

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Euclid Beach Clean-Up
September 6 10:00am
Euclid Beach State Park
(For more details call
216-881-8141 ext. 3001)

Euclid Creek Day
September 13
Details to the right

**Euclid Creek Public
Involvement Committee**
October 3 9:00am
Location TBD

**Friends of Euclid Creek
Monthly Meeting***
October 7, 7:00pm
South Euclid Community Center

**Friends of Euclid Creek
1st Annual Creek Dance
Fundraiser**
October 10
Details on p. 2

**Euclid Creek Watershed
Council Meeting**
October 22, 7:30am
Memorial-Nottingham Library

Euclid Creek Partners:

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

Friends of Euclid Creek Recognized for their Great Work in Preserving the Dusty Goldenrod

The Mayfield Board of Education presented the Friends of Euclid Creek with a proclamation of appreciation for their hard work in preserving the Highland Heights wetlands on Mayfield City Schools property. The May 2008 reception was held at the site of the 12.5-acre Dusty Goldenrod conservation easement where attendees were able to walk the beautiful meadow property. Protection of this property preserved the state listed endangered plant, the Dusty Goldenrod, the only known location in Ohio where this plant is found. *Immense thanks are in order* to Virginia Aveni, Lynn Garrity, Chris Soukup and the Mayfield School Board for their long hours of work and dedication to protect this precious land.



Annual Euclid Creek Watershed Event – Be There!

You're invited to our 6th Annual Euclid Creek Day which will be joined with the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's (SWCD's) 59th Annual Meeting and Conservation Day Picnic. Please come down on Saturday, September 13 to the Euclid Creek Reservation and pick an activity or volunteer to help out during the day as we celebrate Euclid Creek.

6th Annual Euclid Creek Day
Saturday, September 13, 2008
10:00am-2:00pm

Euclid Creek Metroparks Reservation—Upper Highland Picnic Area

Schedule:

10:00am -12:30pm:	Board of Supervisors Election
10:15am -11:00am:	Stream Monitoring Training Session with Dr. Mike Nichols
11:00am -11:30am:	East Branch Dam Removal Site Visit
11:30am -12:00pm:	Rain Barrel Demonstration
11:30am -1:00pm:	Picnic Lunch, Awards and Recognition Ceremony
1:00pm -1:30pm:	Euclid Creek Nature Walk with Metroparks Naturalist Stacey Allen
1:00pm -2:00pm:	Langerdale/Nine Mile Wetland Retrofit Site Visit
1:30pm -2:00pm:	Rain Barrel Demonstration

Activities in blue are Euclid Creek Watershed Program project highlights

Join us in this Free, Family-Friendly event featuring: door prizes, exhibits by conservation partners, and hands-on activities and games like conservation cornhole.

Additional Activities Going on in the Euclid Creek Watershed on Euclid Creek Day:

- ◆ **City of Beachwood Motor Oil Drop:** 8:00am-12:00pm at City's Service Garage - Service Garage Door #5 at 2700 Richmond Road, Beachwood 44122 (for Beachwood residents only)
- ◆ **City of Lyndhurst Rain Garden Demonstration:** 10:00am at Schaeffer Park in Lyndhurst - the Regina and Brush Environmental Clubs will install a rain garden at Schaeffer Park - join us to learn about the benefits of rain gardens (meet at the park parking lot off of Fairlawn Road, just west of Richmond).
- ◆ **City of Richmond Heights Motor Oil Drop:** 9:00am-1:00pm at City's Service Department - 26260 Chardonview Road, Richmond Heights 44143 (for Richmond Heights residents only)
Go to our website for updates or changes to the schedule at: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/>



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

CREEK DANCE

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) invite you to discover and celebrate the natural beauty of the Euclid Creek Watershed at the first annual Creek Dance

Friday, October 10, 2008

Mayfield Sand Ridge Country Club
1545 Sheridan Road, South Euclid, Ohio
44121

6:30 Cocktails, Silent Auction

8:00 Dinner

9:00-11:00 Dancing

Cost is \$95 per person, of which \$50 is tax deductible

Proceeds will support FOEC projects throughout the Euclid Creek Watershed. For more information, call 440-473-3484.

FOEC Elects New Officers for 2008-2009

Congratulations to FOEC's elected officers as voted at FOEC July meeting.

President: Fran Hogg

Vice President: Virginia Aveni

Secretary: Larry McFadden

Treasurer: Ken Rapport*

Directors: Steve Albro*, Gary Bloom*, Mike Ceraolo, Mary K. Evans, Bob Gibbons, and Frank Skala.

* Newly Appointed

Mitigation Money Completes Funding for Conservation Easement

In other fantastic news, Friends of Euclid Creek has retired the loan which paid for its share of the funds for a conservation easement on the Dusty Goldenrod meadow in Highland Heights. Wetlands mitigation money from the Forest City Development in the Aberdeen section of the city were targeted for a segment of the meadow streams by the Army Corps of Engineers. Permits are required from the Corps and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to cover or drain high-quality wetlands in order to offer protection of important resources in another area. The Mayfield Heights School District owns the meadow, but the conservation easement preserving almost 13 acres is held by Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District.



The Conservation Fund loan was obtained in 2007 to meet the Friends of Euclid Creek's 25% match to the State of Ohio Clean Ohio greenspace grant.

"The partnership of four government agencies, the private corporation and our

advocacy group to preserve this community gem is truly wonderful," said Virginia Aveni, former president of Friends of Euclid Creek.

Home Days

Hope you stopped by the FOEC booth at the Highland Heights, Richmond Heights and South Euclid Homes Day.

**Stop by the FOEC booth at the
Lyndhurst Home Days
September, 5-7**

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

Euclid Creek Student Corner

Here's to another fantastic Spring season of participation by local schools coming out to learn about Euclid Creek. Thanks to the following schools for their participation and involvement in educating students about the stresses to Euclid Creek and the health of this important ecosystem.

- Collinwood High School's 9th grade Physical Science class
- Cuyahoga Community College-Eastern's Biology, Aquatic Ecosystems Class and the Watershed Course for Educators
- John Carroll University's Environmental Science Course

Please contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator if your school is interested in learning or doing stewardship activities in Euclid Creek.

Beachwood's Green Dream: Moving Forward and Reaching Out

by Greg Perry and Karen Carmen

Over 2,200 people visited The Green Dream Eco-Friendly Showcase in April 2008 at the Beachwood Community Center. The event, organized by the Beachwood High School Marketing and Junior Achievement class was lead by Greg Perry; Beachwood High School Marketing teacher and Karen Carmen, City of Beachwood and Junior Achievement Consultant. The Marketing class used the Junior Achievement Company Program to execute this year-long project.

The Green Dream Eco-Friendly Showcase brought 70 businesses and organizations together in an expo style to educate visitors about business, product, and lifestyle choices that are environmentally friendly. In addition to promoting awareness, the students were able to raise nearly \$150,000 in donations, products, and services to build "The Ultimate Green Classroom", the national model of a green classroom at Beachwood High School designed to create a safe, non-toxic, energy efficient, and sustainable classroom ready for the 2008-09 school year.

The Green Dream 2009 will be held April 16, 2009 at Landerhaven. The students hope to secure at least 140 vendors and have 6,000 visitors – making it Ohio's largest "green fair". For more information, visit www.thegreendream.org.

First Euclid Creek Rain Barrel Workshop a Success!

It is clear that there is a lot of interest in rain barrels as the Euclid Creek Rain Barrel Workshop filled up two days after registration opened. The workshop, held at the Euclid Creek Reservation Rear Quarry shelter, brought mostly Euclid Creek Watershed residents out to make their own rain barrel for collecting rain water for lawn and garden watering. Water normally flows through your downspout into a city storm water system, or runs onto a paved surface eventually into a storm drain leading to our creeks and rivers.

Participants learned not only how to easily make their own rain barrel at an affordable cost, but learned the benefits of using rain barrels, which include, lower water costs, improved health of garden plants and beneficial microbes in the soil, natural recharge of groundwater, and decreased water pollution by reducing polluted storm water runoff (from sediment, fertilizers, grease, oil and bacteria).



Consider participating in a rain barrel workshop to help protect our watershed and to learn more about the benefits of rain barrels. Our next workshop will be held at the Rocky River Nature Center on October 22, see www.cuyahogawcd.org for registration information and details. Keep an eye out for future rain barrel workshops organized by Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District or through partner organizations like Cleveland Metroparks, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and Cleveland Botanical Gardens.

Invasive Plant Pull Stewardship Event

Thanks to the ten participants who came out to pull invasive Garlic Mustard (*Lesser celendine*) at Wildwood State park in Cleveland. This invasive plant out-competes native spring wildflowers and is not a good food source for wildlife. *Lesser celendine* is quickly taking over the Euclid Creek Wildwood State Park and has invaded the Rocky River, Vermilion River, Doan Brook, and Chagrin River areas.

The group removed 20 bags of the invasive plant. This effort will continue annually as the Garlic Mustard seed bank must be depleted, so get ready to help out next Spring.



Euclid Creek Beaches—What you can do to help improve our water quality

Living next to a natural wonder like Lake Erie is one of Cleveland's greatest assets. Yet, recent articles have ranked Euclid Creek's beaches, Euclid Beach and Villa Angela, as two of the worst swimming beaches in the Northeast Ohio region due to high bacteria levels and among the top ten worst beaches in the country. The study released by the Natural Resources Defense Council was based on 2007 samples that exceeded federal clean-water standards at each beach.

After heavy rain falls, elevated levels of pollutants are carried over lawns, streets/driveways, and roofs and flow into our storm drains directly into our waterways (e.g. Euclid Creek). Easy tips you can follow to help reduce polluted runoff are to:

- Clean up pet waste
- Fix automobile fluid leaks
- Reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides
- Become a Euclid Creek Volunteer Water Quality Monitor (contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator for more details at 216-524-6580x16)

You should also follow smart environmental and health practices when visiting beaches. Do not feed or encourage waterfowl. Waterfowl are thought to be a major source of contamination at Villa Angela and Euclid Beach. Children in diapers are also a potential source of contamination.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are also a problem after heavy rain falls. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) has developed a comprehensive program to construct CSO control facilities, but this billion dollar plus plan will require decades to implement (more information at <http://www.NEORS.org>). In the short term, NEORS is developing methods to predict and communicate likely water quality conditions for the benefit of beach users.

The Ohio Department of Health (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>) posts the most recent data on water quality conditions. Click on the link for "Beach Monitoring". A good rule of thumb is to avoid swimming after storms involving heavy rain or large waves.

The Euclid Creek Partnership effort will continue to work with local, state and federal agencies to keep you informed and to clean up our beaches to healthy levels so we can fully enjoy our natural asset.

Euclid Creek Beaches			
	Number of Water Quality Advisories		
	2006	2007	2008
	(5/22-8/31)	(5/21-8/30)	(5/19-8/27)
Villa Angela	44	46	48
Euclid Beach	48	46	49

Source: ODH Website, Samples collected/analyzed by NE Ohio Regional Sewer District.

To Mow or Not to Mow, That is the Question

Cities in Euclid Creek are implementing 'No-Mow' Zones

Have you noticed tall grass and vegetation in your City recently and wondered why? There is a very important reason for this 'unkempt', natural appearance. Several Cities in the Euclid Creek Watershed have created "no-mow" zones along City property next to streams. Leaving a natural area along a creek, a riparian setback, for grass, shrubs and trees to grow has many benefits.

- Taller growing plants have deeper root systems that can help stabilize the creek banks from wearing away / eroding.
- Tall plants shade the Creek and provide habitat for wildlife, which provides food and shelter for fish and stream insects, known as macroinvertebrates.
- Plants clean sediment and contaminants from polluted runoff, storm water, passing through the riparian setback area into the Creek, which ultimately flows to Lake Erie - our source of drinking water.
- Plants also reduce the force and power of runoff entering the stream as they absorb water more readily than grass.
- Your City saves taxpayer dollars by not having to mow these areas.

If Euclid Creek runs through your property, you can create a 'No-Mow' Zone

You can help Euclid Creek by not mowing up to the stream edge and by allowing native vegetation to grow. You will save money not only on gasoline to power your lawn mower, but native plants are resistant to common pests and do not require pesticides and fertilizers to grow. Also, by allowing the riparian area to grow, you can make pathways to the water and create a natural appearance over time as shrubs and trees naturally fill in and provide a more diverse plant cover than grass. And you will notice more birds and beneficial insects like butterflies flocking to your property.

If you don't have a stream, but have grass to mow...

You can help Euclid Creek by mowing your lawn high - *three inches* is the rule! The roots of your lawn grow as deep as the grass grows tall, so taller grass has deeper, healthier roots. Keep your lawn 3" or higher and never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade of grass each time you mow. A healthy lawn tolerates hot, dry weather better - so you can spend less time this summer watering and fertilizing.

By mowing your grass high and leaving streamside buffer areas natural you will save time and money, provide beautiful vegetation for all to enjoy and help to improve Euclid Creek's ecosystem health and water quality.



Got Grass? Mow High!
Source: US EPA Outreach,
Laramie, Inc.

Participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

Another way you can help the watershed is by disposing of your household hazardous waste safely. Household hazardous waste is any product labeled as toxic, flammable, irritant, corrosive, or poisonous, and products can seem harmless, like cleaning or disinfecting solutions. Too often the health and safety of our communities and environment is threatened by improper storage or disposal of household hazardous waste.

The following Euclid Creek communities are participating in the Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up by holding a small collection event for their residents. Please contact your city service department for more detailed information, and to find out if your community recycles other materials like phone books, electronics, scrap tires, or prescription medicines.

- **Beachwood** Fall Hazardous Waste Roundup - Thursday, September 4 - Thursday, September 11, 2008, 2700 Richmond Road (Door # 5), M-F 7:30-3:30. Questions, call (216) 292-1922 or www.beachwoodohio.com
- **Highland Heights** Drop-off August 25-September 6, 5827 Highland Road, M-F 8:00-3:30 and Sat. 9:00-2:00. Questions, call (440) 461-2440 or www.highlandhts.com
- **Mayfield Village** Drop-off Saturday September 6, 610 SOM Center Road, M-F 7:00-3:00 and Sat. 9:00-1:00. Questions, call (440) 442-5506 or www.mayfieldvillage.com
- **South Euclid** Drop-off September 2-9 (Not Sunday), 4224 Monticello Boulevard, M-F 8:00-3:30 and Sat. 8:00-11:30. Questions, call (216) 381-0942 or www.seuclid.com

If your community does not participate in the roundup, the County's next roundup is Saturday, September 13 from 9:00am-4:00pm at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea. For more information go to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District website at www.cuyahogaswd.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.

East Branch Dam Project Update

The East Branch Dam Removal Project is moving forward smoothly as several more pieces of the puzzle fall into place. The consulting firm, Burgess & Niple completed 75% designs for the project and reviews are currently taking place by the project partners and public agencies. Two of three funding sources for the construction portion of the project are secure. The total project costs to complete the final design and construction total an estimated \$500,000.

In May, the Ohio EPA awarded Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District \$235,428 for the dam removal project, one of two watershed restoration/protection projects to receive funding in Cuyahoga County. And in July, the Metroparks was awarded \$98,580 by the Natural Resource Conservation Service—Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (NRCS-WHIP), a funder interested in supporting a viable fish passage and stream restoration project like ours. We are now several steps closer to reaching the project goals of fish passage and improved aquatic habitat.



Public Art Project in Euclid Creek

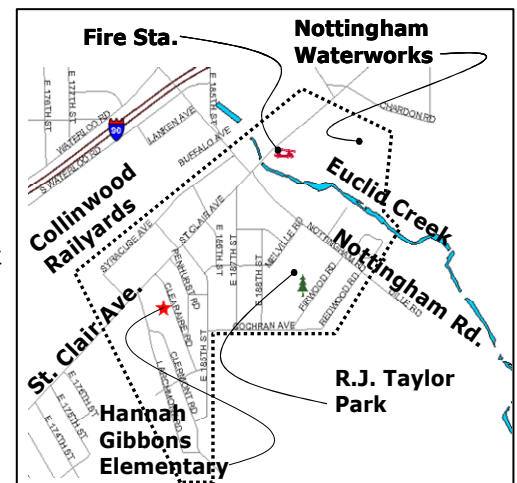
by Vince Reddy of Cleveland Public Art

The City of Cleveland's Public Art Program will soon bring public art to the Nottingham neighborhood. The Public Art Program requires city agencies, when undertaking a large-scale construction project, to set aside 1.5% of the project's budget for public art. In most cases, the art is required to be on the site of or in the immediate vicinity of the project generating the public art funds, but exceptions may be made if the project site is inaccessible or otherwise less than ideal for a public art installation.

Recent capital improvements at the Nottingham Waterworks, near the southwest corner of St. Clair Ave. and Chardon Rd., generated approximately \$150,000 for use toward public artwork. Because the vast grounds of the waterworks do not offer a likely site for public art, Councilman Mike Polensek of Ward 11 has stated that the public art investment should benefit the Nottingham neighborhood, which is located across Euclid Creek to the west of the waterworks.

The city will soon issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) to artists who may be interested in working on the Nottingham installation. The exact form and location of the artwork will come out of the artist's imagination and will draw heavily on input from the neighborhood. Because the art funds are generated by a project of the Cleveland Water Division, the art project must relate to the division's functions or more generally to the role of water in the history and sustenance of Cleveland.

One way in which the artwork could benefit the community would be by reconnecting it to Euclid Creek, an amenity that is largely hidden as it travels by the neighborhood. It may seem like this would be too much to ask of a piece of public artwork, but there is no telling what art, if produced with the right mix of talent and inspiration, can do. If you are an artist and want to participate, contact Vince Reddy at Cleveland Public Art at 216-621-5330.



The map above shows the focus area, surrounded by a heavy dashed line, for the Nottingham public art project. (Map source: U.S. Geological Survey)

Removing Septic Systems in Willoughby Hills

The City of Willoughby Hills is in the final phase of a ten year project to provide sanitary sewer service to its residents in the western portion of the City whose properties are in the Euclid Creek Watershed. The Lake County Health District and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency cited the city due to the pollution problems caused by failing home septic systems. On some streets, up to 66% of the septic systems were failing and sewage was and leaching directly into Euclid Creek.

The first phase of the project was the Euclid Creek Interceptor, a tunnel designed to store and capture sewage, and was completed in 2004 (\$4.5 million). The second and third phases (\$8.4 million) and are focused on getting residents with home sewage treatment systems tied into new sewers. A total of 550 septic systems will be removed and tied into the new sanitary sewer system by Spring of 2010.

While this conversion is a massive financial investment for the city and its residents, all downstream inhabitants (aquatic and human) on the East Branch of Euclid Creek (the Cities of Richmond Heights, Euclid, and Cleveland) will be very grateful to see water quality improve due to this project.

*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—The Bluestone Brooks by Roy Larick

Lying between Rivers Cuyahoga and Chagrin, the bluestone brooks (Doan, Dugway, Nine Mile and Euclid), form a small, unitary segment of the Lake Erie watershed.

The brooks drain the face of the Allegheny escarpment, Northeast Ohio's slope between Appalachian Highlands and Central Lowlands. From a common source 600 feet above Lake Erie at Lyman Circle in Shaker Heights, each brook tumbles 8 or 9 miles down the escarpment to the lake.

On the Heights, the brooks are also linked in traversing the Euclid bluestone, the sandstone well-known in legacy sidewalks and buildings. The bluestone bed sits about 230 feet above the lake. At this level, each brook has a significant bluestone waterfall and associated historical quarries.

In just 14-thousand years of down-cutting, the brooks have produced four distinct landscapes: intimate glens above the bluestone, deep gorges below the bluestone, shallow ravines on the lake plain, and small estuaries at the lake.

The brooks suffer from insensitive development; many stream courses are culverted or channeled. Only the gorges remain relatively untouched. Moreover, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Easterly sewers comprise a nearly co-equal subterranean watershed. Significant natural runoff flows into the sewers; surface stream flows are thus diminished.

The bluestone brooks constitute a unique Lake Erie eco-territory. As Greater Cleveland regionalizes, the brooks are best rehabilitated as a singular watershed.

