

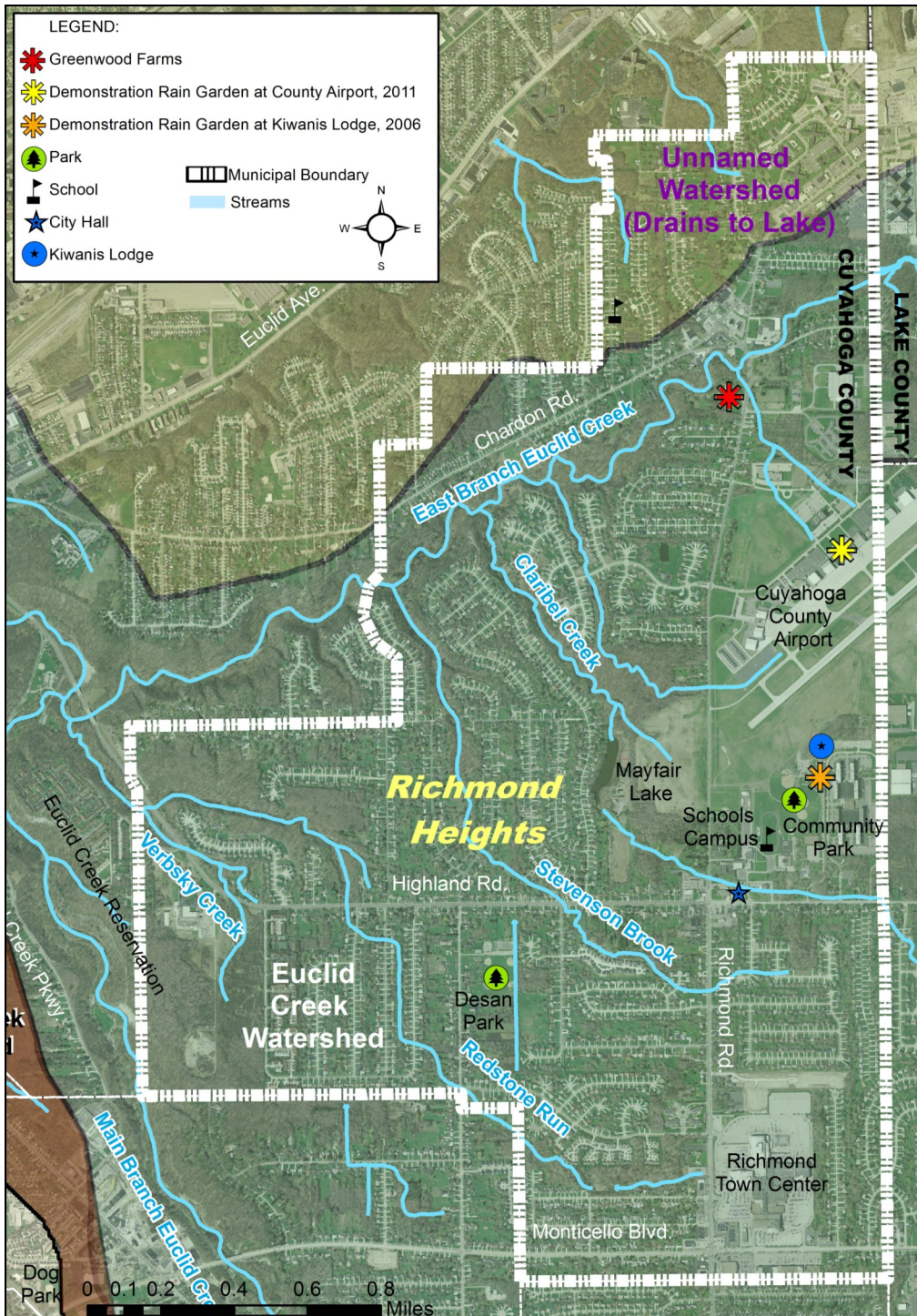
City of Richmond Heights Watershed Fact Sheet



Richmond Heights is in 2 watersheds

Euclid Creek drains an area of approximately 24 square miles from 12 communities in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.

Unnamed Watershed drains approximately 10 square miles from 3 communities in Cuyahoga County.



BOTH of these watersheds drain directly into **Lake Erie**, Richmond Heights' source of **drinking water**. Protecting your watersheds from runoff pollution also protects **Lake Erie** and **YOU**.

Did you know?

- Richmond Heights has **10.95 miles** of streams above ground with an estimated **0.69 miles** of additional streams that have been channeled underground in pipes/culverts.
- As water moves across lawns and hard surfaces into storm drains, pollution is picked up and sent untreated to creeks and rivers which eventually empty into Lake Erie.
- Vegetated surfaces, like rain gardens, help water soak into the ground which allows for natural filtration of polluted runoff.
- The rate of extinction for freshwater animals is 5 times greater than that for land animals.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

What is a watershed?

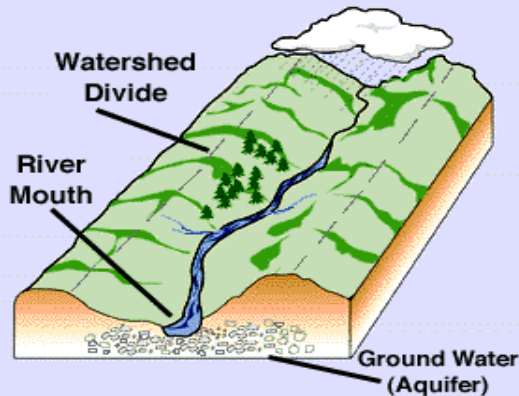
Flip to find out!

WATER—THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow to a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. Our landscape is made up of interconnected watersheds.

We all live in a watershed!

A Watershed



Richmond Heights within Euclid Creek Watershed

- Richmond Heights makes up 17.1% or 4.1 square miles of the entire Euclid Creek Watershed.
- About 10% of the streams in Richmond Heights have been channeled underground.
- 32 acres of land is protected within two City parks.
- 91% of Richmond Heights residents live within this watershed.
- Within Richmond Heights there are two dams. One is an in-line pond on Claribel Creek at the old Mayfair Lake private club site. The second is called Dumbarton pond on Stevenson Brook between Dumbarton & Douglas Blvds.
- Since 1994, Richmond Heights has facilitated connecting 355 homes with septic systems to the sanitary sewer system, thus improving water quality in the East Branch of Euclid Creek.



Richmond Heights within Unnamed Watershed

- Only a small percentage, around 3%, of Richmond Heights is comprised of this watershed.
- No watershed studies exist, but it is assumed that this Unnamed Watershed has the same urban impairments as its surrounding watersheds.

Major water quality issues

- **Excess nutrients**, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, caused by urban pollution and fertilizers from gardens, lawn and turf maintenance.
- **Low fish populations** due to poor water quality as well as loss of habitat and man-made barriers (e.g. dams).
- After major storms, high intensity stream flow (called **flashy flows**) increases **stream bank erosion**.
- **Loss of green space and habitat** surrounding streams that provide a buffer zone to filter pollutants and provide shelter/food for bugs and fish.



Photo by John Cozzarini, Euclid Creek

How the CITY protects your water

- Leaf pickups in fall to prevent clogging of storm drains.
- Offers household hazardous waste (and other) recycling program for residents.
- Partners with Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and other watershed communities in the Euclid Creek Watershed Council.
- Adopted Sensible Salting Resolution and is investigating salt alternatives.
- In 2008, the City passed an ordinance allowing both rain
- In 2007, the City purchased Greenwood Farms, 16.5 acres of land with an historic farm house and rich streamside habitat along the East Branch of Euclid Creek.
- The City has also acquired 60 acres of land along steep stream banks planning to re-establish a green stream corridor. Preserving this habitat helps prevent erosion and absorbs storm water flow.
- The City worked with USGS in 2009 to name 4 headwater (beginning) streams to encourage stewardship while linking the stream names to the City's history.

How YOU can protect your water

- Don't litter, and pick up litter where you see it.
- Clean paint from brushes, rollers and pans in the sink.
- Keep grass clippings, paper & other waste out of storm drains.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a carwash.
- Report illegal dumping! Call the Service Department (216- 383-6311) or the County Board of Health (216-201-2000).
- Reduce toxic substance usage around your home and on the lawn and garden.
- Install a rain barrel and/or plant a rain garden.
- Never put motor oil, antifreeze, pet waste or anything else in storm drains.
- Pick up outside pet waste and put it in the trash.
- Reduce your use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals on your lawn and garden.
- Reduce hard surfaces. Replace your driveway and walkways with permeable paving.
- Keep your lawn 3 inches or higher to aid in water filtration.

Get involved with your local conservation / watershed group and take part in keeping your watershed clean and healthy.

Euclid Creek Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

(Richmond Hts. is a Watershed Council member)



Friends of Euclid Creek

Cuyahoga Soil & Conservation District

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator

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Euclid Creek Website: www.cuyahogawcd.org

Click on *Services - Watershed Programs - Euclid Creek*



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