

Euclid Creek Watershed Council
Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE) Program Committee
2020 Event Series – Euclid Creek PIPE Committee Work Plan (Approved March 3, 2020)

10/06/2020 Work Plan Summary

14 involvement events or activities and 6 educational programs have been held in 2020 for the Euclid Creek Watershed Committee Communities. Virtual programming on Green Yards Healthy Homes, Backyard Stream Maintenance, Tree Care, Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, and water quality monitoring is available on demand for promotion to residents. Simulated live presentations can be catered to individual communities for promotion and viewing at a specific time and date.

Cuyahoga SWCD is making every effort to have an involvement event in each community this year, but with COVID protocols they must be outdoors and limited to 9 attendees and 1 staff. For communities which an involvement event was not held, Cuyahoga SWCD will bring a sign in form, pledges, and hand out materials (mugs, signs, and bags) that the community can distribute to residents, staff, and or contractors who take the pledge. These pledges can count for involvement. The virtual Green Yards Healthy Homes webinar can also be used to count for involvement as those who view the webinar can pledge to make a green product at home. If the community prefers not to have an involvement activity this year due to COVID, Cuyahoga SWCD will work with the community over the course of the permit term to make sure all requirements are met (multiple events will be held in 2021, 2022, 2023, and/or 2024).

The planned in person Master Rain Gardener program was moved online. Live classes were hosted in May. Classes were then repeated as “simulated live” in July. 65 students took the May and July Classes with Cuyahoga SWCD. 11 of the students resided in Euclid Creek Watershed Communities. CRWP and Summit SWCD also held online Master Rain Gardener Programming in 2020. So far 59 rain gardens have been installed by Northeast Ohio Master Rain Gardener graduates. 5 professionals have been certified, and six graduates have adopted public rain gardens and perform routine maintenance.

A detailed summary of 2020 activities is provided below.

Blue Text: Events that occurred since last PIPE update report

Black Text: Events Past/Planned

Red Text: Events Upcoming/Updates/Action Needed

Education Theme for 2020-2024: Lake Erie Starts Here - Everyone lives in a watershed, and in Cuyahoga County everyone lives in the Lake Erie watershed. Because of this watershed connection, our activities at home, at school, at work, and throughout the community directly impact not only Lake Erie, but also our local waterways. Outreach and involvement activities will identify this connection and provide recommendations and opportunities to make a positive watershed impact to various target audiences.

MESSAGES for 2020-2024:

Message 1 (Winter): Sensible Salting

Road salt directly impacts aquatic life when it runs off into local streams. By adopting alternative deicing techniques and sensible salting strategies, the amount of road salt reaching local waterways will be reduced.

Message 2 (Spring): Backyard Conservation

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Small changes in lawn care, landscaping and soil health management practices can lead to local water quality improvements. Converting lawn areas to native trees, shrubs, rain gardens, wildflowers or prairie grasses improves soil health, increases rainwater infiltration and reduces pollution from lawn runoff. Rain Barrels improve water quality by reducing stormwater runoff and therefore the delivery of pollutants to the storm sewer system.

Message 3 (Summer): Waste – There Is No Away

Waste materials that are improperly managed or disposed of negatively impact water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Message 4 (Fall): Trees

Trees intercept and infiltrate rainwater before it can be converted to runoff. Properly planting and maintaining native trees reduces runoff and improves water quality.

Message 5:

We all live in a watershed and our actions on the land directly affect the quality of our water.

Possible SWCD Involvement Activities – at least 1 involvement activity in each community:

Activity 1: Stream Cleanup

Activity 2: Rain Barrel Installation & Rain Barrel Art

Activity 3: Watershed-friendly Landscaping and Sustainable Land Management

Activity 4: Tree Planting, Maintenance, Propagation, Pledges and Giveaways

Activity 5: Green Yards & Healthy Homes workshop

Activity 6: Storm Drain Stenciling & Storm Drain Art

Activity 7: Citizen Participation in Watershed Planning and Management

Activity 8: Pledges: Litter, Sensible Salting, Tree Planting and Maintenance, Adopt-a-drain/storm drain maintenance, Dog Poop, Watershed Champion (sustainable landscaping).

All Watershed Education:

- *Online Master RAIN Gardener Training Class – 5-week workshop starting July – 39 students*
- *Euclid Creek Watershed Champion Campaign – New Champions – Beachwood, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, University Heights*
- *Life At Waters Edge Mailers – 1,448 mailers*
- *Rack Cards: Dog Waste, Storm drain Care, Salt Habits – printed – delivered to Richmond Heights – Will coordinate with communities to deliver soon*
- *Tree-planting and maintenance mailing to residents - Printed materials will be mailed to 10% of households in the community about proper tree planting and maintenance*
- *Educational Materials to Parking lot owners/operators/managers and their contractors - Printed materials will be distributed to 50% of this target audience in the community, distributed through the contractor registration process. Quarter 4 deliverable.*
- *Native seed/plant kits will be available for sale through Cuyahoga SWCD. This program was a major success this year.*
- *Annual Poster – printed. Delivered to Richmond Heights.- Will coordinate with communities to deliver soon*
- *Teachers - Annual county-wide teacher workshop will be offered to school districts serving the community. 7 Teachers from Cleveland, 2 Teachers Euclid,*

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- 1 Teacher Lyndhurst, 2 Teachers Richmond Heights, 2 Teachers South Euclid
- Students – School-based presentations and an annual poster contest will be made available to school districts serving the community.
- Euclid Creek Newsletter – Summer/Fall issued annually – Printed and Mailed in September
- Cuyahoga SWCD Newsletters – Spring, Fall & Winter Newsletters issued annually – In lieu of community displays this year, the Cuyahoga SWCD Newsletters were mailed to underserved populations in each community.
- Website and social media on ECWP and Cuyahoga SWCD - ongoing
- Monthly Broadcast mails – Currently 1,804 recipients
- ECWP PIPE Committee Meeting: March 3 – 12 attendees

Planned Events:

Virtual

- Green Yards Healthy Homes – 19 attendees
- Backyard Stream: Owner's Manual – 12 attendees
- Project Learning Tree Virtual workshop, June 22, 2020 – 7 attendees
- Project WET/ PLT/ Earth Day Climate Change, April 3, 2020 – 43 attendees
- Consider a Virtual Public NPSIS Input Meeting for late November

Beachwood

Involvement / Education Event:

- ~~Project Plant It or NUTS – Hilltop – Cancelled – COVID~~
- ~~Middle School Rain Garden Invasive Management Cancelled – COVID~~
- ECWP PIPE Committee Meeting: March 3 – 12 attendees
- November Buckthorn Removal and Cleanup Event – Beachwood City Park – November 10th

Education Events:

- Beachwood Fall Fest
- FOEC Table at Cleveland Clinic Earth Day - February 5

Cleveland – Euclid Creek portion

Involvement / Education Events:

- Wildwood Mugwort Pull, May 16, 2020 – 9 attendees
- ~~Wildwood Beach Cleanup and Hike with Metroparks – April 22 – Cancelled COVID~~
- Green Yards Healthy Homes, March 3, 2020 – 14 attendees

Education Events:

- ~~FOEC: Tour of Easterly Sewage Treatment Plant – August 15th – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~Michael Zone Recreation Center Arbor Day Event – April 25th – Cancelled COVID~~
- Tree Presentation CWRU Youth Group, June 10, 2020 - 13 attendees
- What is that plant and how do I get it?, June 22, 2020 – 59 attendees

Euclid

Involvement / Education Events:

- The Big Clean – April 25

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- Euclid River Day Cleanup, June 20, 2020 – 9 attendees
- Keep Euclid Beautiful July Cleanup – July 25

Education Events:

- FOEC Table at Keep Euclid Beautiful Plant Swap 10/3
- Ward Meeting Presentation & Mailing – Date TBD – Mailing in October
- FOEC: Why Trees Matter – October 17th – Capped at 10

Highland Heights

Involvement / Education Events:

- *Dusty Goldenrod Easement Planting – November*
- *FOEC Dusty Goldenrod Easement Maintenance - November*
- *Clean Up Event – FOEC Conservation Committee Leading - Ongoing*

Education Events:

- Highland Heights Riparian and Wetland Setback Presentation – February 10 – 12 attendees
- Monday Meet-Up – Dusty Goldenrod Invasive Management & Planting – April 27 – Changed to Virtual Presentation – 36 attendees
- FOEC Dusty Goldenrod Tour with FOEC Board – 6 attendees
- ~~HHGTF: ALGAE BLOOMS & the condition of Lake Erie – April 1 – Cancelled COVID~~

Lyndhurst

Involvement / Education Event:

- Acacia Stream Cleanup, March 8, 2020 – 28 attendees
- NOW Corps Acacia Cleanup – March 9th – 15 attendees
- Acacia CMP Cleanup, July 21, 2020 – 10 attendees
- Acacia CMP Cleanup, September 16 – 6 attendees
- ~~Hawken NUTS Program – April 17th – Cancelled COVID~~
- FOEC Volunteer Opportunities Meeting – February 4 – 40 attendees

Education Events:

- ~~Midwest Society Ecological Restoration Presentations – March 27-29 – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~Euclid Creek Monitoring Poster Session – May 11th – Cancelled COVID~~
- *Garden Club Presentation - November 5*
- ~~FOEC: The History of Modern Sanitation: From Waste to Clean Water – July 7th – Cancelled COVID~~
- FOEC: Climate Sustainability – September 1 - Virtual

Mayfield Heights

Involvement / Education Events:

- ~~Project Plant It or NUTS – Lander Elementary – Tentative Arbor Day Week – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~Storm drain stenciling – Spring – Tentative Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~September Clean Up Event – Tentative/Location TBD – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~Rain Barrel Drive Through Event – Cancelled COVID~~
- *Suggest working with schools on storm drain art in 2021*

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- *Suggest working with business community on storm drain stenciling or cleanups in 2021*
- *Suggest for 2020 Pledges are given to contractors or city staff*
- *Possible Community Park Rain Garden Maintenance Day?*

Education Events:

- ~~Rockwell Automation Table and Pledges – April 22 – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~Hillcrest Atrium Earth Day Table and Pledges – May 12 – Cancelled COVID~~

Mayfield Village

Involvement / Education Events:

- *Water Quality Monitoring Meeting – March 5 – 36 attendees*
- *Master Rain Gardener – May 20-June 17 (5 classes) – Virtual –39 attendees*
- *Wiley Park Rain Garden Tree Planting – Tentative – Possible Spring 2021 – Individuals assisting with routine weeding*

Education Events:

- ~~FOEC Annual Meeting – June 2nd – Cancelled COVID~~
- ~~FOEC Holiday Party – December 1 – Cancelled COVID~~

Richmond Heights

Involvement / Education Event:

- ~~August Stream Clean-Up – Location TBD – Cancelled COVID~~
- *Community Park Tree Planting – Spring or Fall – Tentative – Suggest Spring 2021*
- *Greenwood Farm Work Day at the Park, June 27, 2020 – 10 attendees*
- *Greenwood Farm Work Day at the Park, July 26, 2020 – 5 attendees*
- *Rain Barrel Workshop – Greenwood Farm – Tentative – Suggest 2021*

Education Events:

- ~~Farm Festival – Tentative Early September – Cancelled COVID~~

South Euclid

Involvement / Education Event:

- *South Euclid Euclid Creek Cleanup , July 18, 2020 – 15 attendees*
- *Lanphear Park Rain Garden Clean-Up and Tree Maintenance – Date TBD – Individuals assisting with routine weeding*

Education Events:

- *Bexley Gardens Rain Garden Presentation – July 9th – Master Rain Gardener Volunteers Presented*

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- ~~Rock the Block Table – Tentative – June 13th – Cancelled COVID~~

Work Plan submitted to PIPE Committee at March 3 meeting and was approved.