

**Euclid Creek Watershed Council
2015 Work Plan Annual Summary**

Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Implementation

1. Restoration and Conservation Projects: Continued implementing restoration and conservation projects in the watershed and within the Council's community boundaries.

Annual projects list:

- **Riparian Tree Buffer Education and Outreach Program** – Ohio Lake Erie Commission Lake Erie Protection Fund grant
 - Program to provide riparian property owners in the Euclid Creek watershed with native trees and shrubs to plant along the stream.
 - Program Brochures created and mailed to 1,418 streamside property owners
 - 109 riparian landowners (7.2%) enrolled in the program
 - 3 Distribution events held in Lyndhurst – 28 volunteers assisted; 90 participants picked up trees
 - 429 3 gallon trees and 4,725 tree and shrub seedlings were distributed to 90 streamside property owners
 - Those receiving seedlings own a combined 2.17 miles of stream, and enrolled 4.33 miles (12.7 acres) of 25 foot-wide riparian corridor in the program.
 - 35 sites (40% of participants') properties inspected to ensure that trees and plants were planted, and 89% of those inspected were planted successfully along the streamside.
 - Euclid Creek consists of roughly 30 miles of aboveground stream, of which ~7 miles is protected parkland with adequate riparian buffer, therefore this program helped restore 9.4% of Euclid Creek's riparian area watershed wide.
 - Compiled/Submitted final reporting and spent remaining \$1,000 on tree protection for future tree planting project.
 - The trees installed through this grant were run through the *i-Tree program* that provides a simple estimation of the benefits provided by trees. For this \$13,700 grant-funded project, estimating a 20% survival rate for the seedlings and an 80% survival rate for the 3-gallon trees, over **1 million gallons of stormwater would be captured by the trees over 10 years of growth with an ecosystem services benefit of \$11,836. At 20 years, the benefit of the trees would be in capturing over 4.5 million gallons of stormwater with an ecosystem services benefit of \$49,930 – quite the return on this grant's investment.**

	Brochure Mailer	Enrollees	Picked Up Plants
BEACHWOOD	39	0	0
CLEVELAND	9	0	0
EUCLID	64	5	6
HIGHLAND HEIGHTS	206	11	10
LYNDHURST	294	13	17
MAYFIELD HEIGHTS	0	0	0
MAYFIELD VILLAGE	6	0	0
PEPPER PIKE	28	0	0
RICHMOND HEIGHTS	453	23	19
SOUTH EUCLID	197	34	26
WILLOUGHBY HILLS	222	17	12
	1418	103	90

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary



Volunteers getting tree protection fencing cut



Tree/Seedling Distribution event



Wild Tree Planting Demonstration



Plants Installed along Creek in Willoughby Hills

- **Targeted Habitat Restoration Grant – Planning and Concepts/Costs** – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative subgrant for Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Project Planning, administered by Ohio EPA
 - Submitted grant in December 2014 for potential 2015 program to inventory and prioritize potential sites for habitat restoration in the watershed. The top 5-8 priority sites will have conceptual designs and cost estimates developed in order to pursue future funding if implementation funding becomes available.
 - Awarded \$49,977 awarded in January 2015
 - Started field work and identifying potential sites for field visits (29 visits conducted); ranked top sites and sent letters to 10 property owners; met with 4 interested landowners and selected top 3 to move forward with: Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus, Mayfield Country Club / Mayfield Sands Golf Course and Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation.
 - 2016 will hire consultant to create concepts/cost estimates.
- **Lacustrine Refuge / Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project**– Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded project
 - \$1,396,050 GLRI grant closed. Coordinate monitoring and compile/submit annual monitoring report to USACE due 12/31/15.
 - Conducted 1 visual erosion inspection when rain events over 2” and coordinated with Metroparks and Cleveland on maintenance of project site.
 - Planned spring and fall volunteer events at wetland for maintenance.
 - Worked on more detailed project handout for more education at site – Dalton, summer graphics intern developed new educational brochure.

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

- Observed new drainage pattern that Metroparks installed that could be harmful to fish spawning and wetland plant development closest to the mouth of Euclid Creek (link to lake wetland)
 - Coordinated monitoring requirements with partner agencies; fish sampling conducted by NEORSD (5/4); assisted Cleveland and NEORSD with morphological monitoring (5/18); conducted visual erosion monitoring post 2" rain event (6/29); Annual Photos with NEORSD (7/29); Vegetative monitoring by Cleveland Metroparks (9/9); and Habitat monitoring by Ohio EPA (11/17)
 - Compiled and submitted 3rd Annual Monitoring and Maintenance Compliance Report (12/31)
 - **Redstone Run Highland Reserve, Richmond Heights**
 - Monitored restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy and monarch waystation gardens with Euclid Boy Scout Troop.
 - Coordinated education and outreach on property with interested residents and with Richmond Heights schools as land lab opportunity.
 - Contracting with EnviroScience to spray invasive plants establishing in meadow (\$500 this year) while plants manageable in 2016
 - **Bishop Road Property, Highland Heights Conservation project**
 - Monitored restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy.
 - **Mayfair Lake Dam Removal Project, Richmond Heights**
 - Considering new scope for project as original plan too costly for watershed benefit.
 - **White Road Dam Removal Planning, Willoughby Hills**
 - Visited site, low chance for removal, but potential for vegetated buffer and healthy pond discussion.
 - **Storm Water Retrofit project prioritization**
 - For concept plans that were developed for top two sites in 2010, develop and submit an Ohio EPA SWIF application in the spring for projects of interest to communities on inventory list. SWIF funds not available in 2015.
 - **East 185th Street Fish Passage Project (ODOT spillway)**
 - Army Corps feasibility study ceased due to NEORSD Stormwater Program shut down, unless local project sponsor found who can contribute up to \$105,000 for study.
 - In discussions with NEORSD and Army Corps to assess whether feasibility study can proceed again with NEORSD as project sponsor.
 - **East Branch Dam Removal Project – Repair and Grants Close-Out**
 - Repairs not on table, monitoring of project stability continued annually.
 - Compiled/Submitted Annual Compliance Report in March.
 - **Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Update**
 - Coordinated with ODNR and Ohio EPA on updates most likely required in 2016/2017.
2. Watershed Resources:
- Provide watershed resources and conference / training information to Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Technical Committee.
 - **Watershed-friendly Stream Maintenance Manual for Communities** – CSWCD OEEF Grant to develop manual
 - Established a simple set of inspection and maintenance protocols that could be easily implemented by communities willing to take a proactive approach to maintaining the community drainage network.
 - For communities outside of NEORSD Stormwater Program Service Area and for streams under 300 acres in drainage area that will not be maintained by NEORSD.

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

- Under development by Rocky River Watershed Coordinator – will be resource for Euclid Creek communities.
 - Draft report emailed to Technical Committee 5/5 for feedback – got excellent comments from 3 participants
 - Report complete and Training/Technical Committee meeting in January 2016
 - o **Countywide Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Assessment** – led by Cuyahoga County Planning and Cleveland Metroparks and many municipalities and other organizations
 - End-product is a series of maps and statistical profiles for each of the 59 communities in the County, including base measures of existing and potential tree canopy, various other land cover types, as well as detailed segmentation of the tree canopy by community, census tract, parcel, and right-of-way
 - Completed: 2013 Rollout to communities: 2014 (see handout on training for how to use tools April 16, 2014)
 - UTC helpful for US Forest Service tree planting funds in future, so great help to communities.
 - Training / Conference information emailed to Technical Committee:
 - o **Ohio Stormwater Conference** – Conference held at Kalahari, May 7-8
 - Training opportunities emailed to Technical Committee
3. Grant Opportunities & Technical Assistance:
- a) Provide communities grant opportunity resources to evaluate for their use.
 - OEPA-SWIF grant - not available this year
 - OEPA 319 Program – proposals due August 14 (40% local Match) – *does not include Green Infrastructure this year*
 - WRRSP – nominations due July 31
 - Dominion Watershed Grant – newly announced – up to \$5,000 for Watershed groups. Program being managed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy. First round of proposals due August 31.
 - b) Assist local communities on the assembly of grant applications.
 - Briardale Municipal Golf Course, Euclid – direct tributary to Lake Erie
 - o Assist with project concept plan and grant application for restoration and potential daylighting project (on hold with staff changes at City)
 - c) Assist Watershed Council communities with watershed projects
 - Began discussions for developing Watershed Plans for adjacent watersheds like Nine Mile, Green Creek and Euclid Lake Erie Watersheds
 - d) Provide technical assistance as requested.
 - South Euclid, Cutter’s Creek site visit and riparian planting guidance (3/23/15)
 - Lots of requests for information due to backyard / basement flooding
 - Beachwood, Eaton Corp. meeting with green team and provided some technical assistance (5/6)
 - Beachwood – Cedar resident wanted streamside planting recommendations (5/19)
 - Highland Heights – resident site visit to look at detention basin flooding basement (6/3)
 - Richmond Heights – side visit, resident built deck in riparian area and is now experiencing erosion around deck (6/15)
 - Highland Heights – resident call about house construction and impacts on Euclid Creek (6/17)
 - Beachwood – illegal gasoline down a storm drain spill call (6/25)
 - South Euclid – Nine Mile resident installed level spreaders in back yard to deal with wet back yard on hillside (6/26)
 - June 27 storm – lots of concerned calls; especially about Metroparks stream stabilization walls collapsing around Highland Picnic Area of Euclid Creek Res.

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

- Highland Heights – Wilson Mills resident complaint about back yard flooding (7/6)
- 4. Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP): Continue and advance VMP program
 - Conduct Volunteer Monitoring Committee meetings as needed.
 - Recruit new citizen volunteers. 2 trainings held in 2015.
 - Inputted data collected annually and develop annual report for volunteers and watershed communities.
 - OEPA Monitoring of Euclid Creek 2015 – coordinate with them on sampling locations; incorporate final data into WAP update.
 - NEORS Stream Inspections & Inventory Walks (SII) in October/November 2014 - Spring 2015 data will be available to incorporate in project planning and WAP update.
- 5. Model Ordinances: Implement local ordinances to meet community storm water management plan goals.
 - Work with local communities and City Engineers in updating the ordinances to meet the 5-year Storm Water Management Plan goals.
 - Focus of 2015 on Riparian and Wetland setback ordinances – getting all watershed communities' to pass
 - Cleveland – sent draft Riparian Setback Ordinance letter to affected property owners in April; Ordinance in Council review currently
 - Model Tree Ordinance – attended meeting with regional experts to discuss development of tree protection ordinance (6/5)

Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Program / Outreach

1. PIPE Program
 - Continued implementing the PIPE program through the PIPE Committee and coming up with new and innovative education and outreach opportunities.
 - Continued assembly and distribution of annual 2015 PIPE Outreach Strategy and 2014 PIPE Annual Report to provide to community's storm water manager.
2. Euclid Creek e-Newsletter, Broadcast Emails, Website, and Social Media
 - Newsletter - Continued the assembly and distribution of the Euclid Creek e-newsletter three times a year. Newsletter emailed to distribution list and mailed to ECWC Communities (public officials and city staff). Winter Newsletter Issued on January 3. Spring Newsletter Issued on April 10. Summer Newsletter Issued on August 18.
 - Broadcast emails – Send out monthly broadcast emails, so more frequent emails with more timely information.
 - Enhanced design and delivery of broadcast email through an email marketing program called 'Emma' – sent first email out in February, going out ~monthly now
 - Website – Updating 'new' consolidated program website weekly at least.
 - Social Media – Manage Friends of Euclid Creek Facebook page. Post 1-5 times a week and try not to post more than once a day. Created FOEC Twitter Account.
3. Euclid Creek Watershed Council Coordination
 - Watershed Coordinator serves as Secretary to Euclid Creek Watershed Council (non-voting member). Gives notice of meetings, prepares meeting agendas with ECWC Chair and content, keeps minutes, and records all votes.
 - Continued coordinating the Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings (held and committees, including the PIPE Committee, Technical Committee and Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee. All meeting information on euclidcreekwatershed.org website under Euclid Creek Watershed Council.
 - Continued to promote best land use practices in communities.

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

- Assisted with and coordinated the NPDES Phase II Permit among the Council communities as requested by the Technical Committee.
- 4. Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) Liaison
 - Assisted FOEC with watershed resources and support.
 - Served as liaison between Euclid Creek Watershed Council and FOEC.
 - Provided watershed program updates at monthly FOEC general meetings and participated in monthly FOEC board meetings as time allows.
 - Participated in Strategic Planning and Organizational evaluation meetings.
 - Coordinated with FOEC members on recruiting volunteers at watershed events, tabling at community events.

Watershed Program Sustainability / Funding

- Researched alternate funding sources to bridge ODNR Watershed Coordinator grant funding gap of \$20,000.
- **Central Lake Erie Basin (CLEB) Watershed Organization Collaboration - 'Your CLE Watersheds'** – local watershed groups from Black River to Ashtabula/Conneaut River Watershed
 - Meets quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, funding challenges, watershed gaps in coverage, etc. – 1/21, 4/15, 7/15, 10/21
 - Table events collaboratively – share watershed volunteer time v. all groups at regional events at separate tables – central messaging key to avoiding public confusion of watersheds
 - Posius leading Mapping Group coordination with NEORSD – to map watershed projects on one regional platform, and to have regional watershed events in one location.
 - Applications developed for 319 and Gund to fund two positions to work on collaboration projects.
- **NEORSD-FOEC Watershed Operating Support Grant 2014-15**
 - Awarded \$35,000 in January 2015 - of which \$25,825 for Watershed Coordinator and Intern and \$7,253 for monitoring equipment maintenance, fees (e.g. post office box), supplies (e.g. newsletter printing, rain garden plants).
 - Reports due twice a year – 7/13 report submitted and close-out/final report submitted 12/30.
- **NEORSD-FOEC Watershed Organization Service Program 2016**
 - Proposal developed with FOEC for revised service oriented proposal. Submitted October 15.
- **Targeted Habitat Restoration Grant – Planning and Concepts/Costs** – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative subgrant for Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Project Planning, administered by Ohio EPA
 - \$10,000 of grant toward SWCD staff time in 2015 to perform inventory; remaining funding to hire consultant to create designs (details of grant deliverables on page 2).
- **Cleveland Waterfront Coalition** – FOEC applied for and was awarded \$10,000 one time grant for projects and Watershed Coordinator staff support in July 2015

Additional Watershed Efforts led by Partner Agencies

- Participate in partner agencies' meetings and/or planning efforts as requested/needed.
 - **Cleveland Metroparks**
 - **Acacia Reservation** –
 - Participate in Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation and Outreach Process. Participated in consultant selection process for design build project on advisory basis.
 - **Lyndhurst Dam Removal/Retrofit Design process**– participate in Metroparks-led design process for removal/retrofit of dam located off of Cedar at the northwest end of Acacia Reservation – GLRI/AOC grant obtained for design/cost estimates work in 2015 – Project could not

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

proceed due to ODNR decommissioning requirements and City concerns over downstream flooding.

- **Euclid Creek Reservation (Original)** – participate in capital planning for park with Metroparks planners
 - o *Old Highland Road Connector Project* - City of Euclid-led discussions with Cleveland Metroparks – participate in meetings as scheduled
- **Euclid Creek Reservation - Wildwood Park** – assist with planning/project input as needed
 - o bridge over Euclid Creek connecting Wildwood Park to Villa Angela/Euclid Beaches constructed in June



- **Euclid Creek Reservation-Original Park to Wildwood Park Connector Trail, Cleveland & Euclid, from 2006 Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan effort**
 - o Participate in meetings to discuss new trail alignment and reconstruction of pedestrian bridge over I-90 as meetings scheduled by City.
- **Reservation Specific Public meetings**
 - o September meetings at each reservation to update long range plan and to list top priority capital projects
- **Eastside Greenway Initiative:** led by LAND studio in collaboration with Cleveland State University.
 - Continued to participate on stakeholder committee through project and attend public meetings to provide input
 - May Steering Committee meeting and 3rd Round of public meetings held (5/19 meeting at Collinwood Recreation Center with 24 attendees)
 - July Steering Committee meeting and final public meeting July 21, 6:30-8:30, JCU
- **County Airport Environmental Assessment** – Cuyahoga County hired Mead & Hunt to conduct assessment
 - Continued to participate in wrap up of assessment process and submitted public comment encouraging mitigation in Euclid Creek (12/19)
- **E. 185th Transportation for Livable Communities (TLCI) Project Core Committee**
 - Continue to participate on Committee and project as needed
- **Forest City Working Group, part of Sustainable Cleveland 2019 initiative**
 - Mission of Group: To provide resources and expertise to assist in the reforestation of the City of Cleveland and the region, to raise awareness about the many benefits of trees and to bring a new appreciation for trees to the residents of Northeast Ohio.
 - Participated on Committee – 1/20 meeting; 5/20 meeting
- **LEAP Native Plant Promotion Committee**
 - Attended 6/16 meeting to discuss benefits of creating invasive plant list for region
- **Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinating Committee**

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2015 Work Plan Annual Summary

- Euclid Creek a part of the Cuyahoga AOC. Posius is elected representative for Friends of Euclid Creek on Committee. We participate in quarterly meetings to have voice on Committee and AOC delisting criteria.
- Posius/Gowda co-chairing Cuyahoga AOC Public Outreach Subcommittee in 2015.
- **Cuyahoga County Planning Initiatives**
 - **Greenprint** Mapping Program – updates and seeing if regional map of land conservation/protection opportunities would be useful for conservation partners – WRLC would host mapping program.

PIPE Program Highlights

- **Euclid Eagle Scout Candidate Rain Garden project** – met with and helped assist with rain garden installation at Euclid Municipal Parking lot island – created signage for project
- **1st Rain Garden** installed through program in Mayfield Heights! At Community Center with Mayfield Middle School students
- **Wildwood Park Cleanups** – Organized Spring & Fall Cleanup events
- 2 Euclid Creek **Watershed Council meetings**, 1 **PIPE meetings** coordinated and held and first combined **Watershed Summit** coordinated and held
- **Eaton Corp** – met with green team about ways to collaborate
- **FOEC Fundraiser at Acacia** – donated rain barrel for event, helped with planning as I could
- **Day in the Life of Euclid Creek Event** held and planning meetings and site visits (3) held to coordinate and make successful – 83 people participated in event
- **Great Lake Erie Boat Float Event** – second year participating, rained out for 2nd year
- **Watershed Presentations** to 7 community groups (Mayfield Village Community Advisory Committee; Northeast Shores Dev. Corp. staff, Arbor Day Celebration, Collinwood HS After School Program, NEORSD Grant Report out meeting, Highland Heights Lions Club, Cuyahoga River Symposium)
- **Enviroscape** presented to Mayfield Heights Brownie Troop (October)
- **Rain Barrel workshops** (1 combined with Compost Seminar) – held 3 workshops (Lyndhurst (Acacia and Cleveland Clinic), Highland Heights,)
- **Invasives Plant Pull** (3 events) – Canada Thistle - YOU Students at Richmond Heights property by City Hall; Redstone Run thistle pull, just CP; Beachwood Rain Garden – Dalton pulled phragmites
- **Green Cleaning** workshops – 2 workshops held (Mayfield Village-15, South Euclid-15)
- **Watershed Display** – participated in 11 community events
- **Blog** – wrote 5 articles for website blog post

912 volunteers contributed a total of 3,083 hours of time to the Watershed program in 2015, installing trees and native plants, pulling invasive plants, water monitoring, attending watershed meetings and tabling events.

This is a monetary value of \$71,101 to the program!