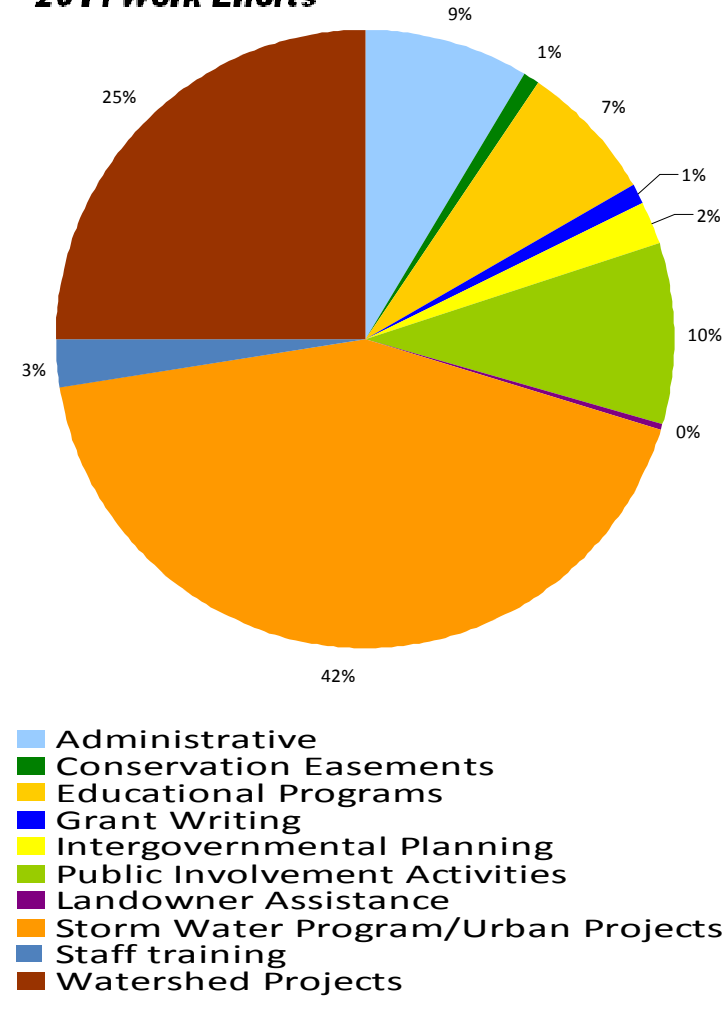


### 2011 Work Efforts



### Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS worked with seven landowners on federal Farm Bill contracts and applications. Six applications were processed for hoop houses in Cuyahoga County. The county Local Work Group was convened to prioritize agricultural land uses, such as pasture, cropland and forests to rank conservation practices for their agricultural conservation benefits.

### Board of Supervisors & Associate Supervisors

The Cuyahoga SWCD Board of Supervisors are volunteers who are elected to three year terms. Members share their time and talents to set policy and assist staff in program implementation.

- Ruth Skuly .....Chair
- Fred Cash.....Vice Chair
- Patricia Carey.....Secretary
- Kevin Kubovcik.....Fiscal Agent
- Michael Emancipator.....Treasurer

### Associate Supervisors

Kathleen Bradley, Dorothy Hazel, Tom Marsalis, Kevin Skerl and James Weber

### Cash Basis Report 2010

REVENUES	DISTRICT FUND	SPECIAL FUND
Local Government		\$364,000.00
State Government		\$253,256.00
Federal Government		
Sale of Products/Materials	\$30,747.00	
All Other Revenue- grants, interest, services	\$441,642.00	\$322.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$472,389.00</b>	<b>\$617,578.00</b>
EXPENSES		
Salaries		\$324,870.00
Supplies (office & program supplies)	\$3,001.00	\$1,945.00
Equipment (auto, computers)	\$839.00	\$260.00
Contracts for Services	\$56,556.00	\$34,635.00
Rental (office)		\$18,000.00
Travel Expenses (staff, board training)	\$1,052.00	\$5,128.00
Advertising & Printing (newsletter)	\$215.00	\$8,351.00
PERS		\$45,129.00
Worker's Compensation		\$4,483.00
Unemployment Compensation		\$2,833.00
Hospitalization		\$65,793.00
Medicare		\$4,619.00
Product/Materials for Resale	\$26,015.00	
Other (postage, printing, county indirect fees, insurance, phone, internet, dues)	\$22,527.00	\$32,840.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$110,205.00</b>	<b>\$548,886.00</b>
<b>Total Receipts Over/(Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$362,184.00</b>	<b>\$68,692.00</b>

### Staff

- Janine Rybka *District Administrator*
- Jared Bartley *Rocky River Watershed Coordinator*
- Todd Houser *Storm Water Program Manager*
- Patricia Hughes *Urban Conservationist*
- Gloria Kestranek *Administrative Assistant*
- Shannon Mullins *Storm Water Specialist*
- Claire Posius *Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator*
- Amy Roskilly *Conservation Education Coordinator*
- Lisa Vavro *Storm Water Specialist II*
- Jim Storer *District Conservationist, NRCS*



Cuyahoga SWCD is an equal opportunity employer and provider  
**Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District**  
 6100 West Canal Road, Valley View, OH 44125



## ANNUAL REPORT 62 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Mission: To promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment, through stewardship, education and technical assistance.

### 2010

- **Awarded \$1.4 million from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for habitat restoration on Euclid Creek**
- **Rocky River Watershed Program funded for three years**
- **Surface Water Improvement funds awarded for wetland acquisition, preservation and wetland, habitat and stream restoration**
- **Rain barrel art project and auction**
- **Assisted communities for the purchase and restoration of open space**
- **Installed rain gardens for reduced storm water impacts**
- **Held rain barrel workshops in 25 communities**
- **Provided training for engineers and landscape professionals, building developers, and municipal staff related to best management practices for storm water pollution prevention**
- **Cleveland Harbor Dredge Task Force participant**
- **Fertility analysis of 59 local soil samples**

### Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established in 1949 as a political subdivision in Ohio and organized in Cuyahoga County. The District operates under Ohio Revised Code 1515, with oversight by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission and governed by five unpaid, locally elected supervisors. Funding for the Cuyahoga SWCD's work efforts is provided through agreements with local communities, state matching dollars, and grants. The primary work efforts are delivered through the conservation education, storm water pollution prevention, and watershed programs, in partnership with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to promote best management practices and to bring federal dollars for conservation practices that benefit our community. The focus of much of the assistance is uniquely related to soils, drainage, and pollution prevention.

The 2010 program year's theme was "Headwater Streets" and it played out in the entire SWCD work effort, especially in implementing the mandated Clean Water Act responsibilities for 25 communities. Working through collaborative agreements with communities, the Cuyahoga SWCD offered specialized conservation education and technical assistance. This assistance, tailored to individual communi-

ties' needs, was provided on a voluntary and cooperative basis, resulting in the implementation of best management practices, a better understanding of storm water non-point pollution prevention, improved ability to manage long-term storm water costs, and community compliance with their Ohio EPA permits related to federally-mandated clean water goals. Cuyahoga SWCD was not immune to county and state funding cuts, which resulted in 33% reduction in revenues. Fortunately, the creative and determined staff continued to build on collaborative partnerships with other county agencies, watershed partners, state and federal partners, grant providers, and wonderful volunteers that helped to secure funding to sustain current programs and projects.



### Storm Water Program

The Storm Water Program staff focused on better ways to help guide planning, design, construction and maintenance of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) and soil quality improvements for repurposing urban lands for agriculture and forestry. Their work is based on [Clean Water Act](#) responsibilities and [Federal Farm Bill](#) programs. To achieve these goals, Storm Water Program staff work closely with builders, contractors, elected officials, local government staff, landowners, Ohio EPA, and NRCS to improve implementation of good erosion and sediment control and post-construction water quality BMPs for development, redevelopment and public infrastructure projects throughout Cuyahoga County. In addition, Storm Water Program staff provided specialized technical assistance to 14 municipalities and the Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Major 2010 accomplishments for Storm Water Program staff include:

- **1,002** Field Reviews and written Technical Advisory Reports of active construction projects for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- **176** Field Reviews and written Technical Advisory Reports for long-term operation and maintenance of permanent BMPs;
- **179** Plan Reviews for proposed projects including Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3), Preliminary Plans, Riparian and Wetlands Setbacks Variance & Mitigation Plans, and Timber Harvest Plans;
- **109** instances of landowner technical assistance and site visits related to drainage, soils, erosion and vegetative treatments;
- Provided technical assistance along with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Soil and Water Resources staff related to soil parent materials, soil morphology and soil description for U.S. EPA's

### 2010 Urban Soils Assessment;

- Provided technical assistance for completion and implementation of the comprehensive SWP3 for the grant-funded Euclid Creek Dam Removal project;
- Conservation planning with Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Ohio Department of Transportation, ODNR – Division of Mineral Resources Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. National Park Service;
- Authored 4 *Technical Quarterly* publications focused on cooperative efforts that are consistent with sound science, standards and current state and federal regulations, in order to improve soil and water quality in the county with 2,000 distributed to soil and water professionals and elected officials;
- Ongoing work with NRCS Valley View Field Office to expand understanding of productive capacity related to repurposing distressed lands within the Cleveland Metropolitan area for agriculture and forestry uses;
- Provided technical assistance to Cuyahoga County Planning Commission in development of *Cuyahoga County Ecosystems: Critical Soils* maps and associated resources.

## Conservation Education and Public Involvement

Conservation education is fundamental to encouraging wise use, not misuse of natural resources and SWCD staff provides a variety of educational initiatives throughout the county on an annual basis. The crux of the public involvement and public education effort unfolds as comprehensive storm water public involvement and public education program for 25 communities. The annual theme, “HeadWater Streets” focused on raising awareness that drainage ways exist even when small streams are buried and the importance of good environmental stewardship to reduce pollution problems. Armed with an annual outreach strategy for each community, the program included multiple educational efforts, written communications, and outstanding public participation programs. Cuyahoga SWCD staff conducted 20 of the popular rain barrel workshops, attended by 500 with 500 rain barrels sold for home use. The rain barrel art program attracted 26 local artists that included homemakers, artists and students and resulted in some extravagantly painted barrels. The barrels were displayed at restaurants, city halls, civic centers, colleges and other locations throughout the county before being auctioned to raise money for Forestry Camp scholarships and to help schools with transportation costs to Envirothon.

Rain barrel and rain garden workshops continue to be requested and well attended. Rain garden and rain barrel presentations were offered in collaboration with the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership with a focus on the benefits of native plants. To further encourage the use of native plants, the District held three successful rain garden plant kit sales.

Other environmental education opportunities and services are also provided, such as Envirothon, an environmental competition for high school students, scholarships for Forestry Camp and coordination of activities for Cleveland Mayor Jackson’s Summer Youth Employment Program. Thanks to funding from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation and Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, the District completed “Growing Stewards of the Earth” project that educated middle school students

about watershed issues and engaged them in building rain gardens.

- SWCD connected with 10% of the population in its targeted communities;
- A brochure about best practices for storm water management at home was mailed to 31,000 households- Storm Water: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In”;
- Quarterly *On the Land* newsletter, email alerts, storm water articles, educational materials, web-based information; educational posters; library displays; environmental topic brochures mailed to target audiences, including homeowners and developers and cable programming;
- District programs, projects and events were featured 13 times on television, in local daily newspapers, in regional newsletters and on local blogs;
- Rain gardens were installed at five sites.

## Euclid Creek Watershed Program

Initiated in 2003, the Euclid Creek Watershed Program completed its 8<sup>th</sup> year. Projects abound in the Euclid Creek watershed thanks to the support of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council, the Friends of Euclid Creek and the support they provide through a grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), and numerous stakeholders that include public officials and watershed residents. Public involvement activities included six rain barrel workshops, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Invasive Plant Pull, the first Bioswale Maintenance Day at Wildwood State Park, and the first rain garden native plant sale and rain barrel art program in the watershed.

After six years of planning and arranging for funding, the low head dam on the East Branch of Euclid Creek at Highland Road was demolished to allow for fish passage to the upper reaches of the East Branch. Removing the low head dam and restoring the natural stream channel will improve aquatic habitat diversity to the watershed. Funding was obtained through ODNR Division of Wildlife, and the Division of Wildlife through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service-Midwest Region-Fish Passage Program, Ohio EPA-Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program, Ohio EPA-319 Program, and NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

The biggest news in the watershed was being awarded a \$1.4 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, administered by US EPA, for the Euclid Creek Lacustrine Refuge Project to restore five acres of urban coastal wetlands and restore shoreline habitat for a fish habitat refuge and nursery for our Lake Erie and Euclid Creek fish. Four firms submitted proposals for the work and a contract will be awarded for the project in early 2011. Other program successes include:

- Developed storm water retrofit concept plans for projects in Highland Heights and Mayfield Village with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding;
- One acre of land preserved in Cleveland’s North Collinwood Neighborhood with help from the West Creek Preservation Committee;
- Friends of Euclid Creek received the 2010 *Lake Erie Award* from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission;
- The first annual Volunteer Appreciation Night was held to recognize dedicated citizen stream monitors participating in the Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program

- Distribution of the Euclid Creek news through newsletters to City Halls, Community Centers and Libraries and to the watershed communities’ Mayors, Councilpersons, Departmental Heads and over 1,000 stakeholders.

## Rocky River Watershed Program

Funding was received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil and Water Resources to sustain the watershed coordinator position through 2013, which enabled the water-



shed action plan to be updated and work efforts to continue in the watershed. In addition, funding from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to the Rocky River Watershed Council was used to implement projects identified in the approved Watershed Action Plan.

Ohio EPA Surface Water Improvement Funds in the amount of \$147,000 were awarded for the Baldwin Creek Dam removal Project, which seeks to remove three low-head dams and restore habitat in lower Baldwin Creek in Berea. Additional project funding of \$361,000 was received from the Ohio EPA Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), through the sponsorship of the NEORS.

The Baldwin and Abram Creeks Storm Water Retrofit Inventory and Prioritization, funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Sustain Our Great Lakes program, was completed and conceptual designs were developed for two priority sites in Middleburg Heights. Case Western Reserve University students



assisted in developing Level II stream monitoring for Baldwin Creek and additional assistance to the storm water retrofit project related to residential best management practices, such as vegetated swales and rain gardens.

A grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund provided funds to conduct four credible data collection/stream monitoring workshops. Two stream habitat (QHEI) and two chemical water quality workshops were conducted, providing training to 60 participants.

Other programs in the watershed included six rain barrel workshops, the installation of a rain garden at North Olmsted Middle School, stream monitoring with school groups and participation in community events. Technical assistance was provided to communities regarding stream and habitat restoration, riparian reforestation and funding sources. Two stream clean ups were held and resulted in the cleanup of ten river miles.

## Project Interns 2010

Carolyn Boyce, Roxana Crivineanu, Steven Salloum

## Other Collaborations in Conservation

Staff provided their expertise to a variety of local initiatives, including the Cuyahoga County Green Print, Re-Imagining a More Sustainable Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Transition efforts, Cleveland Harbor Dredge Task Force, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Ohio Department of Transportation and the Huntington Park Advisory Committee. Staff also provided technical assistance to other local watershed groups such as Doan Brook and Mill Creek.

## Conservation Easements

Cuyahoga SWCD holds 260 acres of land in conservation easements on 86 parcels of land. Marking and monitoring the easements has resulted in better communication with adjacent landowners. This year an informative post card was mailed to 568 landowners as a reminder to keep easement areas in a natural state. Efforts are underway to restore the areas that have been degraded to their natural state. Property owners have been cooperative in this effort.