

# Euclid Creek Watershed Update



## Euclid Creek Watershed Council

City of Beachwood  
City of Cleveland  
City of Euclid  
City of Highland Heights  
City of Lyndhurst  
City of Mayfield Heights  
Village of Mayfield  
City of Richmond Heights  
City of South Euclid

## 2013 Upcoming Meetings & Events

### Friends of Euclid Creek Monthly Meetings

Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, 6:30pm  
South Euclid Community Center

### Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting

February 14, 7:30am  
Location TBD

### Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee

February 22, 9:00am  
Location TBD

### Green Cleaning Workshop for Inside out Out

March 12, 6:30pm  
Mayfield Village Community Room  
Registration required by March 5,  
call 216-524-6580x16

### Rain Barrel Workshop & Sale

April 13, 10:00am  
Euclid Historical Society  
Richmond Heights City Hall  
Registration required by March 29,  
call 216-524-6580x16

### Streamside Tree Planting in Richmond Heights

April 27, 9:00am-1:00pm  
Richmond Heights City Hall  
To sign up call Cathi at 216-241-  
2414x307 or email lehnc@crppo.org

### Invasive Plant Pull Event

May 11, 10:00am-noon  
Wildwood State Park

Please see website (address on back page)  
for more event details and to see newly  
scheduled Rain Barrel and Green Cleaning  
workshops and events

### Euclid Creek Partners:

Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek &  
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

## Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project

The Lacustrine Refuge wetland and stream restoration project located in Wildwood State Park in Cleveland is nearing completion! In August, wetland restoration work began with a 3-4 month construction time frame and follow-up plantings in the spring. A dense layer of the invasive Japanese knotweed plant was removed and work began creating the wetland. As residents have observed, most of the work consists of moving earth to regrade the oxbow island into a wetland complex of varying water levels. Upland areas above the water are designed to protect as many mature trees as possible. Submerged pools will provide spawning and nursery habitat and shelter for great lakes fish.

Volunteers have planted over 1,700 native plants from small plant plugs to dormant native tree cuttings called 'live stakes', to wetland plants harvested from nearby Singer Lake Bog in Summit County. A group of Hawken School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, volunteers from the neighborhood, Friends of Euclid Creek, Arcelor Mittal employees, and West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center volunteers participated in two planting events held in September and November. The goal is for these native plants to thrive and outcompete the invasive plants in order to provide a more diverse habitat for wildlife, birds and butterflies.

Within the stream channel, several stream bank bends were stabilized and the main channel was diverted so that water during normal flow moves through the secondary oxbow channel (now the main channel), but in storm events, water flows over the diversion channel and the entire wetland area, functioning like a floodplain. As luck would have it, the project was put to a major test when Hurricane Sandy sent raging waters through the project site in early November. The project area held up amazingly well, allowing the waters to flow into the wetland complex and over the diversion channel with minimal damage.

The majority of the site grading is complete and the construction team is preparing the site for winter by installing erosion control matting and grass seed. Final earth moving work should be completed in mid-late January. It will take about a season for the grass and plants to get established and for the site to look naturalized again, but it will be a sight to see.

**Volunteers are needed in the spring to complete the native wetland plantings**, so contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580x16 or [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) if you would like to get updates on planting events.

For more details about the project or to see construction photos, go to on the project website at: [http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC\\_LacustrineRefuge.htm](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm).

-This project is funded through a US EPA administered Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant.



Volunteers planting along the  
streamside (above)  
Hawken students planting in  
September (below)



November volunteer planting event  
(above and below)





Friends of  
**EUCLID  
CREEK**

## From the Friends: FOEC Updates

### Honoring Members and Guests

On December 4th, Friends of Euclid Creek gathered for our annual Holiday and Fundraiser Party. While social time, delicious food and a fundraising auction are important to the evening's success, it is also the time we honor those people who have given Friends their time and talents. This year's award recipients include:

- \* **Tom Jenkins Award: Frank Skala** for his years of outstanding contributions to the mission of Friends of Euclid Creek
- \* **Good Neighbor Award: Northeast Shores Development Corp.** for their storm water initiatives and project partnerships at Wildwood & Euclid Beach State Parks
- \* **Public Officials Award: Cleveland Metroparks, Brian Zimmerman**, Executive Director-Secretary, for serving as protector and steward of the environment, especially with the addition of Acacia Country Club to the Emerald Necklace
- \* **Certificate of Appreciation: Judy Dearden** for her outstanding efforts in educating the community on environmental issues and stewardship practices via the Highland Heights Green Task Force

- \* **Volunteer of the Year Award: Brian Gilbert** for his outstanding efforts to expand knowledge and information on plants within the Euclid Creek watershed
- \* Special thanks go to **Alan Klonowski**, a certified arborist, who gave freely of his time and expertise in performing an assessment on a forested steep ravine in Richmond Heights that deserves preservation

While all members of Friends are essential and offer much, these individuals and groups have shone brightly in 2012. Some have given years of dedicated service and others are new on the horizon. Either way, the watershed is a cleaner and greener place because of their efforts.

### NEORSW Watershed Support Grant

For the fourth year, FOEC is proud to receive a **Watershed Operating Support Grant** from the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSW)**. This very important funding source helps FOEC advance our role in watershed protection and restoration by supporting the Euclid Watershed Coordinator position and offsetting group operating costs. Thank you, Sewer District!

### FOEC \$500 Scholarship Announced

FOEC is seeking applications from high school students planning to pursue degrees in environmental studies—Applications are due Feb. 15, 2013—see FOEC Blog for details.

### Looking Ahead

In 2013, the FOEC officers and board members are undertaking a strategic planning process to better define where we are and want to go and grow as a group. During this time we will continue to gather as a group for programs, field trips and activities in the watershed. We hope you can join us at events and meetings and as a supporter. Check out our blogspot for more info: [foecnews.blogspot.com](http://foecnews.blogspot.com)

### Join FOEC Today!

To become a member contact:  
Friends of Euclid Creek  
P.O. Box 21384  
South Euclid, OH 44121  
[FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com)  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday of month at South Euclid Community Center, 6:30pm

### Log on to FOEC's Website & Blog:

- [friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net](http://friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net)
- [foecnews.blogspot.com](http://foecnews.blogspot.com)
- 'Like' FOEC on Facebook!

## 2012 Euclid Creek Watershed Program Highlights

2012 was a fantastic year with all of our partners in the watershed. We developed a new workshop at Cuyahoga SWCD called *Green Cleaning Workshop for Inside and Out*, where attendees learned about safer indoor cleaning and outdoor landscaping techniques, and attendees made two cleaning recipes to try at home. We received great feedback at our initial workshops and will hold more in 2013.

We held six rain barrel workshops where 254 participants put together 164 rain barrels. For the Mayfield Village workshop we partnered with the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District on a combined rain barrel and compost seminar, which participants enjoyed.

This was a record year for native planting events in Euclid Creek. Euclid Adopt-a-Beach donated 72 native plants that we planted in the Wildwood Bioswale Garden to add plant diversity to the garden. West Creek Preservation Committee led a planting of 100 native plants to beautify a vacant property we hope will become a stop on a planned bike route connecting Wildwood State Park and the Euclid Creek Reservation. Another 1,700 plants were planted by volunteers in the wetland at Wildwood State Park (read more on p. 1). We also assisted Mayfield Village in ordering 100 native plants that were installed by Mayfield High School Horticulture Center students in an engineered bioretention cell garden at the Village's Wiley Park.

In August a Construction Open House was held to showcase the Wildwood wetland and stream restoration project. 80 community members packed the park pavilion and came with lots of great questions and interest in the restoration project.

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach group, led by Stephen Love, held eleven Saturday beach cleanup events, including the Euclid Beach Blast celebration. And the watershed saw the preservation of a critical piece of land at the headwaters (where stream begins) of the Euclid Creek watershed—the 155-acre Acacia Country Club golf course property was purchased by the Conservation Fund and donated to the Cleveland Metroparks to convert into a public park.

***I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time and expertise on watershed projects, at events, and volunteer water quality monitoring—we can't help Euclid Creek without YOU!***



*Hawken students plant wetland plants in Euclid Creek as part of Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration project in September*



*Cathi Lehn makes green cleaning recipe to try out at home at Green Cleaning Workshop in South Euclid*

*Rick Glady at 1st Rain Barrel Workshop in Lyndhurst—47 residents put together 34 rain barrels to take home and install*



*Over eighty people attended a construction open house to learn about the Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration project in August*

## Three Projects Funded in Euclid Creek to install Green Infrastructure

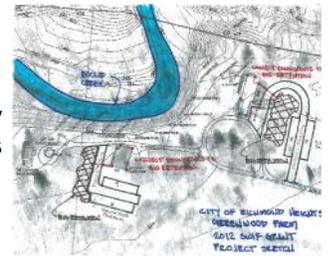
Three projects in Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities were awarded funding through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA's) Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS D's) small scale storm water demonstration project (S3DP) fund. Both programs are aimed at addressing polluted storm water runoff issues by installing innovative storm water management practices in order to improve water quality. Projects in Cleveland, Richmond Heights and South Euclid received funding.

Northeast Shores Development Corporation in the City of Cleveland was awarded \$51,700 in NEORS D small scale storm water demonstration project funding. This project will create three 'green' parking lot demonstration projects to reduce polluted storm water from entering Lake Erie, in the Waterloo Arts, Entertainment and Music District in the North Shores Collinwood area. The parking area plans, developed by URS Corporation, will leverage the sustainable techniques of bioswale and infiltration basins to capture and filter out pollutants, and utilize storm water runoff for landscape irrigation, art and placemaking. Northeast Shores plans to implement a series of sustainable projects in the district as well as creating a 1/2 mile self-guided green infrastructure walking tour.

The City of Richmond Heights was awarded \$187,500 through Ohio EPA's SWIF program to green an historic, City-owned property called Greenwood Farm located on the East Branch of Euclid Creek near Chardon Road on Richmond. The project includes construction of new driveways and parking areas for volunteers and visitors. Instead of conventional paving systems, porous pavement will be installed to allow water to infiltrate into the ground versus sheet flowing and picking up pollutants that will enter nearby Euclid Creek. Bioretention areas will be installed to receive storm water runoff from the new driveway and parking areas, and from roof runoff from the main farmhouse and barn.

The City of South Euclid was awarded \$166,015 through Ohio EPA's SWIF program to modify the parking lot in front of City Hall with pervious concrete brick pavers and native landscape plantings. Public education is a key component of the project and will include permanent educational signage, an informational kiosk, and a tour/workshop about the project.

Keep updated on the status of these exciting green infrastructure projects on the Euclid Creek website (web address on back page of newsletter)!



Schematic of new green driveways, parking areas and bioretention areas in Richmond Heights project



Pervious concrete allows water to percolate into the ground, whereas conventional concrete and asphalt do not absorb water



Bioretention systems remove pollutants from storm water and provide habitat for birds and butterflies

## Regional Stormwater Management Program fees begin January 1, 2013

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS D's) Regional Stormwater Management Program will formally begin in January 2013. The program will address flooding, streambank erosion and water quality issues throughout much of Northeast Ohio. The average homeowner in the NEORS D's Service Area will be charged \$5.05 per month or \$60.60 per year to pay for stormwater-related construction projects and maintenance. NEORS D has identified more than \$220 million of needed construction projects, and detailed planning on some projects has already begun.

To learn more about the program, attend **Stormwater Fee Information Workshops** held the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the NEORS D Office (3900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland) - Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13 and Jun. 10. For more information call NEORS D Customer Service at 216-881-8247, email [stormwater@neorsd.org](mailto:stormwater@neorsd.org) or visit website at [neorsd.org/stormwaterprogram.php](http://neorsd.org/stormwaterprogram.php).

## Euclid Creek Tunnel Project Update, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District website

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS D's) Euclid Creek Tunnel (ECT) is a \$197 million project that will capture combined sewage (a mixture of wastewater and stormwater) and store it until it can be pumped out and treated at the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Euclid Creek Tunnel—located approximately 200 feet below ground—will be 24 feet in diameter and nearly three miles long when complete. It will hold 52 million gallons of combined sewage at a time.

Mackenzie, the 300-foot-long tunnel boring machine, has begun drilling the 18,000-foot long Euclid Creek Tunnel, starting the journey in Bratenahl. The district recently launched a **Construction Hotline** (216) 432-7157 with recordings on traffic impacts and reports on the Euclid Creek Tunnel construction along Lakeshore Boulevard. Or regular updates are posted on Twitter (Twitter handle is @neorsd), or go to the NEORS D Official blog website ([neorsd.blogspot.com](http://neorsd.blogspot.com)).



Mackenzie the tunnel digger, has begun burrowing the route of the Euclid Creek Tunnel

*Euclid Creek Partners:  
Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek &  
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District  
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Email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

## Only Rain Down the Drain

Visit our website at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org) – then click on *Services, Watershed Programs* and *Euclid Creek!*

If you would like to **receive this newsletter electronically**, email [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.



Printing costs provided by the  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

## Euclid Creek Superstar! ROY LARICK

In this issue, we are recognizing Roy Larick, archeologist and historian of great importance to Euclid Creek. Roy co-authored the Images of America book, *Euclid Creek*, a photographic history of the watershed. He founded the Bluestone Heights group which sponsors free eco-heritage walks in the watershed and vicinity. Roy has provided invaluable historical information on projects being implemented in the lower Euclid Creek. Keep updated on Roy's great work at the [bluestoneheights.org](http://bluestoneheights.org) website.

In Roy's own words describing his relationship with the watershed: "Here's to Lake Erie south shore rocks and waters. I've taken them in and loved them across four life chapters.

During the 1960s, chapter 1 built upon youthful clambering at beaches, bluffs, falls, knobs, lagoons, ledges, points, ridges, and the odd gulch. Each had special nature and intriguing human transformations such as harbors in lagoons and mills at falls. Euclid Creek was my home stream. Nature and history interweaved at the Metroparks bluestone quarries and the Wildwood lagoon shipyard. Chapter 1 set my lifelong passion for the *nature of change*.

Chapter 2 opened during the 1970s with archaeology studies. I got to pursue my passion at Earth's far corners. Archaeology brought science to the nature of change and worldliness to my experience of place. Faraway archaeology involves some going-native. In amazing places, I've lived long enough to learn the local ways of respecting special places. Surely, someday, I could bring far-off ways back home.

In 2001, a family transition indeed brought me back to Euclid. Now I visited chapter 1 places with chapter 2 skills. For chapter 3, Euclid Creek regained its place as home stream. I found, in the Friends of Euclid Creek and CSWCD, the respect for place missing in Chapter 1. My good fortune has been to work with the Friends and with watershed coordinators Kristin Albro, Lynn Garrity, and Claire Posius. In collaboration, we learn about our "big crick" and its needs for a healthy future.

Bluestone Heights pulls together passion, science, and place respect to begin chapter 4. The name identifies our special place atop the unique Euclid Bluestone. The program educates on the weave of natural and human forces at special places. Deep History walking tours, for example, go outside to discover lost nature and culture. We also build mapping tools for measuring the nature of change. The goal: find sustainable nature/culture equations for the range of Lake Erie south shore rocks and waters."



Roy Larick leading eco-heritage walk (above); Bluestone Heights logo and map of area (below)

