

WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLICY

January 2026

1.0 Introduction

As a component of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (District) Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP), as described in *Title V: Stormwater Management Code* (Title V), the District has established Watershed Advisory Committees (WAC) for those portions of the following watersheds within the District's stormwater service area.

- Chagrin River
- Cuyahoga River North Subwatersheds
- Cuyahoga River South Subwatersheds
- Lake Erie Direct Tributaries
- Rocky River

The purpose of a WAC is to advise the District on Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) activities and priorities in each watershed. This includes reviewing and providing feedback and recommendations on the following watershed specific plans and RSMP areas:

- Stormwater Master Plans;
- Stormwater Construction Plans;
- Inspection, Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Activities;
- Regional Stormwater Standards, if developed; and
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Management Programs (Phase II).

This document is organized as follows:

2.0 - Watershed Advisory Committee Organization and Members

3.0 - Watershed Advisory Committee Responsibilities

4.0 - Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule and Expectations

In reviewing this guidance document, please note the following:

- Title V includes definitions for terms related to the Regional Stormwater Management Program, such as Member Community, Local Stormwater System, Regional Stormwater System (RSS), and Stormwater Control Measures. These terms are used in this guidance document. Please refer to Title V for their definition. These definitions are not restated in this document.
- The WACs represent a formal mechanism for regular contact between Member Communities and the District. WACs are not, however, intended to be the only mechanism of communication between Member Communities and the District. District staff, specifically Watershed Team Leaders, are available to Member Communities at any time to discuss issues related to the Regional Stormwater Management Program.

2.0 – Organization and Members

A WAC is composed of a representative from each Member Community and public agency with control of infrastructure in the watershed. The members of the WAC serve at the pleasure of their appointing Member Community or public agency. The details of these appointments are discussed below.

Each Member Community in the watershed holds one position on the WAC. The Member Community's representative and an alternate are designated by the Mayor or Township Trustees. In the event that a Member Community is in two or more watersheds, the Member Community has one position on each applicable WAC.

Public agencies with control of infrastructure, including stormwater conveyance structures and Stormwater Control Measures, in the applicable watershed also hold one position on each relevant WAC. These public agencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Board of County Commissioners or County Executive in Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit Counties
2. Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
3. Park Districts (created under ORC 1545), specifically the Cleveland Metroparks and Metroparks Serving Summit County

4. Ohio Department of Transportation

5. Ohio Turnpike Commission

The Director of each public agency designates the agency's representative for the WAC. In the event that an agency is in two or more watersheds, the agency has one position on each applicable WAC.

Other interested entities may attend WAC meetings. These include non-profit groups that work in the watershed or with Member Communities on conservation and watershed projects. These other interested entities are not formal members of the WACs.

Each WAC is assigned a Watershed Team Leader from the District's Watershed Programs Department. The Watershed Team Leader is responsible for coordinating WAC activities, meetings, and action items. See the Appendix for a list of each watershed's WAC members and a map of the watersheds in the Regional Stormwater System.

3.0 - WAC Responsibilities

The District's RSMP is administered by the Watershed Programs Department. WAC members may be asked to review and provide input and information on elements of the Regional Stormwater Management Program:

1. Stormwater Master Plans;
2. Stormwater Construction Plans;
3. Inspection, Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Activities;
4. Regional Stormwater Standards; and
5. MS4 Stormwater Management Programs (Phase II).

The following sections outline each of these areas and the applicable WAC responsibilities.

3.1 - Stormwater Master Plans

The District developed Stormwater Master Plans in each watershed to guide the activities of the Regional Stormwater Management Program and to address the needs

of the Regional Stormwater System and watershed. The Stormwater Master Plans were completed for subwatersheds in each of the five (5) watersheds within the District's stormwater service area. The District may not develop Stormwater Master Plans for subwatersheds that only contain a small portion of the District's stormwater service area unless it becomes necessary for overall regional stormwater management purposes.

The Stormwater Master Plans assessed the conditions of the watershed and the Regional Stormwater System and identified areas where improvements to the Regional Stormwater System could be implemented to improve flood control, reduce streambank erosion, and reduce chronic stormwater maintenance problems.

The Stormwater Master Plans also identified projects to be included in the Stormwater Construction Plan (Section 3.2) and assets for inspection, operation, maintenance and monitoring activities (Section 3.3). Stormwater Master Plans, in conjunction with other watershed planning documents such as watershed action plans and balanced growth plans, present a holistic view of the watershed.

The WACs were engaged in Stormwater Master Plan development through the Watershed Team Leaders. During the development of Stormwater Master Plans the WACs were provided the opportunity to review the findings of the watershed assessment and stormwater master planning process. Stormwater Master Plans and associated models are updated as necessary, and the WACs are asked to review and provide input on the Stormwater Master Plans during the updating process.

The District's Watershed Team Leaders communicate directly with Member Communities to gather information on the watershed and stormwater management in their community during annual Project Nomination review periods.

3.2 - Stormwater Construction Plan

The District uses the Stormwater Construction Plan to identify and prioritize the design and construction of Regional Stormwater System improvements that align with Regional Stormwater Management Program goals.

The Stormwater Construction Plan is internally reviewed and updated annually. District staff follow the District's Stormwater Nomination Standard Operating Procedures, a project nomination process to identify, evaluate, score, and prioritize both new projects and re-evaluate previously nominated projects to include in the Stormwater Construction Plan. The outcome of this project nomination process formalizes a Stormwater Construction Plan budget request for the next fiscal year's RSMP funding

cycle. The Watershed Team Leader facilitates WAC engagement during the Stormwater Nomination review period. The WACs are asked to provide the following:

1. Information for new construction projects to be considered for the Stormwater Construction Plan.
2. New information on projects in the current Stormwater Construction Plan as it pertains to the project scope, schedule, priority, permitting and substance.
3. Review drafts of the Stormwater Construction Plan and provide input on possible conflicts or opportunities for implementation.

3.3 - Inspection, Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Activities

The District conducts inspections, operation, maintenance and monitoring activities on the Regional Stormwater System and District owned and operated Stormwater Control Measures. These activities include:

1. Preventative maintenance inspections of Stormwater Control Measures that fall under the responsibility of the District and District identified areas of concern.
2. Inspections along the Regional Stormwater System to identify areas of maintenance, such as streambank erosion, and culvert or stream blockages with debris.
3. Operation and maintenance activities on Stormwater Control Measures and the Regional Stormwater System.

These activities are identified in the Stormwater Master Plans, District inspections, Member Community requests, and by the WACs. The WACs provide input on inspection, operation, maintenance, monitoring needs and activities along the RSS. WACs can submit potential operation and maintenance activities to the District for consideration.

3.4 - Regional Stormwater Standards

The District may develop additional regional stormwater standards as may be necessary and reasonable to operate and maintain the RSS. As discussed in Chapter 6 of Title V, regional stormwater standards will only be developed if deemed necessary by the District and WACs. These standards, if developed, will be based on findings of

Stormwater Master Plans for each watershed in the District's stormwater service area and the recommendations of the WACs. Per the requirements of Section 5.0401 of Title V, these additional standards will be developed with review and comment by the WACs and provided to Member Communities for review and comment prior to consideration, and potential adoption, by the Board of Trustees.

3.5 - MS4 Stormwater Management Programs (Phase II) and Technical Advice on Stormwater Issues

The District provides support to Members Communities for their Phase II MS4 Stormwater Management Programs, and technical advice on flooding, streambank erosion and stormwater management issues along the Local Stormwater System. The District provides WAC members with information on support services for their local stormwater management programs.

The Phase II MS4 Minimum Control Measures support includes but is not limited to:

1. Public Education and Information (MCM #1)
2. Public Involvement (MCM #2)
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Mapping and Source Tracking (MCM #3)
4. Good Housekeeping Training (MCM #6)

The District provides technical support to Members Communities on stormwater issues such as flooding and streambank erosion control at the local level.

4.0 - Meeting Schedule and Expectations

The WACs meet twice within a calendar year to receive updates on the Stormwater Construction Plan, Stormwater Master Plans, and inspection, operation, maintenance, and monitoring activities. Meeting notification will be provided to those participants identified under Section 2.0 - WAC Organization and Members. At the beginning of each year, the District will contact the Mayor or Township Trustees of each Member Community via mail and email to outline the meeting schedule and agendas, and the process for designating a representative for the WAC. The Watershed Team Leaders shall preside over the WAC meetings. The general meeting agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

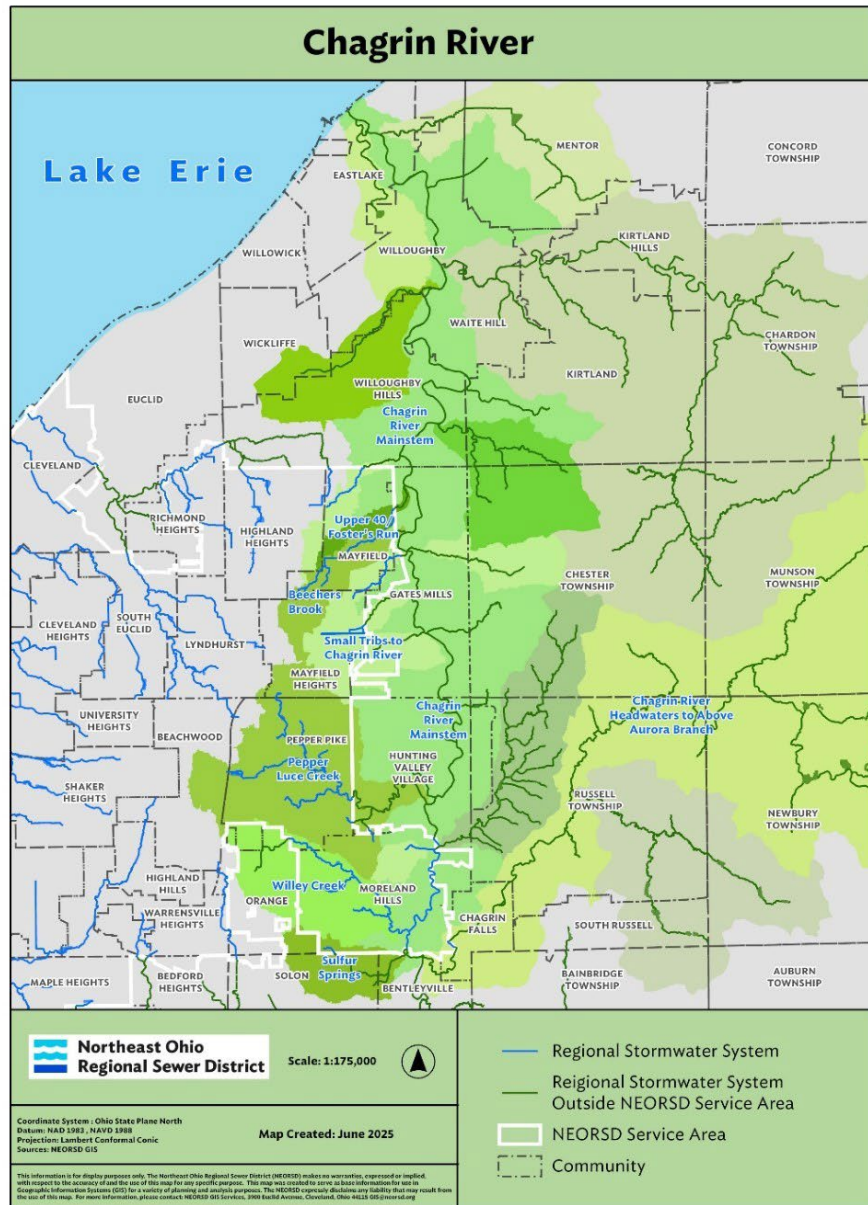
1. Stormwater inspection, operation, and maintenance updates.
2. A review of the Stormwater Construction Plan and information on current design and construction projects.
3. Stormwater Master Plan updates
4. Updates on Stormwater Modeling and Stormwater Strategic Support.
5. General information and updates from the Watershed Programs Department.

Appendix
List of WAC Members and Potential Interested Entities,
and Watershed Map for each WAC

Chagrin River Watershed Advisory Committee		
Chagrin River Subwatersheds in Stormwater Service Area	Member (Community / County / Agency)	Potential Interested Entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beechers Brook • Chagrin River Headwaters to Above Aurora Branch • Chagrin River Mainstem • Griswold Creek • Pepper Luce Creek • Small Tribs to Chagrin River • Sulfur Springs • Upper 40/Foster's Run • Willey Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachwood • Gates Mills • Highland Heights • Hunting Valley Village • Lyndhurst • Mayfield Village • Mayfield Heights • Moreland Hills • Orange Village • Pepper Pike • Solon • Cleveland Metroparks • Cuyahoga County • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chargin River Watershed Partners, Inc. • Gates Mills Land Conservancy • Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Total number of WAC members = 13

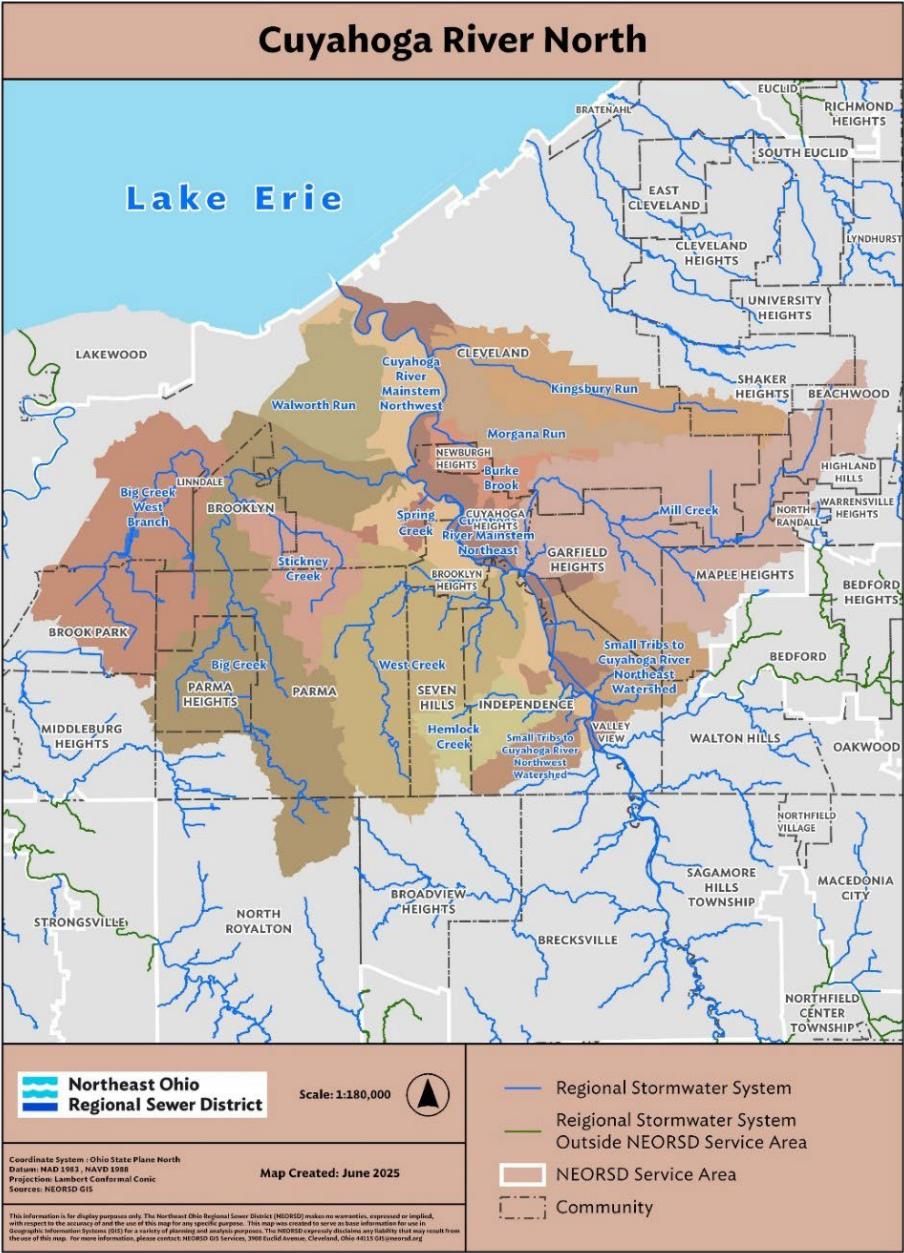
Figure 1. Map of Chagrin River Watershed



Cuyahoga River North Watershed Advisory Committee		
Cuyahoga River North Subwatersheds in Stormwater Service Area	Member (Community / County / Agency)	Potential Interested Entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Creek • Big Creek West Branch • Burke Brook • Cuyahoga River Mainstem Northeast • Cuyahoga River Mainstem Northwest • Hemlock Creek • Kingsbury Run • Mill Creek • Morgana Run • Small Tribs to Cuyahoga River NE Watershed • Small Tribs to Cuyahoga River NW Watershed • Spring Creek • Stickney Creek • Walworth Run • West Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachwood • Bedford • Bedford Heights • Broadview Heights • Brook Park • Brooklyn • Brooklyn Heights • Cleveland • Cuyahoga Heights • Garfield Heights • Highland Hills • Independence • Linndale • Maple Heights • Middleburg Heights • Newburgh Heights • North Randall • North Royalton • Parma • Parma Heights • Seven Hills • Shaker Heights • Valley View • Walton Hills • Warrensville Heights • Cleveland Metroparks • Cuyahoga County • Cuyahoga Valley National Park • Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 12 • Ohio Turnpike Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuyahoga River – Area of Concern • Big Creek Connects • Friends of Crooked River • Mill Creek Watershed Partners • Western Reserve Land Conservancy • West Creek Conservancy

Total number of WAC members = 27

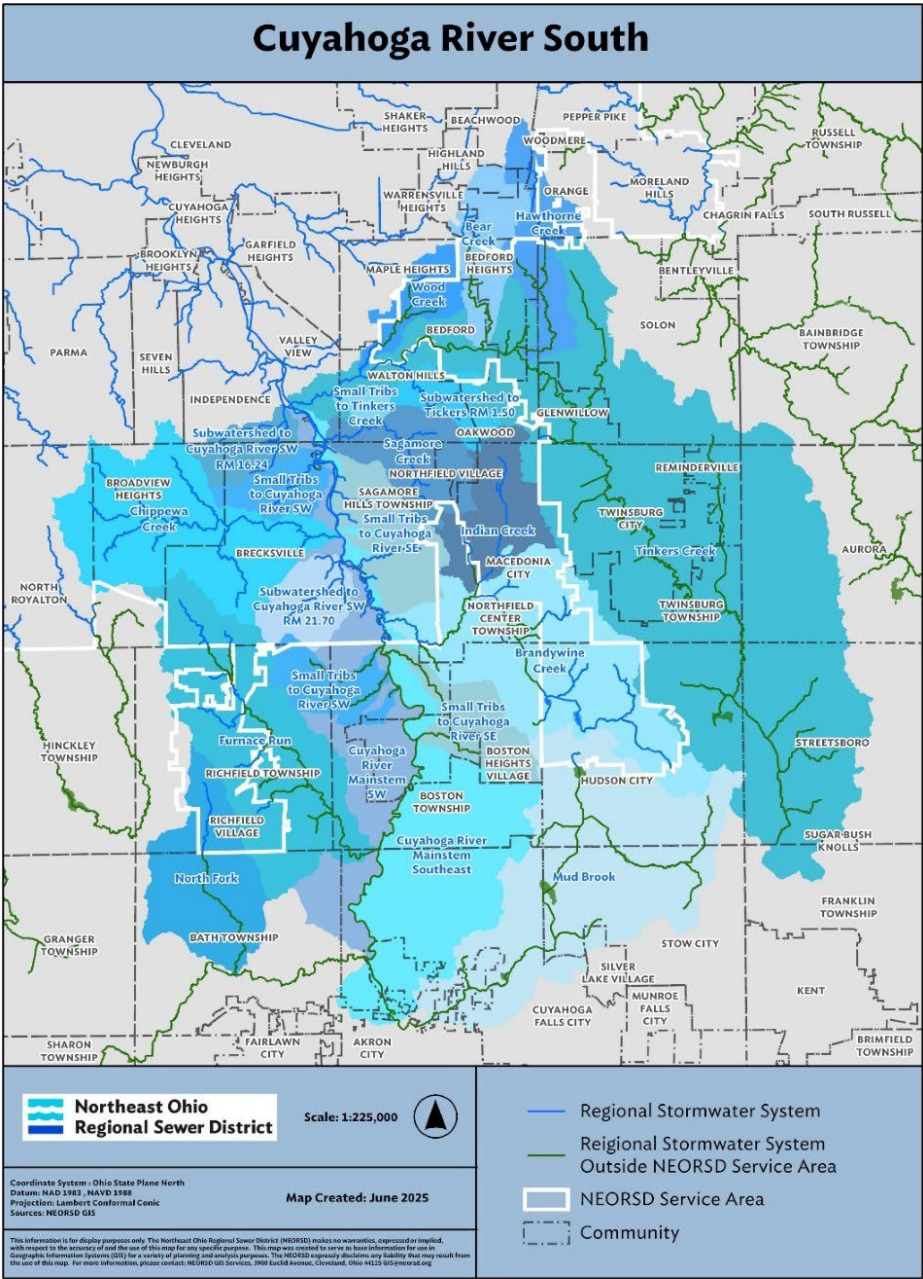
Figure 2. Map of Cuyahoga North Subwatersheds



Cuyahoga River South Watershed Advisory Committee		
Cuyahoga River South Subwatersheds in Stormwater Service Area	Member (Community / County / Agency)	Potential Interested Entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear Creek • Brandywine Creek • Chippewa Creek • Cuyahoga River Mainstem Southeast • Cuyahoga River Mainstem Southwest • Furnace Run • Hawthorne Creek • Indian Creek • Mud Brook • North Fork • Sagamore Creek • Small Tribs to Cuyahoga River SE Watershed • Small Tribs to Cuyahoga River SW Watershed • Small Tribs to Tinkers Creek • Subwatershed to Cuyahoga River SW at RM 16.24 • Subwatershed to Cuyahoga River SW at RM 21.70 • Subwatershed to Tinkers Creek at RM 1.50 • Tinkers Creek • Wood Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachwood • Bedford • Bedford Heights • Brecksville • Broadview Heights • Glenwillow • Highland Hills • Hudson • Independence • Macedonia • Maple Heights • North Randall • North Royalton • Northfield Village • Oakwood • Orange Village • Parma • Richfield Village • Sagamore Hills Township • Seven Hills • Solon • Valley View • Walton Hills • Warrensville Heights • Cleveland Metroparks • Cuyahoga County • Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority • Cuyahoga Valley National Park • Metroparks Serving Summit County • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 12 • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 4 • Ohio Turnpike Commission • Summit County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuyahoga River -Area of Concern • Friends of Crooked River • Friends of Yellow Creek • Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners, Inc. • West Creek Conservancy

Total number of WAC members = 32

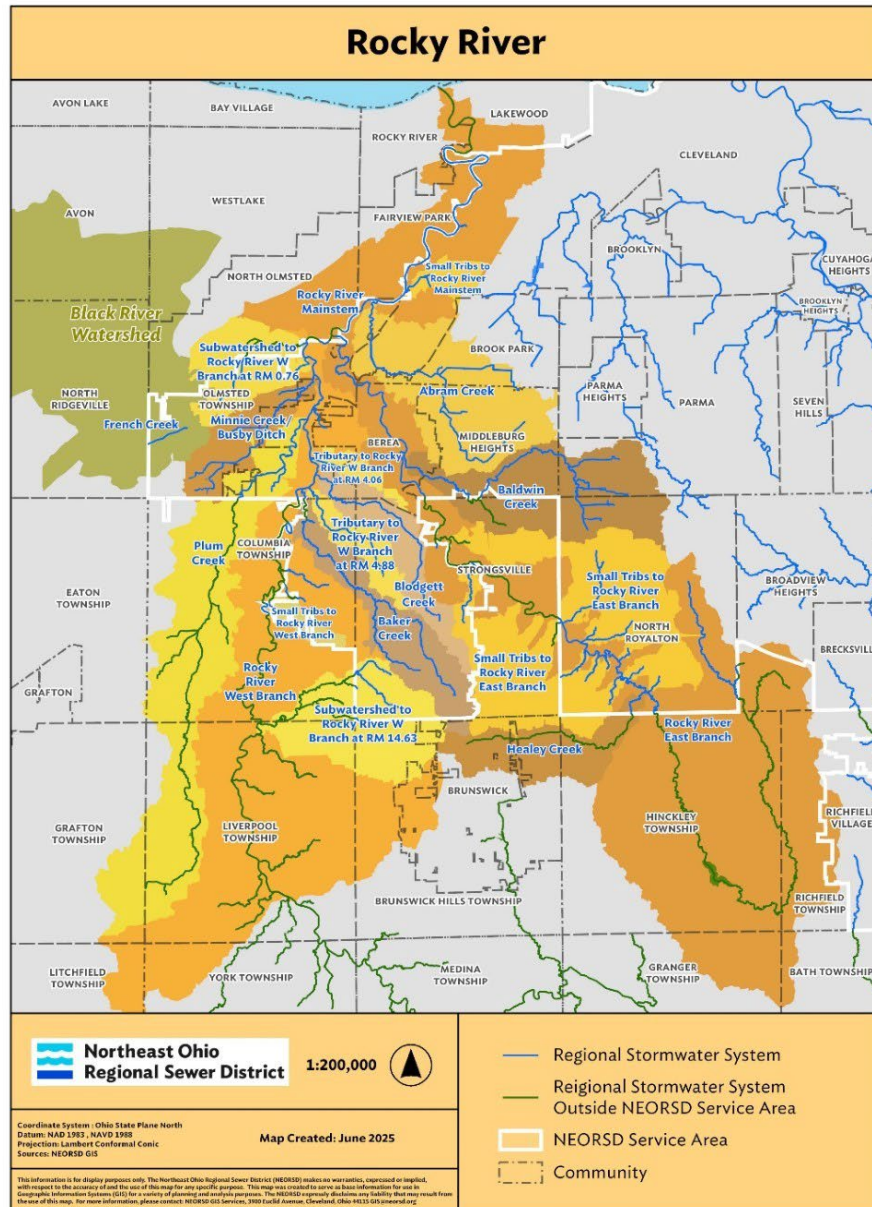
Figure 3. Map of Cuyahoga South Subwatersheds



Rocky River Watershed Advisory Committee		
Rocky River Subwatersheds in Stormwater Service Area	Member (Community / County / Agency)	Potential Interested Entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram Creek • Baker Creek • Baldwin Creek • Blodgett Creek • Healey Creek • Minnie Creek/Busby Ditch • Plum Creek • Rocky River East Branch • Rocky River Mainstem • Rocky River West Branch • Small Tribs to Rocky River East Branch • Small Tribs to Rocky River Mainstem • Small Tribs to Rocky River West Branch • Subwatershed to Rocky River W Branch at RM 0.76 • Subwatershed to Rocky River W Branch at RM 14.63 • Tributary to Rocky River W Branch at RM 4.06 • Tributary to Rocky River W Branch at RM 4.88 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berea • Brecksville • Broadview Heights • Brook Park • Cleveland • Columbia Township • Lakewood • Middleburg Heights • North Royalton • Olmsted Falls • Olmsted Township • Parma • Richfield Village • Strongsville • Cleveland Metroparks • Cuyahoga County • Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority • Lorain County • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 3 • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 12 • Ohio Turnpike Commission • Summit County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Reserve Land Conservancy • Rocky River Watershed Council

Total number of WAC members = 22

Figure 4. Map of Rocky River Watershed



Lake Erie Direct Tributaries Watershed Advisory Committee		
Lake Erie Direct Tributaries in Stormwater Service Area	Member (Community / County / Agency)	Potential Interested Entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doan Brook • Dugway Brook • Dugway East Branch • Dugway West Branch • Euclid Creek • Euclid Creek East • Euclid Creek West • Green Creek • Lake Erie Direct Tribs East to Cuyahoga River • Lake Erie Direct Tribs West to Cuyahoga River • Lake Erie Tribs West of Chagrin River • Nine Mile Creek • Shaw Brook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachwood • Bratenahl • Cleveland • Cleveland Heights • East Cleveland • Euclid • Highland Heights • Highland Hills • Lakewood • Lyndhurst • Mayfield Village • Mayfield Heights • Pepper Pike • Richmond Heights • Shaker Heights • South Euclid • University Heights • Willoughby Hills • Cleveland Metroparks • Cuyahoga County • Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority • Ohio Department of Transportation – District 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doan Brook Watershed Partnership • Euclid Creek Watershed Council • Friends of Euclid Creek • Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc

Total number of WAC members = 21

Figure 5. Map of Lake Erie Direct Tributaries

