**Ebony Hood**

Ebony Hood was born and raised in Cleveland and has over 20 years of experience in grassroots community organizing and recreation working with youth & families. She leads curriculum and programming with Syatt, a grassroots community organization. Ms. Hood graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Sustainability which drives her desire to advocate for environmental justice and her passion to connect others to the natural world. She also holds a Master’s in Education for Science Curriculum and Instruction from Kent State University.

Ebony is dedicated to changing the narrative by creating culturally relevant and evidence-based curriculum for transformative education and learning in urban communities. Her work with Syatt brings youth through a participatory action research program, where participants focus on sustainable efforts across the environment, government, and cultural contributions of the African-diaspora in other regions. Through this model, they gain applicable skills to become leaders in their school and neighborhood communities.

In her daytime role, Ebony is a Community Relations Specialist with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District where she builds partnerships with community stakeholders to develop and implement programs and projects that promote the economic value of clean water and environmental stewardship. She also develops and implements scholastic curriculum for pre-k to college students in private and public schools including professional development for educators with a focus on water careers and STEM-based lessons. You can find her leading bike rides through Northeast Ohio’s watersheds exploring the history of the region and sustainable community green infrastructure projects.

Ebony also possesses a diverse working history where she has over 15 years of experience as a union laborer and steward. She fully understands the value of communicating with varying audiences including class, race, sex, and age to help mitigate issues of discrimination and social injustice. She recognizes and works to uplift Cleveland’s communities that are faced with transitioning from industrial progress to a service-filled workforce. As a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, her goal is to have community-led projects combat the disparities faced in the region.

Ms. Hood works with other environmental professionals across the State of Ohio for collaborative efforts in education, growing diversity, and building programs around natural resources. She loves one tank trips, discovering hidden gems in nature, and loves family picnics will old-fashioned games and fun!