



ON THE LAND

SUMMER 2018

On the Road to Clean Water - Summer tips

Don't be a litter butt!

When trash (plastic bags, bottles, cigarette butts, plastic cigar tips, etc.) is discarded onto the ground, it washes into storm drains and directly into our waterways untreated. Trash negatively impacts wildlife and migratory birds, poses hazards for fisherman and boaters, and is an eyesore along streets, parks, and waterways in our community.

Litter Facts / Did You Know?

- Plastic pieces, cigar tips and cigarette filters are continually at

- the top of the list of trash found at beach cleanups locally and worldwide (Ocean Conservancy).
- More plastic cigar tips are found on Cleveland beaches than in any of the other Great Lakes Beach Cleanups (Alliance for the Great Lakes).
- Cigarette filters/butts are NOT biodegradable. The acetate filters take years to decompose, and the toxic chemicals trapped in the filters can leak into aquatic ecosystems, threatening our

water resources.

- Plastics break down into tiny pieces called microplastics in water, then release toxic chemicals swallowed by fish, birds, snakes, and other wildlife.



A Day at the Beach - Responsible Recreation

From fishing and swimming to boating and birding, Northeast Ohioans enjoy spending time on the water. And we're not alone - Lake Erie tourism in Ohio generates nearly \$13 billion in revenue annually. But a day at the beach and the nearshore habitat that fish, birds and other wildlife depend on can be easily ruined by ignorance and carelessness.

Beachgoing

- Pack your trash out or make sure it gets in a trash can. Litter left carelessly on the beach ensnares wildlife and adds to the growing plastic pollution problem in Lake Erie. Plastic six-pack rings, fishing line and balloons are especially dangerous for wildlife.
- Don't dispose of cigarette butts or cigar tips on the ground - they are toxic to wildlife, which often mistakes them for food.



Fishing

- Collect all used fishing line and recycle it. At the very least, collect your used line and any other line you may encounter and dispose of it in a trash can.
- Use only lead-free sinkers and other fishing products.
- Don't release live bait into the water or at the shore - they may be nuisance species or even invasive.
- Follow local catch-and-release and bag limit regulations to ensure a sustainable fishery.



Boating

- Keep your engine clean and in proper working order to minimize oil and gas leaks.
- Clean with a sponge and plain water whenever possible. When you must use soap, use as little as possible and make sure it is non-toxic, biodegradable and phosphate-free.
- Prevent the spread of invasive species by practicing the Clean, Drain, Dry method on all equipment.
- Take the Ohio Sea Grant Clean Boater Pledge at watercraft. ohiodnr.gov/cleanboating.

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED NEWS

Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation Stream Restoration Project Announcement



We are excited to announce our first stream restoration project with the City of Willoughby Hills in Lake County, at the headwaters of the East Branch of Euclid Creek! Cuyahoga SWCD has been awarded a \$156,462 grant through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Grant Program to conduct the Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation (SOI) stream restoration project. Funds will be used to restore a degraded stream behind the school within a beautiful, heavily wooded site that has vernal pools, a rarity in our urban watershed.

Problems in this stream segment include bank erosion, channel downcutting, invasive plant species, an undersized/failing culvert, and the inability of the stream to access its floodplain. The project will restore and stabilize two creeks, replace the culvert and improve habitat. All work will be in collaboration with students from the School of Innovation. Quoting Principal Brian Patrick, "The School of Innovation students and staff are eager to assist in the design and development of the creek and surrounding floodplain.

We hope to create a unique space so our students can become stewards of, as well as educators themselves as schools visit and learn from SOI students!"

Project partners include the City of Willoughby Hills, Cuyahoga SWCD, FirstEnergy, Friends of Euclid Creek, Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District, Lake County Stormwater Management Department, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools. The City of Willoughby Hills, through their Lake County Stormwater Management Program Funds and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, are contributing sizeable in-kind local match funds toward the project.

Farewell to Claire Posius

In late 2007, Claire Posius began her work with the District as the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator. It is amazing how quickly ten years goes by. The Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator position was not one for the weak of heart. Not only did Claire have to juggle SWCD administrative demands, she had to work closely with 9 watershed communities and their leaders, assist the Friends of Euclid Creek, seek grant funding and implement grant-funded projects, and work with an abundance of stakeholders-from students to the "Cleveland Heights Monitoring Gang."

Along the way she helped get trees planted and shepherded projects, like the dam removal near Highland Road, and the acclaimed lower Euclid Creek Wildwood Wetland &

Stream Restoration that formed new wetlands, habitat, and created extra stormwater storage capacity near the mouth of the creek.

The Cuyahoga SWCD staff is a family of sorts. We will miss Claire and wish her all the best as she embarks on a new phase of her career.

And now...

Elizabeth Hiser has assumed the role of Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager. Elizabeth has been with the District since 2014. Not only does she have a degree in water resources, she has worked on water quality projects, data collection and mapping. She has also volunteered throughout the county planting streamside trees and wetland species, assessing streambank erosion, performing stream cleanups and removing invasive plants. Elizabeth can be reached at ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org.



Special thanks to Dupont for the grant to improve water quality. The Cuyahoga SWCD are avid "tree huggers" who have been and continue to educate and advocate about the benefits of trees, proper tree planting and tree stewardship. Staff is committed to assisting the goal of increasing tree canopy in Cleveland and beyond. Funds from Dupont, in addition to funds from Dominion Energy, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Friends of Euclid Creek, 3311 Perkins Limited, and the Rocky River Watershed Council have been used to purchase and plant trees in Cleveland and throughout Cuyahoga County. Since October of 2017, nearly 200 trees are planted, with more expected later this year.

ENVIROTHON COMPETITION

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, the Area 2 Envirothon competition was held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, Ohio. Fifty teams of high school students from 14 different counties competed by taking tests in Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics and a Current Environmental Issue.

We are proud to announce that the Brecksville Bees team from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School took first place! They also won the high score in the Current Environmental Issue category.

The Area 2 Envirothon was hosted by the Cuyahoga and Portage Soil & Water Conservation Districts with the generous sponsorship of nearly 60 agencies, companies, and individuals. The sponsorships allowed us to provide lunch, purchase awards and much needed supplies and equipment for this and future competitions. Most importantly, with the funds raised we offered scholarships for transportation and substitute teachers for participating teams. We are extremely grateful to Joanne Scudder and the Cuyahoga County Fair Board for providing us with an awesome location and an abundance of support for this event. Thank you!!



First place winners! Brecksville Bees from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School

Thank you to ALL our sponsors!
Platinum sponsors listed below



Save the Date!

Cuyahoga SWCD 69th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election
October 18, 2018

Euclid Lakefront Community Center
3pm - 8pm

This year Cuyahoga SWCD and the Euclid Watershed Program will hold a joint meeting for the Annual Meeting and Euclid Creek Watershed Summit.

Tours will be provided of the City of Euclid Waterfront Improvements. Come learn about ongoing efforts to protect and restore Euclid Creek!

SUPERVISOR ELECTION

A Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor represents county residents in soil and water conservation and natural resources management. Supervisors set the District's policy, provide guidance to staff, and assist on projects. The Board consists of five supervisors who serve for three-year terms on a voluntary basis. Supervisors participate in monthly and special board meetings and attend area and state meetings. This year, candidates will be nominated to fill two open positions. Potential candidates are expected to have experience relevant to the District's goals and a desire to assist in meeting those goals. The qualities of a potential supervisor include:

- Knowledge of natural resources in the county
- Skills that complement the existing make-up of the district board so that all geographic, educational, and land-use interests within the district are represented
- Leadership ability and willingness to share time and talents

If you are interested in learning more about the Board of Supervisors, please contact Janine Rybka at 216/524-6580, ext. 1001. Letters expressing an interest in being considered for the board should be sent to the Cuyahoga SWCD office. Note that you must be at least 18 years of age and a Cuyahoga County resident.

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Cuyahoga SWCD Mission:

Advocate and implement best management practices for conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through education, stewardship and technical assistance.

An equal opportunity employer and provider.

Cuyahoga SWCD Awards

We are proud to announce that Cuyahoga SWCD has been recognized as the District of the Year for Education by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District. The district provides myriad opportunities for outreach to all. We are honored to have received this award and are committed to upholding our excellent reputation.

Additionally, the Ohio Stormwater Association awarded Cuyahoga SWCD's Stormwater Program with the 2018 Program Excellence award for construction and post-construction work. The program was nominated by the City of Middleburg Heights.

Thank you to all our partners and agency's who allow us to serve their education and stormwater programs!



Survey Says.....



Since 2008, Cuyahoga SWCD has sold over 4,000 rain barrels and since 2016 has sold over 300 packets of native seeds. We want to know how they are doing. Are the rain barrels installed and are they functioning properly? Were the seeds planted? Are they growing and thriving? If you bought a rain barrel or seeds from us, you will be receiving an email to evaluate your purchase. It will be a quick survey and we would greatly appreciate your participation.

Still looking for a rain barrel or native seeds?
Check our website for upcoming rain barrel workshops
and order seeds online to be sent right to your house!
www.cuyahogawcd.org