

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Reservation, Rear Quarry
Photographer: Nicole Blatchford

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

Euclid Creek Bioswale Planting & Invasive Plant Pull

Saturday, May 14
9:00am-12:00pm

Wildwood State Park, Cleveland
E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

Volunteers are needed to help plant natives and pull invasives

Meet at 9:00am for Bioswale Planting at marina parking lot

Meet at 10:00am for invasive plant pull at entrance parking lot

Dress for weather (long sleeves, pants, work boots, gloves)

All groups welcome, children under 18 must be supervised

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

Mayfield Heights Green Infrastructure Project Begins

Daffodils not only announce spring time, but also the start of the construction season!

Mayfield Heights has started construction on the Green Infrastructure Demonstration Showcase at City Hall! Paid for by a \$231,900 Ohio EPA, Surface Water Improvement Fund grant, this showcase will create a residential style rain garden in front of City Hall, a commercial style forested parking lot behind City Hall and a municipal style pervious pavement parking lot next to City Hall's Police Station entrance.

The City has selected Ohio Paving and Construction, Inc. from Cleveland to perform the construction and the City Engineer, URS will provide oversight. City Hall will be open during the 4 months of construction and construction is phased to minimize disturbance to the daily business at City Hall. When required, signs will direct City Hall visitors to temporary parking at the nearby City Park.

Little scientific data exists in Ohio for these types of Green Infrastructure projects, especially in cold climates. Upon completion, the City will study these areas to determine their overall effectiveness. The Ohio EPA will fund the monitoring of these areas for one year after construction.

Once construction is complete, two public open houses will be scheduled to educate business and residents on construction methodologies and lessons learned. Dates will be announced on the City's and Euclid Creek Watershed's websites.

THIS IS A RAIN GARDEN

What is a Rain Garden?
A rain garden is a shallow depression in the landscape with natural plants and mulch that captures rain water from roofs, lawns, and parking lots. It allows water to infiltrate the ground, reducing runoff and recharging groundwater. Rain gardens also filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

What are the benefits of Rain Gardens?
• Reduce runoff and erosion
• Filter pollutants from the water
• Recharge groundwater
• Provide habitat for wildlife

Why do we need Rain Gardens?
In the city, runoff from roofs, lawns, and parking lots can cause erosion and flooding. Rain gardens help reduce runoff and filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

Why is this Rain Garden Here?
This rain garden is located in front of City Hall to capture rain water from the roof and reduce runoff. It will also filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

THIS IS A PERMEABLE PARKING LOT

What is Permeable Pavement?
Permeable pavement allows water to infiltrate the ground through the pavement surface. This reduces runoff and recharges groundwater. Permeable pavement also filters pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

What are the benefits of Permeable Pavement?
• Reduce runoff and erosion
• Filter pollutants from the water
• Recharge groundwater
• Provide habitat for wildlife

Why do we need Permeable Pavement?
In the city, runoff from parking lots can cause erosion and flooding. Permeable pavement helps reduce runoff and filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

Why is this Permeable Pavement Here?
This permeable pavement is located next to City Hall's Police Station entrance to capture rain water from the parking lot and reduce runoff. It will also filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

THIS IS A FORESTED PARKING LOT

What is a Forested Parking Lot?
A forested parking lot is a parking lot with trees and other vegetation. The trees and vegetation help reduce runoff and filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground. Forested parking lots also provide habitat for wildlife.

What are the benefits of Forested Parking?
• Reduce runoff and erosion
• Filter pollutants from the water
• Recharge groundwater
• Provide habitat for wildlife

Why do we need Forested Parking?
In the city, runoff from parking lots can cause erosion and flooding. Forested parking lots help reduce runoff and filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

Why is this Forested Parking Here?
This forested parking lot is located behind City Hall to capture rain water from the parking lot and reduce runoff. It will also filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the ground.

Project Interpretive Signage

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sat, May 14, 9:00am-noon
Thu, May 19, 8:30am-4:30pm

Wed, May 25 6:30-8:00pm
Fri, June 3, 9:00-10:30am
Thu, June 16, 7:30-9:00am
Wed, July 27, 6:30-8:00pm
Wed, August 24, 6:30-8:00pm
Sat, Sept 10, 9:00am-noon

1st Tue of Month, 7:00pm
1st Wed of Month, 7:00pm

- Euclid Creek 5th Invasive Plant Pull & Bioswale Planting Event**, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland*
- The Cuyahoga River- State of the River Symposium**, Happy Days Lodge, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Contact Kelvin Rogers for registration details 330-963-1117
- Rain Barrel Workshop- Beachwood**, Beachwood Community Center. Registration required by May 18*
- Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting**, Mayfield Village Civic Center
- Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting**, Highland Heights Community Center
- Rain Barrel Workshop - Richmond Heights**, Greenwood Farms. Registration required by July 19*
- Rain Barrel Workshop - Mayfield Hts**, DeJohn Community Center. Registration required by August 17*
- Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup Event & FOEC Bioswale Service Day**, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland. **Volunteers needed!** Join us at 9am in main parking lot by Marina to help clean-up the Bioswale.*
- Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)** meets monthly at the South Euclid Community Center
- Highland Heights Green Task Force** meets monthly at the Highland Heights Community Center

*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for more event details at (216) 524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org
Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for more details about an event listed above (web address on back page)



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

Opportunity for a Rain Garden Installation!!

Are you a green business looking to add attractive native plantings to your property? Then consider sponsoring a Rain Garden*!

The Friends of Euclid Creek are in search of a sponsor interested in installing a demonstration Rain Garden with educational signage on its property. We are looking for a sponsor willing to allow access to install the Rain Garden, and who embraces a green vision for the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Businesses and retail owners in the following communities are encouraged to sponsor the rain garden: Beachwood, Cleveland (along E. 185th Street), Euclid,

Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, and South Euclid.

This is a great opportunity to help promote an alternative to polluted rainwater runoff eroding our streams and creeks.

*A rain garden is an attractive, landscaped area planted with perennial native plants that don't mind getting 'wet feet'. Built in a saucer shape, rain gardens capture and filter polluted runoff from impervious surfaces around the home, such as rooftops and driveways.

Euclid Creek 2011 Photography Contest Don't Forget to Submit your Euclid Creek Photos!

The deadline is October 5th, 2011.

For *photo contest* information and submittal rules go to friendsofeuclidcreek.org. Even if you don't win 1st place—your photo could be premiered on the front of this Newsletter!

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: Individual - \$15, Family - \$25, Student or Senior - \$10, Special Friend - \$50 and Sustaining Member - \$100.

To become a member contact:

Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21384
South Euclid, OH 44121-0384
FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com

Log on to **FOEC's website & blog:**
friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net
foecnews.blogspot.com



Euclid Adopt-a-Beach Update

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team has purchased new trash and recycling bins for Euclid Beach Park thanks to roughly \$400.00 raised in individual donations and from the Friends of Euclid Creek, a \$1,000.00 grant from the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District and a \$1,300.00 Neighborhood Connections grant!



On April 16, 2011 the 3 trash and recycling bins were installed at Euclid Beach Park followed by a dedication ceremony with special guests Councilman Mike Polensek, Brian Friedman, Executive Director of Northeast Shores Community Development Corporation, and April Mather, Alliance for The Great Lakes.

Volunteers will be responsible for emptying recyclables weekly. Volunteers will also be responsible for tallying estimated trash and recycling totals collected as well as reporting to park maintenance staff any evidence of damage or tampering to the units.* If there is a noticeable decrease in trash collected during our monthly beach cleanups, we will consider installing additional trash and recycling units throughout Euclid Beach Park. Thank you to everyone who supported this project!



*For more information on The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team or how you can **volunteer to help empty recyclables** visit us on facebook or email stephen.love20@gmail.com

-The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team

Lakefront Parks Receive Grant for Anti-Littering Campaign!

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team, Friends of Edgewater State Park (FOESP), and *Drink Local. Drink Tap.* (DLDT) (also known as the Sustainable Water 2019 group) have teamed up and were awarded a \$5,000 grant from ODNR's Lake Erie Cleanup Small Grant Program. The team, led by Stephen Love of the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach and represented by Mandy Metcalf of FOESP, and Babette Oestreicher of DLDT, are working on an anti-littering campaign targeting Euclid Beach Park and Edgewater State Park Beach. The awarded grant money will go towards trash and recycling bins, cigarette and cigar receptacles, beach clean-up supplies and educational signage and materials. The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is serving as the group's fiscal agent for the grant.

Wildwood Wetland Restoration Project Update

The Lacustrine Refuge wetland restoration project located in Wildwood State Park in Cleveland is moving full steam ahead! Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District hired a Northeast Ohio design-build team called Riverworks (EnviroScience, Inc., GPD Group and RiverReach Construction) to conduct the work.

On March 17th, the RiverWorks Team started work on this exciting project that will create coastal and lacustrine wetlands to increase fish habitat and spawning of recreational species. Large areas of invasive plant species in the park will be controlled and native plants will be planted in their place to attract birds and amphibians. Stream bank erosion in the park will also be addressed as part of the project. Wetlands education and community involvement managing the invasives will begin once the project is complete.

Riverworks has begun baseline monitoring to see what fish are present in Euclid Creek. This data will be compared to data collected after the restoration is complete to see what new fish species are attracted to the enhanced habitat in the park. This is a two year project in which design/engineering/permitting will happen in the first 6-8 months and construction will happen over a 4-6 month period with project completion at the end of 2012. The project's first public meeting will be held in late Spring for residents, park enthusiasts and the community to see and provide input on the concept plan. Keep up to date on the project by checking the [project website](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm) at: www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm.

This project is funded through a US EPA - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.



Green Improvements Coming to Cleveland Water Pollution Control Facility

The Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC) is responsible for maintaining the local sanitary sewer and storm water drainage collection systems in the City of Cleveland. As the storm water management agent for the City, WPC also manages and supervises matters relating to the elimination, control and regulation of water pollution within the city limits.

The City of Cleveland is implementing a \$260,158 storm water management demonstration project at the WPC facility funded through an Ohio EPA, Surface Water Improvement Fund grant. The project includes innovative storm water treatment practices that will integrate low impact design principles.

WPC's Kirby Avenue facility includes offices, a maintenance warehouse, parking lots, and a storage yard. The existing storm water drainage system is an enclosed storm sewer and roof drainage collection system which flows directly into a combined sewer system.

The project will replace 10,200 square feet of asphalt in the parking lot with 4,200 sf of concrete with pervious, or **porous pavement** which allows runoff to infiltrate into the ground. **Two rain gardens** covering 480 sf of ground will collect and retain rainwater from 17,400 sf of the WPC building roof area. Several **bioswales** of native plantings will be installed to collect runoff from 9,950 sf of parking lot drainage not captured and/or filtrated by the pervious pavements. The final element of the project is construction of **rainwater storage tanks** that is directed from WPC rooftops for irrigation and washing vehicles. The tanks will carry a maximum of 25,000 gallons of water and will be located inside the garage area for use in all seasons. The overall goal of the project is to reduce the flow of water during a heavy rain storm that can overwhelm the sewer system and to allow rain water to naturally recharge in the ground.

This project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011. WPC will conduct tours to showcase the benefits of using green infrastructure. In addition to its environmental benefits, the project will be used as a demonstration to educate the community and spread the use of green solutions to storm water issues. For project updates go to www.clevelandwpc.com.



Welcome Babette Oestreicher—Our First Euclid Creek Watershed Intern

Please help Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District welcome Babette Oestreicher, our first Euclid Creek Watershed Intern! Babette started on April 19 and has a long list of projects she will be helping with through mid-September. The internship is made possible by a Friends of Euclid Creek's Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Watershed Program Support grant. Here is a word from Babette: Hello! My name is Babette and I am extremely excited to be the FIRST Euclid Creek Watershed Intern! I will be graduating from Cleveland State University with my Masters in Environmental Studies and although I am not a native Clevelander, I now call Cleveland home! This area has so much to offer and the sense of community that I have experienced is unmatched. I look forward to working with the watershed community to help preserve and restore our valuable water resources. Our region has an opportunity to have a positive impact on the future and I will work hard to help make this happen. Hope to see you soon!

*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

Only Rain Down the Drain

Visit our **website** at www.cuyahogawcd.org – then click on *Services, Watershed Programs* and *Euclid Creek!*

If you would like to **receive this newsletter electronically**, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.

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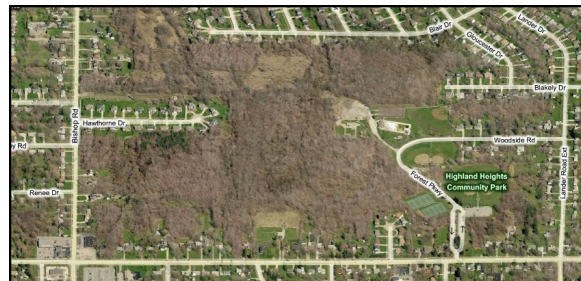
Euclid Creek Places—Highland Heights Community Park

The Highland Heights Community Park is a gem for the community and for the Euclid Creek Watershed. This 35-acre park provides recreation for the community from baseball fields, tennis courts and a swimming pool, to natural and wildlife access through trails winding through the park and surrounding forest.

The park also serves as a valuable natural resource, a scarce commodity in the Euclid Creek Watershed as parkland constitutes only 2.3% of the land uses in our highly developed Watershed. Preserving our last remaining natural areas is pivotal to preserving the important ecological functions of the watershed.

Friends of Euclid Creek took the lead in adding to this natural asset by placing a conservation easement on a 12-acre parcel owned by the Mayfield City Schools just northeast of the park in 2008 which holds an endangered plant called the Dusty Goldenrod. The park and surrounding property also has valuable forest land which is in impressive condition for an urbanized watershed like Euclid Creek. Woodlands in the area consist mostly of native, well established trees such as red maple, black cherry, ash and slippery elm and do not have the invasive plant problems of other natural areas in the watershed. Even with deer consistently browsing on the understory plants, many native ferns, plants like orange flower jewelweed, and grasses remain. The condition of its streams and wetland complexes are in relatively good health and the ones that are slightly degraded could be restored. The wetlands surrounding the park are also a scarce commodity in our state, as 90% of our wetlands have been lost to agriculture and development since the 1780s. Wetlands are critical habitat for wildlife, for filtering pollutants and sediment, for buffering effects of flooding and for recreation as people enjoy watching the diverse wildlife that wetlands attract.

The Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan identified Highland Heights Community Park and its surrounding green space as invaluable to the watershed. A major goal of the plan is to maintain existing natural areas and to prevent further degradation of water resources, and where opportunity presents itself, preserve even more sensitive land.



Highland Heights Community Park and nearby green space