



Issue 48 • 2023

Euclid Creek Watershed Update

from your watershed coordinator

Kate Chapel [kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org]

— o o o —
Hello friends and neighbors of Euclid Creek!

I'm excited to bring to you the 2023 edition of the Euclid Creek Watershed Update.

At the time of this writing, we've hosted 27 different public events which reached 305 people, 187 from watershed communities.

Make sure you read to the end to see what kinds of events and programming we have "on the horizon" in 2024! Giveaways, plantings, rain garden stewardship, and more are in the works.

As always, you can also join our monthly e-news which has more real time information on volunteer opportunities, events, etc. Just shoot me an email or give me a call.



Volunteers spent time at Greenwood Park in Richmond Heights this year getting the rain gardens more functional and beautiful again.

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Euclid Creek Watershed Program

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Watershed Council

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www.beachwoodohio.com

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www.clevelandohio.gov

Euclid

www.cityofeuclid.com

Highland Heights

www.highlandhts.com

Lyndhurst

www.lyndhurstohio.gov

Mayfield Heights

www.mayfieldheightsohio.gov

Mayfield Village

www.mayfieldvillage.com

Richmond Heights

www.richmondheightsohio.org

South Euclid

www.cityofsoutheuclid.com

Friends of Euclid Creek President's Letter

by Kelly Butauski

*Be a Friend to
Euclid Creek*

*All this activity
takes dedicated
volunteers!*

*Please consider
becoming a
board member or
volunteer.*

*Even if it's only on
occasion, your help
can make a big
difference.*

*To learn more
about us, please go
to our website:*

*FriendsofEuclid
Creek.com*

*or contact me at
kbutauski@att.net.*

*Be sure to sign up
for our emails.*

Dear Friends,

This will be my last President's Letter as I will be leaving the board of Friends of Euclid Creek at the end of the year. My two terms as President have been quite an adventure. Since 2020, the FOEC board had to find our way through covid restrictions, learning new ways of communicating.

We sent out mailings, developed a podcast, held masked walkabouts, developed a new website, increased email updates to friends and members, and learned how to use social media and Zoom. Every board member has contributed their energy and skills to bring us into the 21st century. The world has become so much more technical since covid, and we had to adjust to that.

Nevertheless, FOEC has continued our environmental education mission for 22 years, **all volunteer based**. We advocate for the health of the Euclid Creek watershed from Beachwood to Cleveland. FOEC is dedicated to educating the public about the ways many of our actions can harm our environment. This harm is most often caused because people just don't know the problems. We share simple everyday actions that we all can do to help.

What We Do:

- Hold in-person and Zoom educational presentations.
- Lead educational tours throughout the watershed.
- Participate in community events with our EnviroScape model.
- Support three conservation properties including an important wetland.
- Remove invasives and litter, monitor water quality, and conduct citizen science projects in the Dusty Goldenrod Wetland Preserve.
- Maintain and promote our Native Plant Educational Garden in Sims Park.

I have loved working with our FOEC board, our volunteers, and environmental partners. I have made good friends and met some wonderful people along the way. People that care about our environment are the best of us and so very much needed. Thank you all for what you do.

Stay environmental,

Kelly Butauski
President of Friends of Euclid Creek



An Inventory Update for The Dusty Goldenrod Preserve

by Brian Gilbert, FOEC

A dedicated group of volunteers from the Conservation Committee of FOEC visited the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve every day from **April to October** to document habitats and identify plant species.

Our data collection will help us develop a comprehensive plan to manage invasive vegetation by providing:

- An updated species inventory with a special emphasis on invasive species and new species since 2003.
- An updated map of the different *habitats* on site.
- Maps of where each *invasive species* was found.

This effort marks the first time since the **original 2003 study** that the entire Preserve has been surveyed. By the end of September, we had found more than **two dozen species** that were not within the Preserve boundaries when Dr. Jog did her definitive study of this unique wetland.

Dr. Jog made four trips from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to guide volunteer plant surveyors and assist with the identification of difficult species. With her was graduate student Rohini Vembar, originally from Twinsburg, to help with the mapping of the habitats and streams.

A final report **due early next year** will provide a highly detailed picture of the current conditions at the Preserve and help us develop a clear direction for future stewardship efforts.



Wet meadow in 2017, before control of red maples

This study was led by Dr. Suneeti Jog, the author of the 2003 study which provided botanical justification for the creation of the Preserve.

At that time, she found more than 415 species, or 15% of the state's flora.

Financial support for this study has been provided by Friends of Euclid Creek and West Creek Conservancy.



Dusty goldenrod in bloom, September 2023

Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation

10th Anniversary Bioblitz

by Joshua Philipps



What is a Bioblitz?

A bioblitz is a gathering of expert and amateur scientists whose goal is to inventory as much biological diversity in an area as possible within a certain time frame, usually 24 hours.

While best suited for parks or other natural areas, bioblitzes can happen anywhere, even in urban environments.



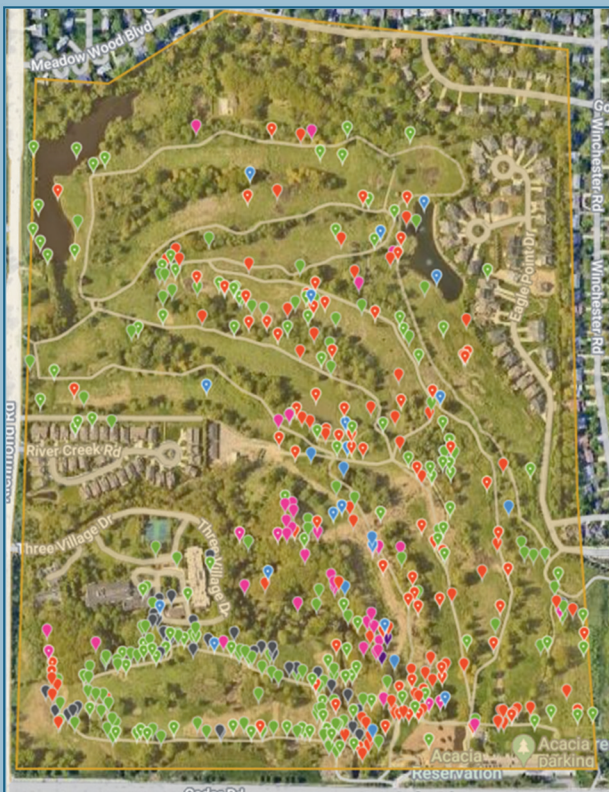
Cleveland Metroparks 2023 Natural Resources staff that helped with the bioblitz

Shortly after Cleveland Metroparks acquired the Acacia Country Club in 2012, natural resource staff held an expert bioblitz on May 23, 2013 followed by a fall bioblitz that was open to the public. 192 total species were documented, 63 animal species and 129 plant species.

It was determined that after 5 years of restoration efforts, it would be worthwhile to host another bioblitz to assess changes in biological diversity. The second Acacia bioblitz was held on July 31st, 2018.

In all, 465 species were identified which was composed of 237 plant species, 60 species of fungi, and 168 species of animals. 44 participants contributed to the surveys, both amateur and expert.

Participants encompassed a wide range of expertise and disciplines, both internally from the Cleveland Metroparks Natural Resource Department, and representatives from Summit County Park District, Michigan State University, Case Western Reserve University, University of Akron, and Cleveland Institute of Music.



Map of iNaturalist observations for the 2023 bioblitz

A third bioblitz was held on August 9th, 2023 to assess overall patterns of biodiversity in the 10th year post restoration .

424 species were identified in total which consisted of 254 plant species, 7 species of fungi (additional species of fungi observed but were not verified by expert mycologists) and 163 species of animals.

71 people participated consisting of staff, volunteer naturalists, and biologists from Geauga Park District.

The event also marked a unique collaboration between Cleveland Metroparks Outdoor Experiences and Natural Resource staff. Naturalists led public programs for botany, fish, birds, and insects to help inform and engage the public in how we collect biological information and conduct surveys.

In all, an impressive **1,024 observations** were made in iNaturalist. An interesting and continued find from the 2018 bioblitz was the carnivorous plant called humped bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*) located in a naturalized sand trap.

Despite the park being bordered on all sides by a highly urbanized residential and commercial area, the biodiversity at Acacia Reservation has more than doubled since restoration began.

This is a direct result of habitat enhancement projects and restoration efforts such as prairie plantings, stream restoration, and wetland creation the past ten years.



Volunteers and fish experts identify fish species



Utricularia gibba
Michigan Flora, R. Schipper

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

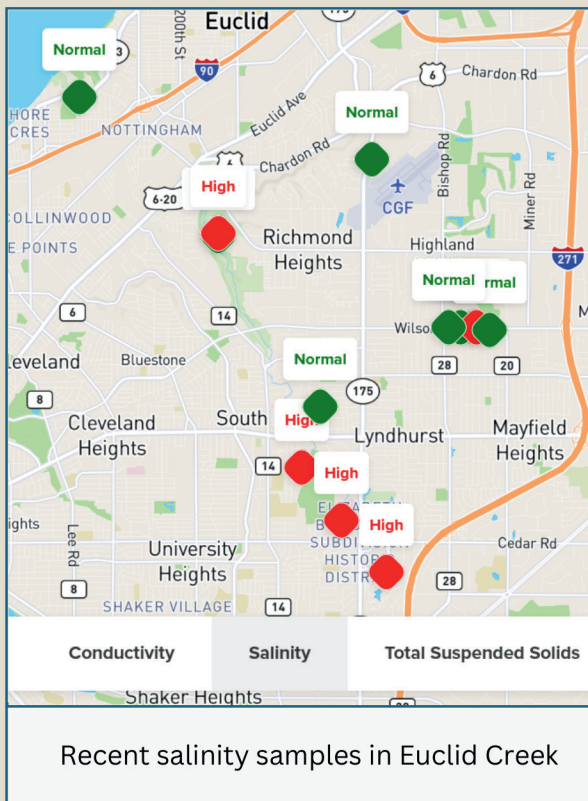
by Meg Hennessey

*Thank you to our 2023
volunteer monitors!*

- Amanda Smalfus
- Ester Trepal
- Fred Weber
- Helio Dong
- Howard Schemmel
- Jeanne Pearl
- Kevin Harrison
- Neil Barrett
- Patricia Tsevdos
- Stuart Pearl



Volunteer Jeanne Pearl sampling Euclid Creek
in Spring 2023



Why monitor water quality?

Volunteers have been testing water quality throughout Euclid Creek since 2006. This ongoing monitoring alerts us to high levels of pollutants in the streams, allowing staff to respond and address the issue.

Additionally, these volunteers are gathering pre- and post-project data at restoration sites. Comparing before and after conditions is a crucial part of telling the story of restoration and justifying the project to funders.

Some of our volunteers work with the Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network, which seeks to coordinate and standardize the volunteer monitoring taking place all around Lake Erie.

Opportunities for monitoring the impacts of road salt are also available through Salt Watch with the Cleveland Metroparks.

Volunteer Appreciation

by Kate Chapel



FOEC removes invasive garlic mustard at DGP



Volunteers clean up tree cages

This watershed is lucky enough to have several grassroots groups and volunteer efforts led by many agencies.

They've planted hundreds of trees, hundreds of native plants in rain gardens, cleaned up dozens of bags of trash, removed mountains of invasive vegetation, and advocated for the health of this watershed together.

THANK YOU!



Volunteers pose with their trash collection at the Euclid v. Collinwood Earth Day event



A native rain garden was planted at Beachwood Fire Station #2 with volunteer help

Greener Together Network

by Judy Dearden



This newly launched Facebook group aims to provide a shared platform for local, community-based environmental groups.

This will be a place to share educational resources, events, and ongoing inspiration.

We ARE greener together!

The Highland Heights Green Task Force (HHGTF) and Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability have joined together to create a new network to collaborate on all things “green”.

It has quickly grown and now includes members such as Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Sustainable Heights, Friends of Euclid Creek, and Wild Ones.

Groups and individuals are invited to join!

For more info and a 2024 calendar, check out the HHGTF website www.highlandhtsgreen.org

Call or email Plant Pest Control Section of the Ohio Department of Agriculture: (614) 728-6400 or plantpest@agri.ohio.gov

Spotted Lanternfly

by Kate Chapel



Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive species that is relatively new to Northeast Ohio. It has been found in the Euclid Creek Reservation and other parts of the watershed.

Its preferred host plant is another invasive species, Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Photo credit: RW Smith.

How does this affect you?

Invasive species are considered “economically or environmentally harmful”. They decrease biodiversity, decrease resiliency, and disrupt our native ecosystems that we depend on for clean air, clean water, and recreation.

What can you do?

Remove the invasive host plant

Kill spotted lanternflies

Report spotted lanternflies to ODNR

On the Horizon - What to Expect in 2024

Join our monthly e-news to stay up-to-date on all events and programs

Spring

Rain barrel workshops
Native plantings
Earth Day events
Master Rain Gardener Course

Summer

Green Yards, Healthy Homes
Stream clean ups
Invasive species removal
Rain Garden Maintenance

Autumn

Tree plantings
Festivals/Public Events
Stormwater Awareness Week
Rain Garden Maintenance

Winter

Sensible Salting
Winter Sowing
Invasive species removal
Data analyzing

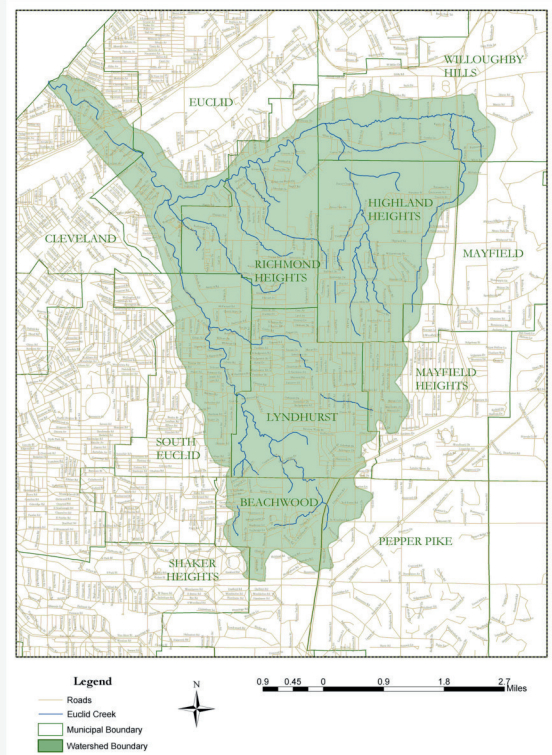
Throughout the Year

Native seed sales
Self-paced Master Rain Gardener Course
Presentations to local partners
Resources via the CSWCD website

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