

ON THE LAND

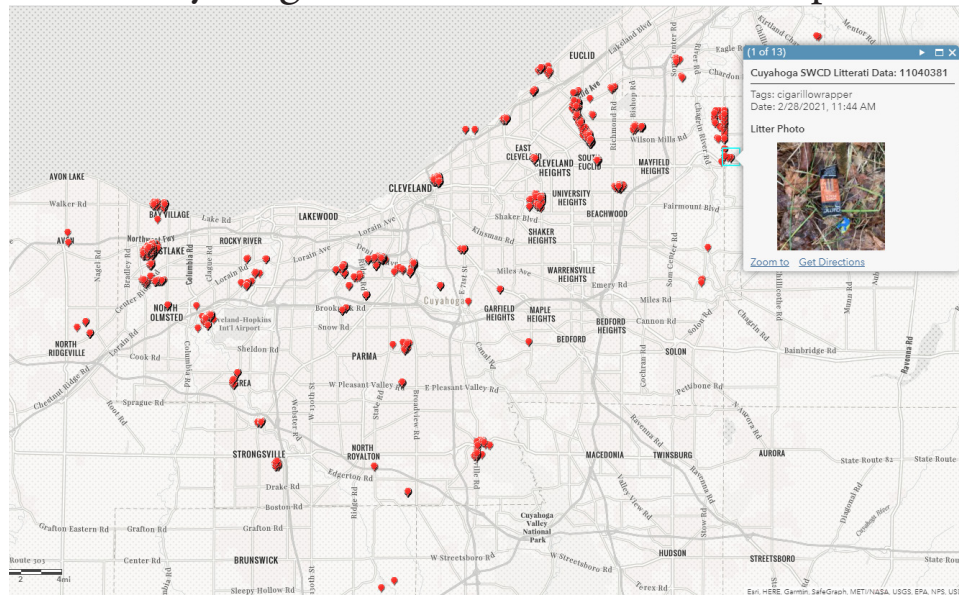
FALL 2021

Putting the Paparazzi on Litterati

Did you realize that litter in Cuyahoga County often ends up in storm drains that flow to our local creeks and Lake Erie? At Cuyahoga SWCD we recognize that litter is a major issue for our local watersheds, but it often goes unnoticed. In November 2020 we started working with a mobile application called Litterati that lets you track litter as you pick it up by taking a photo. You take a picture of every piece of litter found and then you “tag” it with the Object, Material, and Brand – creating litter data. By utilizing this data, we hope to make the waterway litter problem more visible to the public and focus our education in more targeted ways.

As part of our virtual and in person Litterati challenges, 53 participants have picked up and tracked 15,901 pieces of litter in Cuyahoga County. What have we learned so far from the 11,048 of 15,901 items tagged by users? (see map and table)

Cuyahoga SWCD Litterati Data Map



As users take pictures and tag more litter photos, the mobile application is learning and is also tagging those items using artificial intelligence.

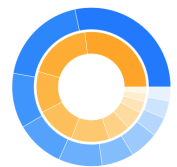
Check out the Object pie chart from our 2021 Euclid Creek Cleanup Challenge to see how the Machine Generate Tags stack up!

Total Object Tags

☒ User Generated
 ☒ Machine Generated

piece (248)
 wrapper (164)
 bottle (17)
 cigarette/butt (86)
 bag (77)
 bottlecap (57)
 cup (17)
 foamcup (24)
 can (18)
 cigarette (22)

piece (247)
 wrapper (173)
 cigarette/butt (11)
 bag (106)
 bottle (103)
 bottlecap (59)
 cup (17)
 can (18)
 foamcup (22)
 can (17)



Get Involved

Does tracking litter data sound fun to you? In an effort to expand participation in the program, we are utilizing a litter grant from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. This grant will allow us to purchase and utilize “smart grabbers” with volunteers to speed up the litter and data collection process. Join

us at a scheduled cleanup, join our virtual 2021 challenge, or reach out to Elizabeth to help organize your own community litter “audit!” www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/stream-cleanups

Contact: Elizabeth Hiser
 216/524-6580, ext. 1002
ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org

Most Frequent Tags Used In Litterati

Material: Plastic – 5,979 (38%)
 Object: Piece – 2,116 (13%)
 Material: Paper – 1,226 (8%)
 Object: Wrapper – 1,165 (7%)
 Object: Cigarette Butt – 1,162 (7%)
 Object: Cigarette – 664 (4%)
 Material: Polystyrene – 620 (4%)
 Object: Bag – 407 (3%)
 Object: Bottle – 402 (3%)

Fairview Park Student Wins 2021 State Poster Contest

Cuyahoga SWCD hosted a 2021 county-wide poster contest for students themed “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities.” First place students in each grade level band advanced to the state contest sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Moira Burke, a student in Mrs. Ruiz’s class at St. Angela Merici School, finished first in the 7th – 9th grade category at the state competition. Her art teacher, Ms. Kraly organized their school competition. Her poster is on its way to the national competition sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD Auxiliary. Winners of the national contest will



Moira Burke's winning poster

be announced in February 2022.

The following Cuyahoga County students are also being recognized as Ohio’s 2021 poster contest winners: Jaxon Dea, CMSD Charles A. Mooney - 2nd place, K-1st grade, Andrew Studeny, St. Angela Merici School - 3rd place, 2nd-3rd grades, Natalie Hooper, St. Angela Merici School - 2nd place, 4th-6th grades,

and Anna Buhrow, Beaumont School - 3rd place, 10th-12th grades. Congratulations to all our winners for their awards at the county and state level!

The 2022 Poster Contest will be themed “Healthy Soils: Healthy Life.” Cuyahoga County students may begin posters on or after George Washington Carver’s birthday, Monday, January 1st, to honor his contributions to the field of soil science. Register your class online by Thursday, April 1st, the beginning of Ohio Native Plant Month. Submission deadline is 6:00 p.m. on Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd. Detailed instructions will be available in January at www.cuyahogaswcd.org – click on Events – January 1st.

Teaching to the Choir

Educating the public about the environment we live in and the steps they can take to restore it and keep it healthy is a big part of our mission. We work with all different types of audiences with varying amounts of knowledge and concern about water quality, urban tree canopy, and soil health. One of my favorite parts of my job is working directly with young people. Their enthusiasm and great ideas are inspiring, and they tend to view the world with eyes and minds wide open.

Unfortunately, there is a limit to how many students we can reach directly with our educational programs. That is why we place a lot of emphasis on conducting environmental education workshops for teachers. Each teacher can echo our message to many students. From early childhood teachers who spend all day with one class of eager little ones to high school teachers who touch the lives of many classes of



Teachers on the Old Woman Creek Estuary

students, teachers influence a lot of lives each year. Over the course of their decades of teaching, some teachers may influence thousands of students in their classes, clubs, and teams.

This summer we offered two exciting, hands on teacher workshops with optional graduate credit. We decided to focus on training high school science teachers. You might say we were teaching to the choir – working with teachers who already had a deep and broad base of science knowledge. As a bonus, many of

the teachers who participated were already using hands on, place-based learning in their classes. Since we teach students how to think – not what to think- the teacher class of 21 was a perfect audience.

In our June workshop, we started with a day of basic training in the use of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and Aquatic Wild. We spent the day outside practicing some of the lessons, learning about free local programs and resources, and enjoying a tour of the Watershed Stewardship Center’s (WSC) stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). We also explored service learning by identifying plants and pulling weeds in the native gardens at the WSC. On day two and three we headed to Brecksville reservation and enjoyed the cool shady Harriet Keeler Memorial Picnic Area, where

Continued on Page 5

Cuyahoga SWCD 72nd Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election



Featured Speaker:
Ann Cicarella
“Happenings in the Pollinator Patch”

Thursday, October 19, 2021

4:30pm - 7:00pm

**Bay Lodge - 492 Bradley Rd.
Bay Village, OH 44140**

Schedule of Events

4:30pm - Supervisor Election (until 6:00 p.m.)

5:00pm - General Program Begins

5:15pm - Welcome Remarks

5:30pm - Featured Speaker: Ann Cicarella

“Happenings in the Pollinator Patch”

6:00pm - Program Highlights and
Conservation Hero Awards

RSVP

Phone: 216.524.6580, x1000

Online: www.cuyahogaswcd.org (Events - Oct. 19)

Mail: Fill out and send in registration form below

Free to attend - Box meal \$5



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Mike Jirousek

Caroline Kelemen

Anton Krieger

Candidate biographies and
voter information at
www.cuyahogaswcd.org

Cuyahoga SWCD 72nd Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election

Payable to Cuyahoga SWCD and Mail to: Cuyahoga SWCD • 3311 Perkins Ave. • Cleveland, OH 44114

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number attending _____ x \$5.00/each (if ordering box meal) = Total enclosed _____

Turkey _____ Turkey (gluten free) _____ Roast Beef _____ Vegan _____

Meet the Candidates



Mike Jirousek

I seek the opportunity to utilize my managerial and environmental experience to further the objectives of the Cuyahoga SWCD, serving as an elected Supervisor. I formerly served as the Manager responsible for all Air and Water permitting and compliance programs for 24 fossil and nuclear electric generation power plants across five States for FirstEnergy, Directing the activities of 26 professionals, we worked closely with plant staff to help them understand what was needed, optimize operations, maintain compliance and further stewardship activities. We routinely collaborated with regulators, legislators and the public, as well as all levels within Corporate to develop and further our environmental programs. Over a 40 year career with FirstEnergy, I also wore many other hats including Eastlake Plant production engineer, line truck fleet maintenance supervisor, environmental liaison for their lobby, and in coal procurement, but my career began and ended in Environmental Services.

My educational background includes a BA in Economics and Environmental from John Carroll Univ., and a MS in Environmental Management from U Findlay.

A life-long resident of North-East Ohio, I hope I can assist the SWCD in its efforts to protect and restore our soil and water resources.



Caroline Kelemen

Caroline Kelemen is seeking a second term on the Board of Supervisors for Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District.

Caroline is a water resources engineer whose interest in water and the environment started in Cuyahoga County. After graduating with a degree in Agricultural Engineering from Purdue University, Caroline returned home to Northeast Ohio.

Since then, they have been involved in many projects to protect the region's water and soil resources, such as stormwater master planning, erosion assessments and water quality and quantity testing.

As an avid hiker and Appalachian Trail through hiker, Caroline has many great experiences in the outdoors and wants to ensure a welcoming environment so more people can share similar experiences.



Anton Krieger

Anton Krieger - an adjunct professor at Notre Dame College teaching in the Public Relations Department - discovered his passion for protecting our watersheds during his race for North Royalton City Council in 2019. Since his campaign, Anton has continued his engagement with the public - listening to concerns about flooding, land conservancy, and water quality.

Anton's involvement with watershed health led him to the Rocky River Watershed Council. He was quickly elected as a board member and now serves on three committees: Conservation & Technical, East Branch, and Development & Fundraising. In his role as chairman of the Development & Fundraising committee, Anton has begun a robust fundraising effort. This includes diversifying the Council's revenue through pursuing philanthropic grants.

Anton holds a Master's of Public Administration from Cleveland State University with a dual specialization in economic development and city management. During his Master's, Anton studied the importance of green infrastructure and land conservation in future city planning efforts in Cuyahoga County.

Anton Krieger is now asking for your vote to help communities view watershed health as an essential issue and not an afterthought.



**Election and Annual
Meeting information**

www.cuyahogawcd.org

SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor Elections are special elections, independent of a general election, conducted annually by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) pursuant to rules adopted under Chapter 119 and 940 of Ohio Revised Code. Each SWCD is administered by a five-member board of supervisors serving a three-

year term. These Supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources. The Ohio Department of Agriculture staff, as official designated agents, oversee local SWCD supervisor elections, on behalf of the OSWCC.

HOW TO VOTE

Vote by absentee ballot from September 20-October 19. An absentee ballot request form may be requested by calling 216/524-6580, ext. 1000.

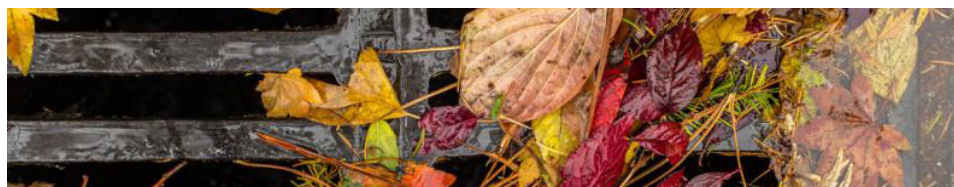
A ballot will be mailed. Ballots must be returned to the office by mail or in person, no later than 3p.m. on October 19.

Vote at the Cuyahoga SWCD office, September 20-October 19, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3311 Perkins Avenue, Suite 100, Cleveland, OH 44114. (free parking across the street on Perkins & E. 36th.)

Voting at the October 19 Cuyahoga SWCD Annual Meeting from 4:30 – 6p.m., Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Road, Bay Village, OH 44140

To cast a vote, eligible voters must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of the official election and be a resident or own land in Cuyahoga County. Voters shall register by placing their name, address, and additional information as deemed appropriate by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission on the election application and election ballot.

Election and Annual Meeting information
www.cuyahogaswcd.org



This Fall, leave the leaves!

Follow the guidelines in your community for curb-side pick up. If you are asked to put leaves in the street, wait until just before collection day. Never rake them into your storm drains, ditches, creeks or rivers. Mulch leaves by running over them with your lawn mower at your next cutting. Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for your lawn. Or, rake leaves into a compost pile for a nutrient-rich fertilizer to use on your garden next spring.

*Continued from Page 2 -
Teaching to the Choir*

we moved into the Project Learning Tree (PLT) curriculum and focused on Places We Live, Green Jobs and Green Schools. Participants used what they had learned online and during day one to demonstrate some of the lessons and they brainstormed on how to adapt and improve the activities to meet their needs. We had visits from natural resource professionals, and we even did a mini field trip to learn about the dam removal project in process.

Two of our June participants also attended our extremely immersive training at Old Woman Creek (OWC). The free, 3-day Teacher's on the Estuary (TOTE) training was conducted by Jen Bucheit at the preserve. Cuyahoga SWCD provided transportation, lodging and scholarships for graduate credit. We also led a Saturday evening discussion about available funding and how to incorporate field trips and immersive experiences into the classroom. Activities included day and evening hikes, tours of the lab and resources, water sampling from canoes, setting up and sampling with a fyke net, electrofishing, and using a lake seine.

If any of this sounds like a whole lot of fun and a great way to get ideas for engaging students, please contact me to get on our teacher list. If you have a group of 20-30 educators, we can design a hands-on training for your group. We can always use more voices in our choir!

Contact: Jacki Zevenbergen
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jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org



319 Grant Announcement

Ohio EPA has awarded two watershed restoration grants totaling \$600,000 to Cuyahoga SWCD. The grants, part of the state's 319 grant program (which refers to the section of the Clean Water Act which authorizes the funding) will be matched by \$174,463 in funding from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

The Greenbriar Valley Stream and Wetland Restoration project, located off Bennett Rd. in North Royalton, will restore 700 feet of stream channel and 3 acres of floodplain wetland. By diverting the stream flow to its historic channel alignment, the project will also prevent valley wall erosion and



Eroding Banks at the Greenbriar Valley Project Site

associated slope failures that threaten neighboring infrastructure. By enhancing floodplain and wetland function, the project will also enhance storage at the site during storm events, protecting downstream creek reaches.

The most upstream of a three-phased restoration approach, Phase 1 of the West Branch of Euclid Creek, Mayfield Campus Stream Restoration Project will restore habitat along 1,351 feet of stream channel and reconnect 1,368 feet of floodplain at the Mayfield Sand Ridge Golf Club, while converting a half-acre of rough to native grasses and controlling nearly 5 acres of invasive species. The project design was previously completed through a grant from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

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jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org

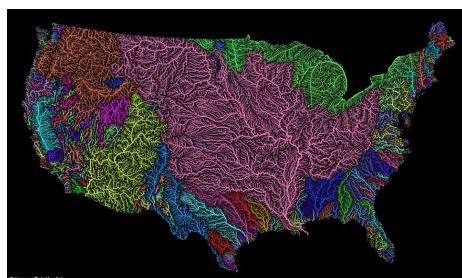
What is a Watershed?

When you work in this field, you get so used to using terminology and acronyms that often are misunderstood. One is the term watershed. When presenting, I always ask this question. Then I follow it up with an idle threat that if anyone says it is a shed that holds water, I will leave. But if we ask people to care about their watershed, we better be able to explain it to them in a way that makes sense.

A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that drains off it goes into the same place - a river, stream or lake. The size of a watershed is defined on several scales - referred to as Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC). You don't need to know this specific, unless you want to get really into it, like we do.

But what we would like you to know is what watershed you live in and how what you do on your land affects the water in your watershed and the larger picture.

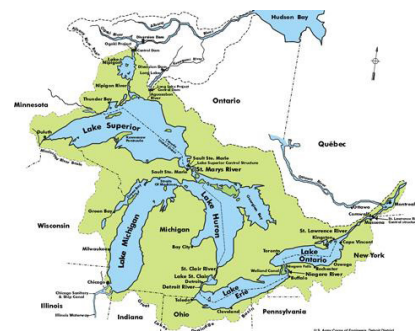
Visit the Central Lake Erie Basin (CLEB) website!
Find out what watershed you live in, watershed partner organizations, what issues our watersheds face, and how you can help!
centrallakeerie.org



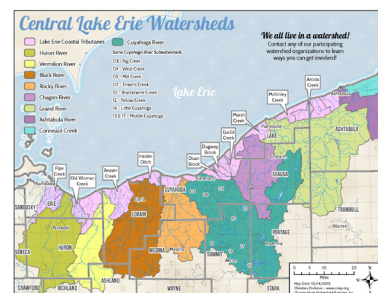
*Watershed of the United States
Check out the Mississippi River watershed (pink)*



Watershed of the State of Ohio



Watershed of the Great Lakes



Watersheds of Central Lake Erie

The Easy Land Has Already Been Developed

A major portion of the work the stormwater division does at Cuyahoga SWCD is to review development plans on behalf of our partner communities for compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. Increasingly, the stormwater plan reviewers have been noticing a trend whereby designs and permitting are getting more complicated. As a group we have hypothesized that the reason we are seeing these more complicated developments is that a large portion of the “easy” land within Cuyahoga County has already been developed; leaving land that requires additional permitting or enhanced engineering. Below is an annotated list of some of the issues we have seen.

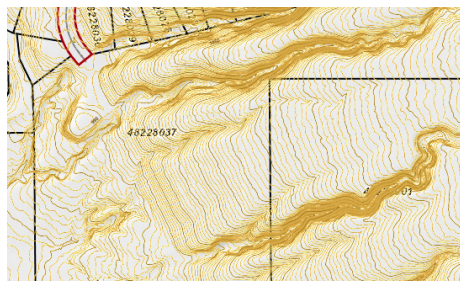


Wetland protection

Sensitive water resources:

Streams, wetlands, ephemeral streams, isolated wetlands, riparian buffers, and more. When a site has sensitive water resources an environmental survey is required to define those resources. Once the survey is complete, there are a variety of regulations and permits at different levels of government that need to be navigated before construction can commence. Even in the best of times permitting water resources can take months. This is due, in part, to the fact that field verification of the resources must occur at specific times of the year. In the current development environment, with COVID related work delays and a backlog of projects, permitting has been taking much

longer. Developers are encouraged to plan ahead and avoid these sensitive water resources where possible.



Challenging topography

Topography:

Level ground that is easy to grade is in short supply. As a result, many of the development plans we review include large cuts or fills of soil to make suitable building sites. Whenever there are large areas and amounts earth disturbance, erosion and sediment control become a challenge. In these circumstances, typical erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) do not always work. In cases like this additional or enhanced BMPs are necessary to protect receiving waterways.



Partially built sub-division idle for 26 years

NPDES permitting:

With home inventory in high demand, a recent trend is the restarting of older, incomplete developments. In some instances, there are subdivisions that were only partially built and have sat idle since the housing crash of 2008. Ownership changes, expired permits and new permit requirements all factor into the complexity of restarting an idled development. Developers must perform their due

diligence to properly understand their permit obligations.

Timing, finances, land acquisition costs, material costs, and slim profit margins make land development complicated. Adding challenging development sites to the mix raises the stakes even higher. Working early and cooperatively with Federal, State, and local regulators will ensure a smooth process.

Contact: Brent Eysenbach

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beysenbach@cuyahogaswcd.org

Love the newsletter but hate the paper?

Contact Amy Roskilly,

216.524.6580 x1005

aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org

We can put you on our broadcast email list that includes an electronic version of our newsletter and other pertinent conservation news!



Be sure to follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and on Instagram at [cuyahogaswcd](https://www.instagram.com/cuyahogaswcd)

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Feed the Pod Monster and Help Save Monarchs



Cuyahoga SWCD will be collecting Common Milkweed pods from September - October.

Don't worry, the pod monster doesn't bite.
However, he wants you to be sure the
Common Milkweed pods you feed him are
ready to be donated.



Be sure the pods are dry and gray/brown in color.
Put them in a paper bag (no plastic) and mark
the bag with the county where they were picked.
Seeds will be used to establish monarch habitat
across the state of Ohio.



Visit the pod monster anytime on the west side
of our building by the garage door
(off E. 33rd St. - 3311 Perkins Ave. - Cleveland).
We thank you, the pod monster thanks you
and the monarchs thank you.