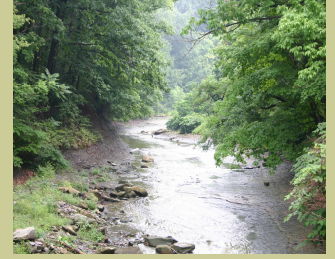


Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Watershed Council

City of Beachwood
City of Cleveland
City of Euclid
City of Highland Heights
City of Lyndhurst
City of Mayfield Heights
Village of Mayfield
City of Richmond Heights
City of South Euclid

Conservation Day Featuring Euclid Creek

Saturday, September 13
at the Euclid Creek Reservation of
the Cleveland Metroparks

Activities include nature walks,
water monitoring, and fun and
educational games. See the next
newsletter for a detailed schedule
of activities.

Euclid Creek Partners:

Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek &
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

From the Desk of the Watershed Coordinator

Hello Euclid Creek Watershed Enthusiasts—my name is Claire Posius, and I am your new Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator. Sadly, Lynn Garrity left the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District in November of 2007 to pursue an environmental job opportunity in the region, so we're lucky to still have her talents locally. From all I've heard and seen in the past four months, Lynn did a phenomenal job over the past 3+ years and will be sorely missed. I'm very excited to be part of the team and to continue the great work that precedes me, and I'm thrilled to see the fantastic team of players involved with advancing the Euclid Creek Watershed Program.

If we have not met yet, I look forward to meeting you and will give you a little background information. I have a Bachelors degree in Conservation Biology and English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University. I worked for the Cleveland City Planning Commission for four years as a neighborhood planner, where I had the opportunity to author Cleveland's first comprehensive plan chapter on Sustainability. Most recently I worked for the City of Cleveland Heights as a Zoning Administrator. Before graduate school, I worked in the private sector for environmental consulting and telecommunications firms. I am also a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional.

In my new role, I am getting up to speed with the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan and the Euclid Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report, the documents which guide implementation projects in Euclid Creek. I am also getting acquainted with the myriad of projects Lynn had in various stages of implementation, such as the Euclid Creek East Branch Dam Removal project and the Estuary project. I've also had the pleasure of meeting with almost all of the Euclid Creek committees - the Watershed Council, the Public Involvement Public Education Committee, the Technical Committee, and I will be meeting with the Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee in the next month.

Please contact me if you want to volunteer or become more active in the Euclid Creek Program, we must keep the momentum going! Claire Posius, 216-524-6580x16, cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tuesday, April 29, 6:30-8:00pm

Euclid Beach Pier—Public Meeting at the Memorial Nottingham Library
Come share your input through a discussion and review of a pier design concept

Friday-Monday, May 2-5

National River Rally at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio. River Networks' National River Rally is the largest annual gathering of river and watershed advocates in the country. This premier event comes to Ohio for the first time in 2008. Visit <http://www.rivernetwork.org/rn/rally/> for details.

Tuesday, May 6, 7:00pm

Friends of Euclid Creek Monthly meeting (1st Tuesday, of every month) at the South Euclid Community Center — Featuring speaker Kirby Date of the *Countryside Program* who will discuss balancing conservation and development.

Thursday, May 8, 7:30am

Euclid Creek Watershed Council meeting at the Beachwood Community Center
Collinwood High School Students will display their Euclid Creek Science Fair projects

Saturday, May 10, 9:00am-4:00pm

Cuyahoga County Household Hazardous Waste Round Up at the County Fairgrounds, Berea
Here's your opportunity to dispose of unwanted oil-based paints, pesticides, batteries, etc.

Saturday, May 17, 10:00am-noon

Euclid Creek Watershed Event—2nd Invasive Plant Pull at Wildwood State Park, Cleveland
Help us pull the invasive Garlic Mustard. Meet at Wildwood State Park entrance Parking lot - bring gloves, drinking water, and dress for the weather.

Wednesday-Thursday, May 21-22

Northeast Ohio Storm Water Conference at Tri-C East Campus, see
<http://www.tinkercreekwatershed.org/conference.php> for details.

Friday, June 6, 9:00-10:30am

Euclid Creek Public Involvement & Public Education Committee at South Euclid Community Center

Wednesday, July 23, 6:00-7:30pm

Euclid Creek Rain Barrel Workshop at Euclid Creek Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks.
Build your own rain barrel to take home and to collect water for use on your lawn or garden. Cost \$35.
Registration opens July 1, contact N. Chagrin Nature Center to register and for details: 440-473-3370.



From the Friends: FOEC 2008 Fund Drive

Join FOEC Today!

The Friends of Euclid Creek help inform and educate the public on the many things happening in the watershed. Be part of its future by joining and supporting FOEC. New membership dues, \$15, Student or Senior, \$10 and Donor \$50.

To become a member contact:

Friends of Euclid Creek

P.O. Box 21384

South Euclid, OH 44121-0384

or Log on to FOEC's website:

www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org

The Friends of Euclid Creek History: Now six years old, Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) is conducting its first major fund campaign. To meet our goals and implement elements of the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan, our target is to raise \$35,000 by the end of 2008. So far FOEC members have raised \$5,000 of that \$35,000, but we want to make new friends and "spread the word" about the good work that we are doing.

2007 Mileposts: We're proud of our accomplishments in 2007. Significant achievements that we'd like to share with you:

- Completion of the design of the Lower Euclid Creek Trail plan. The 4-mile trail would connect Wildwood Park with the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation, adding a segment to the Cuyahoga County Greenprint;
- Completion of the 3-way agreement among FOEC, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and the Mayfield Heights Board of Education on establishment of a conservation easement on almost 13 acres of prime wetlands in Highland Heights;
- Receipt of US Army Corps of Engineers grant to restore an estuarine habitat in Wildwood Park, the mouth of Euclid Creek at Lake Erie;
- Eleven signs erected across the watershed on major streets to identify segments of the creek and make the public aware of where the watershed is located;
- First-time presentation at our annual meeting of awards to recognize local officials and volunteers who have made special contributions to the goals of FOEC; and,
- Doubling the income for general operations of the FOEC organization.

Targeting Projects – You May Choose Where to Contribute to Help the FOEC:

- Friends of Euclid Creek needs to raise \$62,500 within the next two years to pay its obligation to The Conservation Fund for our share of the Natural Resource Assistance fund grant which paid the Board of Education's for a Conservation Easement on the Dusty Goldenrod meadow. The fund goal is to raise half of that money in 2008.
- We want to work on the preservation of at least one priority conservation area within the watershed this year.
- Adding additional signs in all of our nine communities raises awareness of the importance of watershed protection, so we would like add signs in the four communities in the watershed which do not presently have them.
- Begin right-of-way acquisition and engineering of the Lower Euclid Creek Trail.
- Cost of water quality monitoring kits. Our partnership with John Carroll U. professor Mike Nichols requires volunteers to have adequate equipment for students and volunteers to conduct water testing.
- General operations. We always need to cover the cost of supplies, mailings, special programs, speakers, field trips and activities on Euclid Creek Watershed days when community projects with students and other volunteers take place.
- We offer the option to our members and contributors to target your donation. If, through grants or other sources of funds, the need for funds for your target is otherwise covered, we retain the option of transferring your donation to a source where there is greater need.
- We will not, however, make any change if that element that you designate is still in need of funds.

Collinwood High School Implements Grant for Classroom Work in Euclid Creek

Collinwood High School was one of three Cleveland High Schools to receive an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant for its students to utilize Euclid Creek as an outdoor laboratory. In the 2007/8 school year, junior and senior science classes performed long-term research projects, and 21 students went on to perform individual projects to test the effects of various factors on physical parameters or biological communities in Euclid Creek, and to test soil and leaf litter biological communities. Professor Michael Watson is coordinating this effort for the school with students. The long-term projects culminated in January with the Collinwood Science Fair where students presented their projects to local professionals who judged the projects. Five of the Euclid Creek projects were selected to compete at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (**NEOSEF**) at Cleveland State University (CSU). Students will continue the long-term projects until May, when they will present them at a symposium with the other Urban Stream Scholars schools at CSU.

Congratulations 2007 NEOSEF Collinwood Winners

2nd place, 11-12 Env. Science * **Gered Bowman**

3rd place, 9-10 Chemistry * **Kierra Suttles**

Honorable Mention, 11-12 Environmental Science

* **Frederick Bowman, D'Marris McCoy, & Maurice Rome**

Honorable Mention, 11-12 Behavioral Science

* **Cynthia White**

Special Awards:

American Psychological Assn. * **Cynthia White**

Kiwanis Club of Cleve. & McCoy Montgomery Watson

Harza Awards * **D'Marris McCoy**

NEOSEF Trustees * **Cynthia White**

Stackholm Water Prize * **Frederick Bowman**

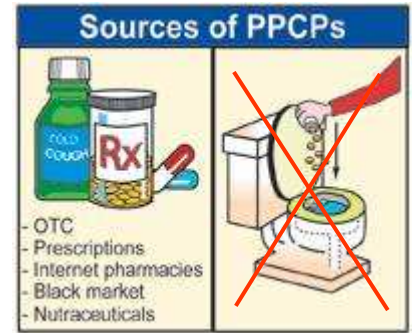
Special thanks to Professor Watson from the Euclid Creek Program Partners for his important role in getting another generation involved in and educated about Euclid Creek.

What Can You Do To Help Euclid Creek

How to Safely Dispose of Unwanted Medicine

As part of a nationwide study, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Associated Press report finding low concentrations of pharmaceuticals in our streams and drinking water. While the presence of these drugs is very low, long-term consequences to human and aquatic health is unknown. Pharmaceuticals enter our water ways when household medicines are disposed of in the toilet or down the drain. These chemicals then flow into your septic system or local wastewater treatment plant, facilities that are not designed to remove these medicines. These chemicals are then released into our rivers and lakes, the source of our drinking water.

You can make a difference by properly disposing of your unwanted or expired medicine. See if your pharmacy or community will accept and dispose of your unwanted medications safely. Or put medicine in the trash securely packaged so that children or animals cannot ingest the medicine accidentally. Local health and environmental agencies are collaborating on studies of our waterways, so keep informed on this newly emerging research and request that your community start a used medicine collection program.



Discarding unused drugs and personal care products down the toilet is a common but poor disposal method.

Source: US EPA Website

Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

East Branch Dam Project Update

The dam removal project is moving along as the firm Burgess & Niple is working to complete a final design for the project. The dam removal Committee, consisting of project partners and public agencies, met in December to review final concept plans and draft cost estimates. The final plans were anticipated to be complete at the end of 2007, but have been delayed due to the complexity of the dam in relation to Highland Road which crosses high over the East Branch of Euclid Creek. Ensuring the structural stability of the roadway and the natural function of the channel once the dam is removed is of upmost importance in reaching the project goals of fish passage and improved aquatic habitat. The delays have not hindered progress as project partners continue to discuss funding and scheduling logistics. The dam removal construction is anticipated to begin Spring of 2009.



Public Art Project in Euclid Creek

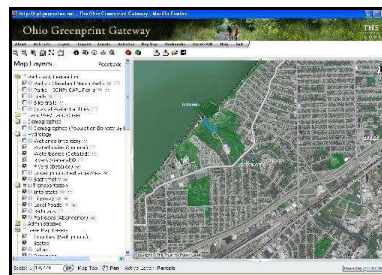
The Nottingham Water Works Plant on St. Clair just east of E. 185th St., has recently gone through renovations that generated funds to be used for public artwork in Cleveland's Nottingham neighborhood. The art funds are generated through the City of Cleveland's Public Art Program, which requires that money be set aside whenever a major capital project is undertaken by a city agency. Goals of the program are to promote revitalization, express neighborhood identity, and to give residents access to high-quality art as a part of daily life in the city.

In connection with the use of the building, the artwork will be water-related. The main stem of Euclid Creek is located in the Nottingham neighborhood and is a fantastic asset that will be highlighted in this public art project. Details of the project are being worked out, but keep your eye out for a Call for Public Artists in the near future. For more information, contact Vince Reddy at Cleveland Public Art at 216-621-5330 or the Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580 x16.



New Conservation Mapping System On-Line

If you have ever wanted to make a professional looking map without the expensive software, you now have a resource with access to the internet. The Trust for Public Land created the internet-based Ohio Greenprint Gateway, a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS). The site has parcel-level information, natural resource layers and demographics for 20 counties in Northern Ohio. The intent of the website is to create regional priorities for conservation. There is a user-friendly training and you can access even more data with approval by the webmaster. Website Address: <http://www.ohiogreenprint.org>.



Volunteer Monitors Needed

If you or a group want to help out with minimal time commitment, volunteer monitoring is just for you. Contact the Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580 x16 on a variety of projects that need monitoring in the watershed.

*Euclid Creek Partners:
Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek &
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District*

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125

Phone: 216-524-6580 x16
Fax: 216-524-6584
Email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

We're on the web: www.cuyahogawcd.org

Then click on *Services* and *Watershed Programs*, then scroll down to *Euclid Creek!*

If you would like to receive this e-newsletter automatically, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your contact information.

**Only Rain
Down the
Drain**

History of a Place—Euclid Beach Pier

Euclid Beach Park opened in 1895 as an amusement park and is fondly remembered by Clevelanders for its dance hall, carousel, roller coasters and fishing pier. The park closed in 1969 and remnants of the park remain today. Of these remnants is the original cement pier. The wood portion of the pier that extended into Lake Erie with ferry boat service to downtown is gone.

Today, the Northeast Shores Development Corporation, the neighborhood community group in Cleveland, is leading a project to study the feasibility of rebuilding the Euclid Beach Pier. Northeast Shores received a grant from Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the study, and they hired URS Corp. to do the work. This study is one of many recommendations that came out of the Lake Shore Boulevard neighborhood plan created in 2004 to revitalize and reinvent the area.

You can learn more about the project and provide input at the *public meeting on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:30pm at the Memorial Nottingham Library, 17109 Lakeshore Blvd.*



Historic postcards of Euclid Beach and of the Fountain and Pier (above) and Euclid Beach Pier now, what an opportunity! (below)

