

Issue 28

Summer 2013

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Watershed Program Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

Nine municipalities that came together in 2000 to address common environmental, storm water and development concerns in the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Friends of Euclid Creek

The citizens group whose mission is to raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, the Program's full time staff.

Wetland Restoration Celebration rescheduled for Conservation Day

Saturday, September 21
10:00am-11:30am

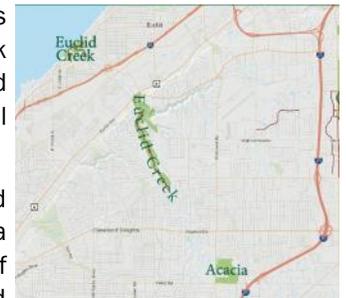
Wildwood Park-Euclid Creek Reservation
RSVP 216-524-6580x16
More details on website.

Cleveland Metroparks Increases Role in the Euclid Creek!

Over the past year we have seen the Cleveland Metroparks take on a lead role in managing parks in the Euclid Creek Watershed and we now have three gems along the Euclid Creek from the headwaters (the beginnings of the stream) all the way to the Lake Erie.

Last October, we celebrated the news of the Cleveland Metroparks taking ownership of and creating the Acacia Reservation along a headwater tributary of the West Branch of Euclid Creek in Lyndhurst. Adding 155 acres of protected parkland to the Watershed increased our overall park acreage by 23%. This single reservation is larger than all of the municipal parks in the Watershed combined (141 acres in 12 communities).

The Metroparks plan is to restore this former golf course to a more natural forested habitat similar to the North Chagrin Reservation. **Keep an eye out for a public meeting coming up this fall to discuss Metroparks restoration plans for Acacia** (check Euclid Creek website). This long term restoration work will significantly improve water quality in Euclid Creek.



Metroparks Reservations in the
Euclid Creek Watershed

The original Euclid Creek Reservation (ECR) is 345 acres and was added to the Cleveland Metroparks in 1916 with a few acres of adjacent land added to it over the past century.

Then in June of 2013, the Cleveland Metroparks assumed management of Cleveland's Lakefront Parks from the City of Cleveland, who owns the property. Management of the parks, formerly the responsibility of Ohio State Parks, was transferred to Cleveland Metroparks following years of dwindling resources due to state budget cuts. This transfer of management responsibilities has the added benefit of assuring local control and management of these lakefront treasures. Wildwood, Villa Angela and Euclid Beach Parks are now part of the Euclid Creek Reservation.

The Euclid Creek Watershed partners are thrilled to collaborate with the Metroparks on all of the Euclid Creek parks, from restoration efforts to outreach to recreating.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sat, Sept 7, 8:00am-noon

Sat, Sept 7, 11:00am-3:00pm

Tue, Sept 10, 6:00pm

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

Sat, Sept 21, 9:00am-noon

Sat, Sept 21, 1:00pm-5:00pm

Fri, Oct 4, 9:00am-10:30am

Fri-Sat, October 4-5

Thur, Oct 24, 7:30am-9:00am

1st Tue of Month, 6:30pm

1st Wed of Month, 7:00pm

Acacia BioBlitz in Lyndhurst. Register online at clevelandmetroparks.com by Sept. 2 (space is limited!)

South Euclid Harvest Fest, Euclid Creek Reservation, Quarry Park—stop by our FOEC table!

NEORSD Euclid Creek Tunnel Community Mtg., Memorial-Nottingham Branch - Cleve. Pub. Library

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

CSWCD's 64th Annual Conservation Day in Euclid Creek! Activities Include: Stream Cleanup, Garden Cleanup, Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach™ Cleanup, Rain Barrel Workshop and rescheduled Wetland & Stream Restoration Celebration, Wildwood Park. Please RSVP*

Family Fun Fest at Greenwood Farm in Richmond Hts., stop by our FOEC table!

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting, Watershed Stewardship Center, Parma*

Redstone Run Preservation Weekend—Benefit (Fri. night) and Volunteer Day (Sat.)—details on page 3.

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, South Euclid City Hall

Friends of Euclid Creek meets monthly at South Euclid Community Center. Meeting details on page 4.

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@cuyahogascwd.org

Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for details about an event listed above (**web address on back page**)

Richmond Heights Streamside Tree Planting

The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO) started an important initiative in 2012 called *Cuyahoga ReLeaf*, addressing the loss of our forest canopy throughout the Cuyahoga Area of Concern (Euclid Creek is a part of the AOC). Cuyahoga ReLeaf received U.S. Forest Service/Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to reforest riparian areas, and the municipal complex of Richmond Heights was selected for a planting. So on April 27, 170 volunteers—80 under 18 years old planted, watered and mulched over 150 native trees of all sizes.

Groups from the Tri-C Eastern Campus, Richmond Heights and Mentor High Schools, a huge contingent of scouts, Walgreens employees and many other volunteers and Euclid Creek Watershed partners participated. Thanks to all who participated and to our funders and especially to CRCPO for organizing and funding this fantastic project that will have lasting improvements on water quality in Claribel Creek, a tributary to the East Branch of Euclid Creek.



From left to right - Girl Scouts by project signage, Richmond Heights High School Environmental Club, Walgreens Employees, and resident volunteers

On a recent visit to the site, our team was thrilled to see the trees we planted thriving and new trees we did not plant growing from seed in the streamside area that is not being mowed. Not mowing within 25'-75' of a stream (the riparian area) allows vegetation to grow and serve as a source of energy and nutrients for stream communities. Vegetation also cools the stream allowing bugs and small fish to thrive. Roots from vegetation provide stability for streamside slopes, and when they flower are not only beautiful, but provide habitat for wildlife like songbirds. This is going to be a fun project to watch grow!

Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

East Branch Dam Site Repair Work

Yes, the East Branch Dam in the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation is gone, but there are a few repairs to the site that will be happening in the upcoming months.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is leading the repair work which is located on the East Branch of Euclid Creek underneath the Highland Road bridge in the City of Euclid. The damage occurred during a massive storm event shortly after the dam removal project was complete.

Mark Haynes Construction was hired to perform the repairs which will begin in mid-September and the majority of the work should be complete by the end of 2013, with plantings happening in 2014.



Recent photo of restored Euclid Creek just downstream of the former dam

Two Green Infrastructure projects in Euclid Creek under construction

Two demonstration projects in Richmond Heights and South Euclid will reduce storm water runoff and are currently under construction. Both projects were funded through Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Surface Water Improvement Fund.

The Richmond Heights property at Greenwood Farm is creating new permeable parking areas and bioretention systems to reduce the volume of storm water runoff entering Euclid Creek while filtering out pollutants. Construction started on this \$187,500 project in mid-July and is anticipated to be complete in mid-September. This site is right on the East Branch of Euclid Creek on Richmond Road south of Chardon Road.

South Euclid's \$166,015 green parking lot and walkway was under construction in mid-July and will be complete in August.

For more construction photos and updates go to the Euclid Creek website.



Greenwood Farms site (left) - new permeable parking in front of historic farm house; South Euclid City Hall (right) - complete reconstruction of front parking lot and walkways with pervious concrete brick pavers



A Successful “Run” *by Barb Holtz & Gary Bloom*

After many months of hard work, Redstone Run has made it onto the Friends of Euclid Creek list of preserved properties. With the expertise and incredible dedication of Derek Schafer (West Creek Conservancy), Claire Posius (Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator) and enthusiastic FOEC members, this beautiful 8.71 acre tract of land was purchased with Clean Ohio –Green Space Conservation Program funding.

Redstone Run, which is a tributary to the East Branch of Euclid Creek, takes its name from an outcrop of Berea Sandstone near its origin which, when quarried, has a pinkish hue. It is a rugged, heavily-wooded piece of land, unique in that it lies at the point where the flowing water cuts through hard bluestone terrace to create a small gorge in the soft shale below.

Roy Larick, local archeologist and historian, put together a fascinating history of the site including information about a saw mill that stood on the preserve in 1858. To see his fact sheet, check the Euclid Creek Website under ‘Projects’ and ‘Land Conservation Projects’.

Through its preservation efforts, FOEC's objectives are to maintain this high-quality plant and animal habitat and to reduce the impact of erosion on the site's steep slopes and on the land further downstream. Retained in its natural state, this property will be ideal for scientific research and educational activities, and will enhance the overall beauty of this portion of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

There is still work to be done in raising funds to support the Friends conservation efforts and cleaning up this property. Read below to see how you can help with your time and money.



8-acre site acquired in Richmond Heights with Clean Ohio Funds—beautiful wooded, steep slopes down to Redstone Run, a tributary to the East Branch of Euclid Creek

Redstone Run Preservation Weekend—Benefit and Volunteer Day

On **Friday, October 4th**, FOEC will sponsor a **benefit event**, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, in order to secure funding to complete the purchase of the Redstone Run property in Richmond Heights. And on **Saturday, October 5th**, FOEC, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and West Creek Conservancy will co-host a **volunteer cleanup day** on Redstone Run. From 10:00am to 2:00pm, volunteers will remove debris, lay new soil, plant trees and native plants, and install split-rail fencing in an effort to enhance the appearance of this unique creek side parcel.

The benefit on October 4th will take place at the Richmond Place Clubhouse Party Room to enjoy wine, cheese and entertainment. Guests are invited to tour the property just a short walk or shuttle away. The cost to attend this event is \$35.00 and all proceeds go toward completing the purchase of the property. Donations are tax-deductible. RSVP for the benefit by Friday, September 27 by contacting Barb Pophal at 216-481-4397 or barbpophal@aol.com. The next morning, volunteer activities will begin at 10:00am. Participants should dress for the weather, wear long sleeves and pants, and boots or work shoes. Gloves, water and snacks will be provided. All groups welcome, but children under 18 must have adult supervision. RSVP for the volunteer day by contacting 216-524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.

Whether through a monetary donation or a commitment of time and effort, those who participate in FOEC's preservation weekend will truly be making a significant impact upon the health and beauty of this special place in Northeast Ohio.

Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach™ and Bluestone Heights Deep History Tours

Support our watershed partners organizing great educational and volunteer events in and near the Watershed!

Participate in a **monthly beach cleanup with the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach™ Team**. Their next beach cleanup is part of our conservation day activities on September 21, a part of International Coast Weeks. Check their facebook site for upcoming monthly cleanups (type ‘Adopt Euclid Beach’ into Facebook), email adopt.euclidbeach@gmail.com or call 216-571-0685.

Keep an eye out for Roy Larick's **tours on the Deep History of the Bluestone Heights** (Euclid Creek and nearby watersheds). Learn about geological features and human impacts on our land over the centuries. Tours listed at bluestoneheights.org.

The Land Conservation Fund Is Growing...

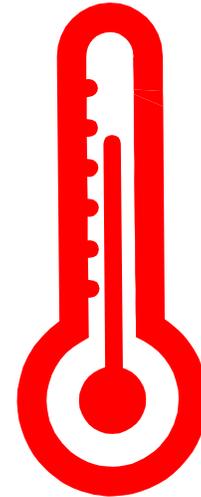
This year, Friends of Euclid Creek established a Land Conservation Fund to aid us in our goal of preserving natural areas in the watershed. The impetus for creating this fund was our interest in conserving two properties, one in Richmond Heights and one in Highland Heights, both on tributaries to the East Branch of Euclid Creek.

With the help of Clean Ohio grant funding, the West Creek Conservancy and our Watershed Coordinator, we have successfully acquired the 8.7-acre Redstone Run property in Richmond Heights. The partial Clean Ohio funding covered the purchase of the property, but did not cover \$20,000 in closing and conservation costs.

To date we have raised nearly half of the funding needed and we are well on our way to reaching our goal, but we still need your donations to succeed.

Our hope is for the Land Conservation Fund to grow beyond our immediate need. Simply put, land costs money. If grant money is awarded, matching funds are often required from the grantee.

If you would like to be part of this legacy, you can donate on the Euclid Creek Website and click on the 'Support Us' tab. Thank you for your generosity!



Goal:
\$20,000

Current total
\$9,000

Who Lives In The Watershed? *by Barb Holtz*



A very familiar late summer evening sound is the song of the katydid. Actually it's not much of a song but more of a mechanical cadence. "KAY-TEE-DID". This leafy-looking insect talks to others of its kind by rubbing its wings together, one wing has a file and one a scraper. It is the males that croon to the females in hopes of finding a mate. Eggs are laid and over winter and the cycle begins again.

While it is quite a loud call, I often find it soothing. It reminds me of the connection wildlife has with the changing of the seasons and how I should pay attention. It also reminds me

that if I take the time, I can be a witness to the intricacies of nature. I can make a difference by making sure there are places left for katydids to put on their show.



Sometimes katydids come in pink!

What's coming up on the FOEC calendar...

We hope you can join us at an upcoming FOEC meeting or activity (events listed on p. 1 or on the website). Only with an engaged and active membership can we continue to raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

September 3: Member Talks & Volunteer Fair

Members will share their knowledge about environmental topics of their choice. Volunteer opportunities abound for FOEC members! We would welcome your participation on a committee or participating at an educational event. 6:30p.m. at the South Euclid Community Center.

October 1: Fall hike in Acacia Reservation

Join us for a walk through Acacia to see the headwaters of Euclid Creek and explore this new Cleveland Metroparks Reservation. 6:30 p.m. in the Acacia parking lot off of Cedar Rd.

November 5: How's the Water?

A speaker from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will share with us just how our water is made ready for drinking. 6:30p.m. at the South Euclid Community Center.

December 3: Annual Holiday Party / Fundraiser, location to be announced.



Join us for our October hike at the Acacia Reservation—photo above from last years hike in the Euclid Creek Reservation

Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project Update

The Lacustrine Refuge wetland and stream restoration project located in Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park in Cleveland is wrapping up as final plantings, invasive plant treatment, and final tweaks to the project are implemented.

We also received more great press when Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius, was featured as a Conservation Crusader on WKYC's Live on Lakeside television show. Ms. Posius discussed the project benefits to a broader audience in the WKYC viewing region (link to program is on project website).



Cleveland students install caging around trees to protect them from deer browsing in August

Mayor Jackson's Summer Youth Employment Program students helped install durable caging around trees on the site to help them get established without deer browsing damage. We've also installed fencing to keep people from walking and bicycling on the new plants trying to emerge at the western end of the project area.

The celebration event was rescheduled due to inclement weather to Saturday, September 21 from 10:00am to 11:30am at the park pavilion, so we hope to show you the restoration project then.

There could be one last volunteer planting coming up this Fall, so keep an eye out for a notice about a planting on the website here: www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm, or call the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator to see if the event has been scheduled at 216-524-6580x16.

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

Euclid Creek Beaches and How You Can Get Involved

Living next to a natural wonder like Lake Erie is one of Cleveland's greatest assets. Yet, high bacteria levels in Euclid Creek's beaches, Euclid Beach and Villa Angela, continue to impact public perception about the safety of swimming at these beaches. Both have been listed on the "Repeat Offenders" list of the Natural Resources Defense Council, who compiles data on beach conditions annually in the Great Lakes. This has led to studies assessing where these high bacteria levels are coming from. Combined sanitary and sewer overflows, polluted storm water runoff, and waterfowl waste/bird droppings are a few sources that are further complicated by lake currents and weather conditions, but there are ongoing efforts to alleviate the problem.



Euclid Beach Park-Euclid Creek Reservation

The largest effort to improve water quality is well underway - the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS) Euclid Creek Tunnel project. This massive \$204 million tunnel will serve as a storage facility for flood waters during heavy rain events so sewage does not enter the Euclid Creek and Lake Erie in the project area. These overflows happen more than 60 times a year as is evidenced by the high number of water quality advisories shown in the table below. Tunnel boring finished in August and the project will be complete in 2015 (for more information go to this website: euclidcreek.blogspot.com).

There are things you can do to help our beach quality as well. After heavy rain falls, elevated levels of pollutants are carried over lawns, streets/driveways, and roofs and flow into our storm drains directly into our waterways. Easy tips you can follow to help reduce polluted runoff are to:

- Clean up pet waste** — **Fix automobile fluid leaks** — **Reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticide** — **Do not feed waterfowl**

You can also help by getting involved:

Become a Euclid Creek Volunteer Water Quality Monitor (call 216-524-6580x16 for details)

Participate in a Monthly Beach Cleanup organized by the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach™ Team!

(email adopt.euclidbeach@gmail.com or call 216-571-0685 for details or to find out about becoming an Urban Beach Ambassador)

There is still time to enjoy our beaches this summer, so find out about current beach conditions on the Ohio Nowcast Website (www.ohionowcast.info) and click on Villa Angela Beach. A good rule of thumb is to avoid swimming after storms involving heavy rain or large waves.

Euclid Creek Watershed Partners will continue to work with local, state and federal agencies to keep you informed so we can fully enjoy Lake Erie.

Euclid Creek Beaches—Number of Water Quality Advisories					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	(5/18-9/8)	(5/24-9/3)	(5/17-9/5)	(5/12-9/3)	(5/22-8/20)
Villa Angela	46	40	56	44	51
Euclid Beach	43	45	48	42	47

Source: ODH Website, Samples collected/analyzed by NEORS.

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

More About Our Program Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC)

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	

Each community appoints a representative to serve on the Council, which meets three times a year and has several committees that focus on education & outreach, technical issues and volunteer monitoring.

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)

The Friends of Euclid Creek is a community-based watershed stewardship group, a non-profit 501(c)(3).

Board: Barb Holtz, President; Christi Carlson, Vice President; Jeanette Evans, Secretary; Rick Evans, Treasurer; and Directors: Steve Albro, Gary Bloom, Judy Dearden, Lou Drasler, Rick Evans, Francine Hogg, Ken Messinger-Rapport, Bill McReynolds, Frank Skala, and Carolyn Sugjuchi.

Monthly Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, South Euclid Community Center. Meeting location may vary, please check website to confirm location.

Join FOEC or donate to our land conservation fund. For more details call, email, or check the website.

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



Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, the Program's full time staff person who implements the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan and acts as the liaison between the ECWC and FOEC.

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius
Cuyahoga SWCD
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125
216-524-6580 x16 office
216-524-6584 fax
cposius@cuyahogawcd.org



Program Website, Blog and Facebook

Website: cuyahogawcd.org/euclidcreekfiles/euclidcreekthehomepage.htm

Blog: foecnews.blogspot.com

Facebook: Like 'Friends of Euclid Creek'



Only Rain Down the Drain

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.

Printed on



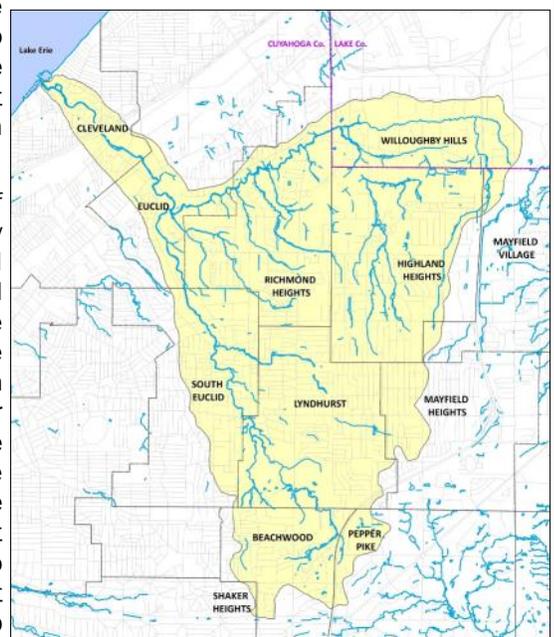
Recycled Paper

Newsletter printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through its Watershed Grants Program.

What is a Watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a single river, stream or lake. Because the actions we take on land directly affect the quality of our rivers and streams, it is important to take the entire watershed into consideration when trying to protect and improve the health of our local waters.

The Euclid Creek Watershed drains 24 square miles from 11 Northeast Ohio communities in Cuyahoga County and a portion of Lake County. The Creek includes 34 miles of streams as far as 8 miles away from the Creek's outflow to Lake Erie, our source of drinking water, at Wildwood Park in Cleveland.

Euclid Creek is one of the most densely populated and developed watersheds along the Ohio Lake Erie coastline—which results in poor water quality. But we have a plan to restore the health of the watershed and it includes you, so contact us to find out how you can help Euclid Creek today!



Map of the Euclid Creek Watershed.