Ohio Prairie Nursery also has information and sells seeds. — <https://www.opnseed.com/>

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water District provides resources on native plants and a list of nurseries that sell native plants.

<https://www.cuyahogaswcd.org/programs/native-plants>

38 plants have been declared invasive in Ohio. people can't sell, propagate or distribute those plants. The Bradford Pear Tree will no longer be available to plant or sell after 2022.

Here is the list of invasive species from the Ohio Department of Agriculture - <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/invasive-plants>

Communities can take efforts to relieve issues - in Hudson, the new Waterway car wash has an underground retention system to provide filtration - allowed it to increase the amount of pavement and is probably better than washing cars in the driveway.

Hudson also has riparian setback issues.