

Issue 27

Spring 2013

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Grass Seed by Allyson Yoder

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

Euclid Creek Invasive Plant Pull & Bioswale Planting

Saturday, May 11 9:00am-noon
Wildwood State Park, Cleveland

E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

Volunteers are needed to help pull invasives and plant natives

Meet at 9:00am for Bioswale Planting at marina parking lot

Meet at 10:00am for invasive plant pull at entrance parking lot

Dress for weather (long sleeves, pants, work boots, gloves)

All groups welcome, children under 18 must be supervised

Euclid Creek Partners:

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

Friends of Euclid Creek seeks donations to protect sensitive land

The Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) is a grass-roots, non-profit organization which advocates for the health of our Euclid Creek watershed. FOEC has established its first Land Conservation Fund to aid in efforts to preserve 20 acres of streamside woodlands in the watershed communities of Richmond Heights and Highland Heights.

Last fall, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and the West Creek Conservancy applied for funds to protect both properties through the Clean Ohio Fund. Partial funding allowed the groups to cover the purchase of the Richmond Heights property, but funding does not cover \$20,000 in closing and legal costs. Once this \$20,000 is raised, additional funds will go toward protecting the Highland Heights property.

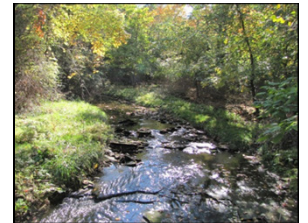
The Richmond Heights property is a heavily wooded, mature forest with steep slopes surrounding the tributary, making protection of these sensitive hillsides critical. The Highland Heights property is also wooded, with a headwater stream to the East Branch running through it, and three high quality wetlands.

Your charitable contribution to the Friends of Euclid Creek Land Conservation Fund will help us protect these beautiful woodlands.

You can donate online securely using PayPal at http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/FriendsofEuclidCreek_Support-Us.htm, or mail a check earmarked for the *Land Conservation Fund*, to Friends of Euclid Creek, P.O. Box 21384, South Euclid, OH, 44121. -FOEC is a non-profit 501(c)(3). Donations are tax deductible.



8-acre property in Richmond Heights (above) and 12-acre property in Highland Heights (below) both with tributaries to the East Branch of Euclid creek running through them



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sat, April 27, 9:00am-1:00pm

Sat, May 4, 9:00am-noon

Sat, May 11, 9:00am-noon

Wed, May 15, 5:00-7:00pm

Thur, May 30, 6:30-8:30pm

Thur, June 20, 7:30-9:00am

Tue, June 25, 6:30-8:00pm

Fri, June 28, 9:00-10:30am

Wed, Sept 11, 6:30-8:00pm

Sat, Sept 21, 9:00am-noon

1st Tue of Month, 6:30pm

1st Wed of Month, 7:00pm

Streamside Tree Planting in Richmond Hts., Call Cathi for details/registration at 216-241-2414 x307

Wetland Planting, Wildwood State Park, Email Joel for details/registration: jbingham@enviroScienceinc.com

Euclid Creek 7th Invasive Plant Pull & FOEC Bioswale Service Day, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland*

Wetland & Stream Restoration Celebration!, Wildwood State Park. Please RSVP*

Rain Barrel Workshop and Compost Seminar, Mayfield Hts., Call 216-443-3731 to register by May 23

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Mayfield Heights Community Center

Rain Barrel Workshop in South Euclid, Registration required by June 18*

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting, Location TBD

Green Cleaning Workshop for Inside and Out, Richmond Hts. Kiwanis Lodge, registration required*

Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup Event & FOEC Bioswale Service Day, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland.*

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) meets monthly at South Euclid Community Center; see FOEC website to confirm meeting location

Highland Heights Green Task Force meets monthly at the Highland Heights Community Center

*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for more event details at (216) 524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org
Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for more details about an event listed above (web address on back page)



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

Strategic Plan

The beginning of 2013 has been all about planning for Friends of Euclid Creek. The board and various members recently finished a strategic planning process. With the help of consultant, Tom Romito, FOEC spent months looking at where we've been, where we are now and where we would like to go as an organization. We wrestled with our mission and goals, timelines and dreams.

Where did we land? In a place with a clear vision and plan to be the citizen voice for the Euclid Creek watershed. Care to learn more? Join us at our May 7th monthly meeting as we share our strategic plan with members and friends. We'll even have some fun testing our watershed knowledge with a game of Euclid Creek Jeopardy.

We want to sincerely thank Tom Romito for volunteering his time and energy in leading this strategic plan process and in helping up to hone our unified voice for the creek.

Land Conservation Fund

While Claire has highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter the FOEC Land Conservation Fund, I want to stress our excitement about this fundraising commitment. As we move forward as a group, it is essential that we work to raise money that is committed to preserving green space in the watershed. This fund will not only allow us to protect an eight acre parcel in Richmond Heights presently, but establish dedicated support for future land purchases.

Monthly Meetings

We invite you to enjoy one of our many upcoming speakers at meetings, get to know us better at our annual picnic, get outside on one of our field trips, or lend a hand at a stream clean-up or restoration project. We hope you will join us on the journey as we learn and discover more as stewards of this beautiful watershed.

Barb Holtz, President FOEC

Join FOEC Today!

The Friends of Euclid Creek help inform and educate the public on the many things happening in the watershed. Be part of its future by joining and supporting FOEC.

New membership dues:

Individual-\$15, Family-\$25, Student or Senior-\$10, Special Friend-\$50 and Sustaining Member-\$100.

To become a member contact:

Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21384
South Euclid, OH 44121-0384
FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com

Website, Blog and Facebook info.:

-cuyahogawcd.org/euclidcreekfiles/
FriendsofEuclidCreek.htm
-foecnews.blogspot.com
-Like 'Friends of Euclid Creek' on Facebook!

Monthly FOEC Meetings:

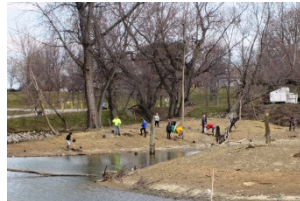
First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, South Euclid Community Center, 370 Victory Drive, 44121
Meeting location may vary, please check blog to confirm location

Volunteers a Huge Help with Wetland Planting Efforts!

Thanks are in order to the 43 volunteers who participated in the April 6 wetland planting at the Wetland and Stream Restoration Project located in Wildwood State Park. Volunteers from the Notre Dame Swim Team, Friends of Euclid Creek, Green Triangle, the Watershed Volunteer Program and residents from North Collinwood helped with the effort. We planted 150 native trees throughout the wetland and on the stream banks and added a mesh netting around the trees to protect them from deer foraging, and 850 live stakes (dormant, native tree cuttings) to help stabilize the slopes. **One last volunteer planting effort is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 from 9-noon**, contact Joel to register (jbingham@enviroscienceinc.com). We hope to see you at this last big planting! The latest project information and photos can be found on the website at: http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm.



Volunteers planting live stakes along a streambank to help protect the slope (left) and trees installed on the wetland (right)



-This \$1,396,050 project is funded through a US EPA administered Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.

First Green Cleaning Workshops for Inside and Out Well Received

Our first Green Cleaning Workshops for Inside and Out have been well received by participants. This workshop is intended for anyone interested in replacing toxic cleaning and landscaping products with safe alternatives that you can make from everyday household ingredients. These more natural homemade cleaners are less harmful to the environment, can save you money, and reduce your exposure to harmful chemicals.

While the workshop costs \$10, attendees leave with a packet of supplemental education materials, recipes, and two household cleaners that participants make from a choice of four solutions at the workshop to try at home. Our next workshop is scheduled in Richmond Heights on September 11 in the evening (details on p. 1).



Ms. Lehn makes a general household cleaner with vinegar, water and an essential oil at the South Euclid workshop to try at home.

Acacia Reservation Restoration Planning & Banquet Center Update

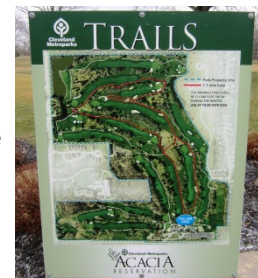
Former Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst is officially a Cleveland Metropark Reservation! And now the fun begins to restore the 155-acre property at the headwaters of the Euclid Creek Watershed. Restoration of such a large property will have a dramatic impact on the health of the watershed downstream. By reforesting portions of the property, daylighting sections of the creek that are underground in pipes, and recreating wetlands we will see improvements in water quality and reductions in the volume of storm water running into the Main Branch of Euclid Creek over time.

Over 80 people attended the Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation Restoration Planning meeting on March 5 at the Lyndhurst Community Center. The property transfer from the Conservation Fund requires that Acacia be restored to a primarily natural state similar to Euclid Creek and Chagrin Reservations. City Council members, residents, consultants, educators, and community groups provided input on how the restoration could look. Suggestions included storm water management techniques utilizing the existing sand traps, wetlands creation, restoring floodplains and meadows, outdoor education opportunities; the ideas were abundant. Cleveland Metroparks staff appreciated the input provided that will inform the restoration planning efforts moving forward.

Cleveland Metroparks just announced the selection of Dino's Catering to manage the Acacia Reservation Banquet Center. This local catering firm will not only provide healthy food choices, but will update the former clubhouse to provide enhanced wedding/party services, and provide programs, events and classes based on healthy foods, fitness and overall wellness. For more information of booking the banquet center, contact Dino's Catering at 440-944-4664. Revenues generated will support the maintenance and stewardship of the property.



Degraded Euclid Creek tributary running through Acacia - a great opportunity for restoration

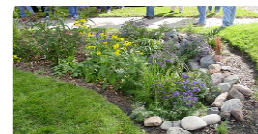


1.7-mile paved former cart path open for your use today!

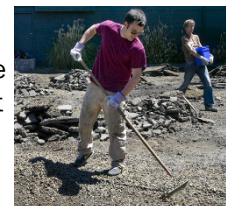
Regional Stormwater Management Program Update and Fee Credits

If you have questions about the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS D's) Regional Stormwater Management Program, contact Watershed Team leader Jeff Jowett who can be reached at 216-881-6600. Mr. Jowett is a new member of NEORS D's Watershed Team and he is a native of Northeast Ohio who has worked for NEORS D for over two years. He has a background in environmental planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and holds a master's degree from the University of Toledo.

Residential property owners can get a 25% credit on their storm water fee by reducing storm water volume or pollutants coming off of their properties. By installing rain gardens, storage systems (e.g. rain barrels, cisterns, etc.), reducing impervious surface (pavement), or with a vegetated filter strip, residents may qualify for the credit. Contact both your community and Mr. Jowett to learn more about the credit program and to see if you qualify for the credit, as you must comply with your City's regulations first and foremost. There are also credits for schools and non-residential property owners that are well worth looking into as credits for these owners can reach 75%-100%. Contact the NEORS D to find out more.



Install a rain garden (above) or remove pavement and replace with vegetation (below) to qualify for residential fee credit



NEORS D, through the Regional Stormwater Management Program, is constructing projects in 2013 that will address flooding, streambank erosion and water quality issues throughout much of Northeast Ohio. One of their first projects in the Euclid Creek Watershed is to repair concrete in a spillway near E. 185th Street and I-90. Large chunks of concrete from the walls of the spillway have been failing and breaking over time in large storms, threatening to damage culverts running under I-90. So this emergency work is important to the flow of Euclid Creek and surrounding infrastructure.

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) - May 13 and Jun. 10. For more information call NEORS D Customer Service at 216-881-8247, email stormwater@neorsd.org or visit their website at neorsd.org/stormwaterprogram.php.



Repair of concrete at the Euclid Creek E. 185th Street Spillway is one of NEORS D's 'first out' emergency repair projects in 2013

Take Lakefront Parks Survey to let your voice be heard

The Cleveland Metroparks is seeking your input on how to make the Lakefront Parks (Edgewater Park, Gordon Park, Euclid Beach, Villa Angela and Wildwood) the best they can be. You can either take the survey online at <http://svy.mk/YVFEK1>, or request a hard copy by calling Tiffany Graham at 216-621-5413 x106.

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

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125

Phone: 216-524-6580 x16
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Email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

Only Rain Down the Drain

Visit our website at 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 or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.



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Euclid Creek's Wildlife Superstar! THE COYOTE

In this issue, we are recognizing the resilient Coyote, a mammal sited regularly in the watershed. As part of the Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration project, a family of coyotes was temporarily displaced from the island and they have been seen regularly in the North Collinwood neighborhood. It's time to tell the coyote story and to clear up some misperceptions about this fascinating mammal see all over the state.

Coyotes are in the watershed, but there are no wolves living in the wild in Ohio. Coyotes have a bushy black-tipped tail, overall are gray in appearance and have yellow eyes. They are found throughout the state in both rural and urban areas. Coyotes were seen in Ohio as early as 1947 and expanded into the state due to loss of other predators in the Eastern U.S.

Coyotes eat small prey, primarily small mammals such as rabbits and mice. Interaction with domestic pets does occur sometimes—your best bet is to keep pets indoors before sunset and do not leave cat or dog food or water bowls out overnight. Adult coyotes weigh between 25-35 pounds, so most dogs weigh the same or more and are seen as a 'hassle' for coyotes to deal with. There have been no known, verified attacks by a healthy coyote in Northeast Ohio on a human.

Coyotes live in family units usually consisting of 5-6, but they are solo hunters. In the Spring and Fall you are likely to see them out during the day as they are spending more time finding rodents to feed their pups. Coyotes living in urban environments are used to normal noises of City living and they will usually pay no attention to people. If you notice a coyote that looks sick (e.g. hair loss, loss of balance, or approaching people) contact your police department immediately.

Ways to avoid interacting with coyotes are to remove any 'attractants' from your property, by removing garbage, pet food or cleaning a dirty grill before nightfall. If a coyote is inquisitive and watching you, clap your hands and shout and it should move on. The main take away is that coyotes are here to stay in Ohio and we need to learn to live with and respect them.



Photo of a coyote (above) and their features (below)

