



ON THE LAND

SUMMER 2021

Conservation Action Grant and Scholarship Fund

Congratulations to our Spring 2021 Conservation Action Grant recipients! Cuyahoga SWCD awarded 19 grants totaling \$15,097.59 in our inaugural round of Conservation Action Grants. Many of these projects are already underway, making a difference for the health of their neighborhoods and Cuyahoga County's soil and water resources. To learn more about how to apply for funding, visit www.cuyahogawcd.org. Applications for the next award cycle must be submitted by September 15.

**For more information,
contact Jared Bartley
216.524.6580 x1003
jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org**

Recipient	Project	Award Amount
Great Lake Erie Educators Exchange	Schoolyard Habitats	\$700
Friends of the Walt	Walter Stinson community park restoration 2021	\$1,000
The Old Tire Garden	Water and soil conservation	\$800
Heights Tree People	Tree Planting at Southerly Park	\$1,000
Delmore Community Orchard: A Project of Noble Neighbors	Native Plants for Delmore Community Orchard	\$1,000
Organic Connects, Inc.	More Trees, Yes Please!	\$1,000
Westown Community Development Corporation	Louis Aggasiz After School Community Garden	\$790
Ilona Perkins	Native Plant & Tree Installation	\$250
Regent Community Garden	Site restoration/soil enhancement	\$665.29
Westlake Garden Club	Petals for Pollinators	\$797.30
Edgar Aznaurov	Wandering Water behind Waterloo	\$1,000
Ben Franklin Community Garden	Community Garden Soil Improvements	\$1,000
OSU Extension Cuyahoga County	Rain barrels for Summer Sprout gardens	\$960
Cleveland Water Alliance	Smart Citizen Science Teacher Workshop	\$1,000
Brian Wright	Garage Gutter Project	\$85
Stone Creek Homeowners Association	Stream bank stabilization project	\$650
Nurahn Abouzahra	Water Conservation in North Collinwood	\$1000
Collinwood Painted Rain Barrel Project	Community Painted Rain Barrel Workshop	\$500
Positive Realty Solutions LLC	Helen Hubbard Way Memorial Project	\$900



SAVE THE DATE

Cuyahoga SWCD 72nd Annual Meeting & Supervisor Election

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

5:00pm - 7:00pm

We are excited to bring our staff, board and conservation heroes back together!

Be sure to check our website and social media for news and updated information about this event.



Facebook - Cuyahoga Soil & Water
Conservation District
Instagram - cuyahogawcd



www.cuyahogawcd.org
Click on Events

In Memory



Elizabeth Hiser, Lee Gase, Janine Rybka

Lee Gase, 2016 Conservationist of the Year, passed away in June. Lee will be fondly remembered as a long time activist and promoter of conservation efforts, including the protection of sensitive areas along the upper branch of Euclid Creek. When he moved to Westlake, he immediately got involved in the Westlake Watershed Group and continued to promote good conservation. A friend of many, Lee will be missed.

Welcome Lauren



Lauren Conard, Urban Technician, is the newest addition to our Stormwater team. Lauren's background inspecting streams and stormwater infrastructure reflects her passion for protecting natural resources in urban environments.

She grew up in Northeast Ohio and loves to get outside year-round, embracing all sorts of chaotic weather in order to get the job done.

As a geologist, Lauren has an ever-growing collection of rocks and pebbles accumulating in cup holders, on desktops, and even in a few coat pockets. She is excited to hit the ground running post-quarantine and start getting to know everything Cuyahoga SWCD.



[#lakeeriestartshere](https://www.cuyahogawcd.org)

Cuyahoga SWCD Native Plant Kit and Native Seed sales

Visit our website for information and to order!

www.cuyahogawcd.org

click on Native Seed, Plant and Tree Sales



Native Plant Kit orders are due July 27th. Kits are delivered the first week of September. Native seeds are sold year round.

Students Explore the Connection Between the Health of Forests and the Health of Communities

Urban forests absorb heat and stormwater, create habitat for wildlife and improve air quality for residents. Cuyahoga County students displayed their knowledge of the importance of healthy forests in our 2021 conservation poster contest. First place winners will advance to the state competition.

Congratulations to the following District winners: Grades K-1: Jaxon Dae from Ms. Holyk's class at Charles Mooney, Cleveland, Grades 2-3: Andrew Studeny from Ms. Close's class at St. Angela Merici School, Fairview Park; Grades 4-6: Natalie Hooper from Ms. Ruccella's class at St. Angela Merici School, Fairview Park; Grades 7-9: Moira Burke from Ms. Ruiz's class at St. Angela Merici School, Fairview Park and Grades 10-12 Tie: Anna Buhrow from Ms. Santo's class at Beaumont School,



Moira Burke's poster - St. Angela Merici School

Cleveland Heights and Alexandra Marzev from Ms. Mikolajczyk's class at Padua Franciscan High School.

Special thanks to Ms. Kraly, the art teacher at St. Angela Merici School, for coordinating the efforts of the students in all the classes at her school.

The posters can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/pa84ujwn>. Each poster included the 2021 stewardship theme: Healthy Forests = Healthy

Communities. Teachers registered over 1,000 students to participate at the classroom level and submitted 54 of their best posters to the district contest.

Linking art and creative thinking with science, the annual poster contest provides K-12th grade students the chance to develop and share their thoughts and ideas about natural resource issues. Students are encouraged to use the poster to creatively express their ideas on how conservation improves the environment. It's a great way for teachers to instill in their students an appreciation for the environment and an awareness of the need to protect our natural resources.

For more information,
contact Jacki Zevenbergen
216.524.6580, ext. 1006
jzevenbergen@cuyahogawcd.org.

Native Plant Calendar

The Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education (NEO PIPE) work group is working on a Native Plant calendar for October 2021 - December 2022. With the money raised from our generous sponsors, they are able to distribute 15,000 calendars throughout Northeast Ohio showcasing beautiful photos of native plants and their importance in our landscape.

NEO PIPE is a regional consortium of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, conservation organizations and other government agencies committed to improving water quality in Northeast Ohio. www.lakeeriestartshere.org

In late August, calendars will be available at your local city/village hall and our office for pick up. Supplies are limited.



Platinum Cover Sponsor

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Signature Month Sponsor

Avon Lake Environmental Affairs Advisory Board
 and City of Avon Lake

Cleveland Metroparks - Watershed Stewardship Center
 Portage County Health District

Month Co-Sponsor

City of Cleveland - Office of Sustainability • Davey Tree Experts
 Edith Chase Symposium • Envirosience

Good Nature Organic Lawn Care • Holden Arboretum
 Kent Environmental Council • Lake County Stormwater Management
 Ohio Division of Wildlife

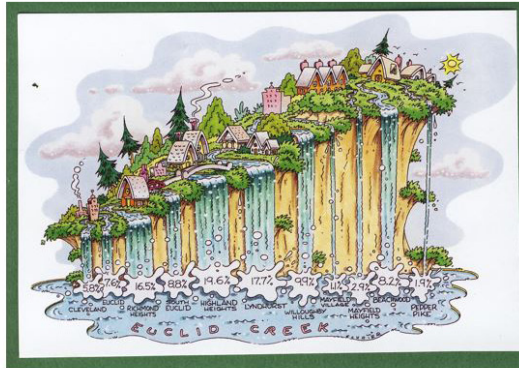
Partnering Sponsor

Avalon Gardens • Dayton Nursery • Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
 Erieshore Gardens • Gardenscapes by Joanna LLC • Hilltop Hollow Farm
 LEAP for Biodiversity • Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio Native
 Roots • Natives In Harmony • ODNR Division of Natural Areas and
 Preserves • OPN Seed • Plant It Native • The Wilderness Center

Here's looking at Euclid (Creek!)

Euclid Creek Watershed Program by The Numbers 2000-2020

- 276.48 Acres Protected
- 9,174 Linear Feet Stream Protected
- 4,279 Linear Feet Stream Restored
- 2.4 Acres Wetland Restored
- 12,309 Trees & Shrubs Planted
- \$10,949,099 Leveraged



Adam Zimmerman, Deena Suen and Ann Walter help cleanup at the South Euclid City Sweep along Euclid Creek

Euclid Creek is a direct headwater tributary to Lake Erie and a part of the Cuyahoga Area of Concern. The 23.3 square mile watershed is highly developed and has its fair share of water quality, erosion, and drainage issues.

The Euclid Creek Watershed Program was created to help address these issues and is made up of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council (the nine communities that govern the program), Friends of Euclid Creek (the grassroots all volunteer non-profit watershed group), and the Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager (the program's full-time staff housed at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District).

Since 2002 the Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager position has been supported by grants from Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), watershed funding from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), and through a Memorandum of Understanding with the nine participating Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities.

Not including substantial updates to convert septic systems to sewers (\$34,500,000) and the NEORS Euclid Creek Tunnel Improvement Projects (\$194,000,000), the Euclid Creek Watershed Program has leveraged almost 11 million dollars since its inception to help restore and

protect the waters and land of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Marrying public education, outreach and involvement opportunities like rain barrel workshops, volunteer water quality monitoring, stream cleanups and invasive management with technical watershed planning and on the ground restoration projects, the Euclid Creek Watershed Program and it's partners have set a wonderful example for bringing together the public across community boundaries on behalf of common water quality goals.

Want to learn more about Euclid Creek and how you can be involved? Check out our program website:
www.euclidcreekwatershed.org

Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Program

Our Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Program tests year-round to protect our streams. Volunteers simply complete one two-hour training workshop and then receive all the necessary materials and instructions to independently monitor on their own schedule. We ask that volunteers choose one of our sampling sites near them to test once a month after training. Join us and find out what's in your local creek!

Water Quality Monitoring Training

Friday, July 23 • 6:00pm-8:00pm
Bay Village

Sunday, July 25 • 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Middleburg Heights

Monday, July 26 • 6:00pm-8:00pm
South Euclid



Volunteers test water quality in Euclid Creek.

Go to www.cuyahogawcd.org/events to register today!

The Value of Continuous Improvement

Dr. William Edwards Deming is a towering intellect in the world of business management. Deming's model of continuous improvement, consisting of Plan, Do, Check, Act/Adjust (PDCA), is lauded as a standard for businesses and organizations to follow to improve everything from quality to processes. I do not have a business background and was recently introduced to this methodical yet simple tool while attending Cleveland State University's Public Management Academy. The Public Management Academy requires a capstone project for completion of the course. As the Senior Manager for Stormwater & Technical Services I decided to use that opportunity to explore if and how the stormwater program could be improved.

In 2003, Phase 2 of the NPDES permit was issued and communities with smaller populations were required to begin implementing pollution prevention control measures. One of the primary control methods to reduce pollution is to minimize soil erosion and subsequently control sediment-laden runoff.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are a political entity that trace their heritage to the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s. The combination of being able to provide government to government partnerships and stay within its historic mission was a perfect fit for Cuyahoga SWCD. Since 2003 Cuyahoga SWCD has partnered with communities throughout Cuyahoga County to interpret and implement these new regulations. Technical expertise, customer service, and inter-governmental cooperation are



hallmarks of Cuyahoga SWCD's urban stormwater program.

The capstone exercise I endeavored to undertake was a process improvement project designed to explore the urban stormwater program, which has been in existence for nearly 20 years with only minor changes. Since 2003 there have been numerous incarnations of the regulatory permits, advances in industry standards and technology, employee attrition, program expansion and much more. As a result of providing uninterrupted customer service while adapting to changes the core operations of the program were left on autopilot with an "if it's not broke don't fix it" mentality. Over the past few years, the district has experienced growth which necessitated creating a managerial structure. Managers were tasked with taking a step back to analyze core programs.

The goal of analyzing the stormwater program was to determine what works, what needs reform, and what should be left behind to develop a stronger program and position Cuyahoga SWCD for future growth opportunities. Major topics of inquiry include human resource training and resiliency, administrative functions, operational structures, public outreach strategies, and more. Data collection relied on employee surveys and listening sessions, stakeholder analysis and interviews, and various project management tools along with a thorough review

of current Federal, State, and local regulations. All this was balanced by the need to integrate our employees into the process with an eye towards inspiring and retaining them. Proposed changes were nested within the Cuyahoga SWCD's recently completed, progressively focused, 2020 Strategic Plan.

Implementation of these program changes began on January 1, 2021 and are on-going. Feedback from the initial implementation has been positive and employees are excited and receptive to the changes. Some unforeseen challenges have been encountered but given the tools learned in the Cleveland State University Public Management Academy, those are simply future iterations for continual analysis and improvement.

This project has illuminated the value of evaluating an organization through the continuous improvement model. A methodical, disciplined, and reflective approach to problem-solving will uncover nuances that may otherwise be overlooked. Disciplined use of management tools and documenting the process allows for future iterations to build on the work of previously solved problems thereby mitigating what is often seen as a reactive approach to management or even solving the same problem year after year. Good public management is good for the continued success and future of Cuyahoga SWCD.

**For more information,
contact Brent Eysenbach
216.524.6580, ext. 1011
beysenbach@cuyahogawcd.org.**

2020 Annual Report

Mission: To implement programs and practices that protect and restore healthy soil and water resources

Board of Supervisors: Sherri Lippus, Chair; Ruth Skuly, Caroline Kelemen, Draye Lutton, and Howard Maier

Associate Supervisors: Kathleen Bradley, Whitnye Long Jones

Staff: Janine Rybka, Jared Bartley, Brent Eysenbach, Colleen Berg, Teresa Haendiges, Jakob Hamlescher, Meg Hennessey, Elizabeth Hiser, Kelly Parker, Carla Regener, Amy Roskilly, Megan Smith, Chris Vasco, Jacki Zevenbergen

Programs for Professionals
10 Events
487 Participants



Urban - Plan Review
118 new sites
256 SWPPP reviews



Urban Site Inspections
279 sites
1855 inspections



Urban - SWPPP Recommendations of Approval
96 Approvals

Urban - Post Construction Site Inspections
824 sites
841 inspections



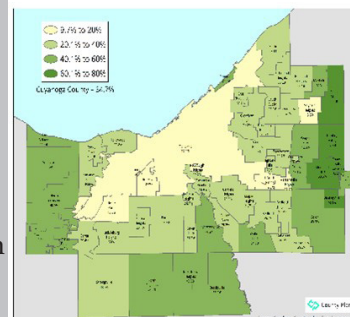
Technical Assistance Landowner
38 Site Inspections
138 calls
98.5 staff hours



On the Ground Implementation
2812 Tree & Live Stakes
46 Rain Gardens
4100 ft. Stream Stabilization



Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Program
\$950,000 for trees
4000 planted



Financial Statement

District Operation & Project Funding Sources for 2020

January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

District Fund

Balance on Hand - January 1, 2020.....\$1,167,279
Income.....\$ 393,534
Expenditures.....\$ 106,770
Balance on Hand - December 31, 2020.....\$1,342,075

Special Fund

Balance on Hand - January 1, 2020.....\$ 544,379
Income.....\$1,408,971
Expenditures.....\$1,204,196
Balance on Hand - December 31, 2020.....\$ 749,154



Orange - State Match
Gray - Public Involvement/Education Funds
Yellow - Stormwater Funds
Blue - Watershed Programs
Dark Blue - County Funds



**The Three C's VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEETING**
Cuyahoga, Franklin and
Hamilton
136 Participants



**Public Programs
& Events**
101 Events
2900 Participants

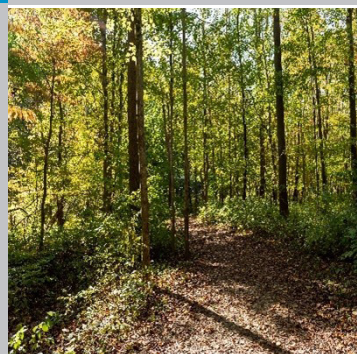
Educator Workshops
6 Events
67 Participants
School Programs
25 Events
2380 Participants



**Legislator/Local
Official Program**
4 Events
39 Participants



Newsletters/E-News
16 Events
97,765 Participants



**Timber Harvest
Plan & Follow-up**
4 Events
100 Acres
25 Instances

Cuyahoga SWCD is an equal opportunity employer and provider

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Cleveland, OH 44114

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www.cuyahogawcd.org



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Become a Master Rain Gardener



Master Rain Gardeners NowCorps Members and Professional Track Rain Gardeners installed a new public rain garden at the Willoughby Eastlake School of Innovation in May

Have you wanted to learn how to design, dig and plant your own rain garden? Then this class is for you. Back for its third year, Master Rain Gardeners fall online classes start August 23rd! Since our program's inception, 88 rain gardens have been installed! Join our growing list of 81 certified Master Rain Gardeners.

[www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/
master-rain-gardener-class](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/master-rain-gardener-class)

Look at Related Events (right side of the page)

Love the newsletter but hate the paper?

Contact Amy Roskilly - 216.524.6580 x1005 - aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org

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