



ON THE LAND

WINTER 2018

2018 Annual Meeting and Euclid Creek Watershed Summit

Once again it was a beautiful day for the Annual Meeting. The 69th Annual Meeting was held at the Euclid Lakefront Community Center in combination with the annual Euclid Creek Watershed Summit. A chance to learn about the City of Euclid's work to protect and connect to Lake Erie was provided through three tours. The seventy-three participants had the opportunity to get a "behind the scenes" look at improvements to the wastewater treatment system, new greenspace acquisition that will help protect sensitive habitat, and learn about the wonderful Lakefront Project that will provide greater access to Euclid's waterfront.

During the meeting, Elizabeth Hiser, Euclid Creek Watershed Program



City of Euclid Mayor, Kirsten Holzheimer, gives and update on greening up Euclid.

Manager, reported about the combined efforts of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek and the Cuyahoga SWCD related to water quality and habitat improvements in the ten-community watershed. SWCD Director Janine Rybka followed with brief highlights of the SWCD's 2018 programs. Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer, along with her staff, shared information about programs and projects that are "greening" up Euclid.

The annual meeting is held each year to elect conservation-minded individuals to the board of supervisors. The board consists of five elected supervisors who establish the policies and allow for programs to meet the SWCD's strategic goals and annual plan of work. This year, four candidates ran for two open positions. The board and staff wish to thank Christine Balk, Jeff Duke, Caroline Kelemen and Ruth Skuly for their interest in sharing their time and talents on the SWCD board.

Congratulations to supervisor-elect Caroline Kelemen and to Ruth Skuly, the current board chair who was re-elected to the board of supervisors for the 2019-2021 term.



*Marygrace Gorenssek
Conservation Poster Contest Winner*



*Boy Scout Troop 319
Volunteers of the Year*



*Anita Cook
Cooperator of the Year*



*Chris Vild
Conservationist of the Year*

This year's conservation heroes are: One of Euclid's own, **Marygrace Gorenssek** who was the Conservation Poster Contest winner; **Boy Scout Troop 319 of Brooklyn** who were the Volunteers of the Year; and **Anita Cook**, Director of the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau was the Cooperator of the Year. The Conservationist of the year was awarded to **Chris Vild**, Environmental Manager in Beachwood. Chris is active in many watershed organizations, including Friends of Euclid Creek. He has fully embraced environmental stewardship for more than 20 years and has been an environmental leader in Cuyahoga County, as well as a staunch advocate for urban forestry.

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED

Streambank Stabilization Bioengineering Demonstration Site



Example of volunteers installing live fascines along Rocky River tributary

To assist watershed landowners in their efforts to stabilize eroding streambanks on their property, the Rocky River Watershed Council and Cuyahoga SWCD will establish a streambank bioengineering demonstration site at the Strongsville Backyard Preserve, a publicly accessible site located behind the Strongsville Recreation Center near the geographic center of the watershed.

Funded through a \$2,500 Dominion Energy/Western Reserve Land Conservancy Watershed Mini Grant, this demonstration site will include installations of live stakes, live fascines, brush mattresses and combinations of these strategies.

Interpretive signs will be erected at each site describing the installation, giving installation instructions, and explaining how to determine which strategy is appropriate for a given situation. Approximately 500 lineal feet of streambank will be restored at the demonstration site.

The sediment loading to Lake Erie



Example of volunteers installing live stakes along a streambank

from the Rocky River is approximately 15 times the estimated background level of naturally occurring sediment loading. Streambank erosion caused by stormwater runoff is the major source of sediment in the Rocky River's urban and suburban areas. Streambank erosion is also an issue in rural areas, usually in association with inadequate riparian buffers

bordering fields, historical ditching or other stream modification, and small housing developments.

In order to address streambank erosion, landowners typically utilize "hard engineering" solutions such as concrete walls, rip-rap or gabion baskets. While these approaches usually succeed to halt streambank erosion at the site, they tend to deflect the stream's energy downstream, essentially moving the erosion problem to another location. They also create poor habitat conditions for aquatic life, including fish, amphibians and aquatic insects. In contrast, bio-engineering techniques utilize natural woody vegetation to stabilize eroding streambanks. The roots anchor the soil in place as they develop, and the stems and leaves protect the streambank soil from the energy of flowing water, while actively reducing the near-bank stream velocity and enhancing in-stream and streamside habitat.

The demonstration site established through this project will be installed in March 2019.

Stormwater Education

Envirothon 2019

The 2019 Area 2 Envirothon will be held on April 25, 2019 at Beaumont Scout Reservation in Ashtabula County. Envirothon participation is an important resume builder for students – especially those interested in environmental, agricultural, science education or ecological careers. Last year, a Cuyahoga County team, Brecksville Broadview Heights High School, placed 1st in the Area 2 competition. We would like to see a large number of teams

representing Cuyahoga County in 2019. The regional competition is free, lunch is provided and some funds will be available for transportation, substitute teachers or other costs. Don't miss this great opportunity for your students.

We are so grateful for the organizations who have already donated funds to support Cuyahoga County schools' participation in the 2019 Envirothon competition! We are still looking for sponsors

to ensure that no Cuyahoga County students miss out on this great experience due to the cost of transportation. Please go to www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/envirothon for more information and registration/sponsorship forms.



EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED

Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation Restoration Project

We've broken ground on the Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation Stream Restoration Project! The project is in the City of Willoughby Hills in Lake County in the Euclid Creek Watershed at the headwaters of the East Branch of Euclid Creek. The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District received a \$156,462 grant through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Grant Program to conduct the restoration project. The grant requires a local match of 40% which is committed by the City of Willoughby Hills through their Lake County Stormwater Management Program Funds, up to \$104,000, and by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), up to \$50,000. The project will remove a culvert with maintenance issues (replacing it with a riffle ford), create instream habitat, and reconnect the stream to its floodplain. Biohabitats was awarded the project on June 7th, 2018 and 60% designs were submitted and approved September 27, 2018.

The restoration project provides



View of undersized culverts, prone to clogging, that will be removed as part of the project

an opportunity for students at the School of Innovation to be involved from the planning stage through to implementing the long-term monitoring and maintenance of the restored segment of Euclid Creek. This summer, Biohabitats, Cuyahoga SWCD, Lake SWCD, and Lake Stormwater Management staff worked with School of Innovation Students and staff to educate them about erosion, invasive plants, and stream management. 5th graders will be helping with management of invasive woody plants, while 8th graders helped design some of the solutions that will be used in the restoration project. All grade levels will be helping to plant trees, shrubs, and wetland plugs as well as helping to design protection for

the shrubs from deer. Keep an eye on our website for project updates! www.euclidcreekwatershed.org



Eighth grade students present potential solutions to erosion in Euclid Creek



Mission:

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

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www.cuyahogaswcd.org

- What's coming up in 2019?

Annual Poster Contest

Posters are a captivating way to tell a story that everyone can understand. Even very young children can use art to raise awareness about the importance of caring for soil, water and other natural resources. In the process of researching the theme and creating their posters, they can also learn the importance of caring for the world around them.

The 2019 NACD poster contest topic will be "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". All Cuyahoga County

students (public, private and home schooled) in grades K-12 are eligible and encouraged to participate. District winners will be sent to the state level for judging. National winners receive monetary prizes.

Details and deadlines for the 2019 contest will be announced soon at <https://cuyahogaswcd.org/events/2019/05/03/2019-poster-contest>.

For more information about either of these competitions please contact

Jacki Zevenbergen at 216/524-6580, ext. 1006 or jzevenbergen@cuyahogaswcd.org.

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This Winter, Use the Right S.A.L.T.

STUFF



Road salt (sodium chloride) only works above 15°F. For colder temperatures use a small amount of sand for added traction, or switch to an ice melting product designed to work at colder temperatures.

LOCATION



Salt only belongs on your sidewalk and driveway and never on your lawn, flower beds, the base of a tree and definitely not in a stream! One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water.

AMOUNT



Spreading more salt does not improve deicing. One 12 ounce coffee cup full of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares. There should be about 3 inches between salt granules. Be sure to sweep up any excess salt.

TIME



Salt works best when it is applied before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from your driveway or sidewalk. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, as it will wash away into the storm drain and out to our waterways.