Euclid Creek Watershed Update

Euclid Creek Partners:
Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek & Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Lower Euclid Creek Plan Complete

When the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District worked with a Community Advisory Committee and URS Consulting Team to look at opportunities to enhance Euclid Creek in Cleveland and Euclid, the most densely populated cities of the watershed, we were impressed with the hidden assets and potential we found for the creek. Restoration of coastal wetlands, fish passage, land conservation, storm water management, and potential greenspace linkages from the Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation to Lake Erie are some of the recommendations of the Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan. The Plan identifies specific projects that will enhance Euclid Creek and bring the Creek back into the community as an amenity. Thanks to all who assisted on this project. The plan will be on the Cuyahoga SWCD website in the coming weeks. The project was funded in part by ODNR’s Coastal Management Grant Program. As a result of the plan, funding for a number of projects identified is already being pursued. Who says you can’t have natural areas, recreational fishing and healthy places to live in the City? Stay Tuned as we continue to work with our community partners to realize the Lower Euclid Creek potential.

Euclid Creek at Peak of Spring Steelhead Run

Euclid Creek is holding one of its biggest events of the year this Spring; running of the steelhead. What is this, some sort of footrace of fish on East 185th Street? Well not exactly. Spring is the time that the Steelhead fish leave the waters of Lake Erie and head inward to the tributaries to spawn. As the big rivers to the east and west of Euclid Creek are stocked, the Euclid Creek run obtains strays entering the creek from these rivers. The steelhead, otherwise known as Rainbow Trout, are also joined in the Creek by White Suckers, a native fish which are also making their way upstream. So come down to Wildwood Park and see the Steelhead making the run up Euclid Creek. It’s a great sight. The steelhead run occurs in the Spring and Fall and provides a great recreational fishing place in the City. If you have a photo you’d like to share of fishing on Euclid Creek, please send it to the Watershed Coordinator. Keeping the creek clean across the watershed will sustain and enhance this great asset in the community.
From the Friends : Fundraiser Great Success

Holiday Fundraiser Success
Thanks to all who came out in December for the annual Friends of Euclid Creek Fundraiser. Also thanks to all who contributed funds to Friends of Euclid Creek. (See donors list on page 5.)

Special Appreciation to the donors of our door prizes this year:

Georgine Welo
Jane Goodman
Carolyn Suigiuchi
Frank Skala
Mary K Evans

The event raised three times more than the 2005 event! Thanks to all who support FOEC and to the FOEC Steering Committee for their hard work for this event. Hope to see everyone back at the 2007 event. You won’t want to miss it. Also thank you to the Mayfield Village for use of the Community Center.

Join FOEC Today!
The Friends of Euclid Creek help inform and educate the public on the many things happening in the watershed. Be part of its future by joining and supporting FOEC. New member ship dues, $15, Student or Senior, $10 and Donor $50.

To become a member contact:
Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21834, South Euclid, OH 44121-0384
—or Log on to FOEC’s website at: www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org for a membership.

Visit FOEC at the South Euclid GreenFest April 21!

Euclid Creek Stewardship 2007 Event Series
Each year the Euclid Creek Partners have an annual event that celebrates Euclid Creek and provides an opportunity for the watershed community to come together. To further the stewardship goals of the Watershed, the Euclid Creek partners will host a series of Stewardship events throughout 2007 to work on making the creek great.

THE GREAT EUCLID CREEK INVASIVE PLANT PULL—MAY 19 @ 10AM-NOON
We’ll be pulling Garlic Mustard, an invasive plant that out competes native species and isn’t a good food source for wildlife. This event is co-sponsored with the Wildwood State. Meet at the Wildwood entrance parking lot. Bring garden or work gloves if you have them.

THE GREAT CLEAN-UP — September 15, Locations to be announced, More information coming soon.

THE GREAT MONITORING EVENT—Week of October 15, More information coming soon.
If you or your group would like to participate in these events, please contact the Watershed Coordinator.

Volunteer Monitoring—2007 Season Starts
The Euclid Creek Monitoring program has successfully continued its first six months and is gearing up for the 2007 season with its veteran volunteers and others who would like to be part of this effort. Training can be provided and the monitoring can be conducted within your own schedule. We are working with Ohio EPA on establishing our program as part of the newest credible data program at the state level while also providing valuable information at the local level. In 2006, the program focused on chemical data collection. In 2007, the program will begin to develop a biological data collection program. If you or a group would like to get involved, contact the Watershed Coordinator.
Euclid Creek Outreach Activities

Do you know where the Watershed Is? You Will

Ever wonder where Euclid Creek actually is? The Euclid Creek Program over the years has received many inquiries on this question and many are surprised when they find out where the creek travels. This year, in partnership with Friends of Euclid Creek, Euclid Creek Watershed Council, assistance from the Cuyahoga County Engineer, and funding from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund signs will be placed throughout the watershed’s roadways to help you understand where the watershed and the creek are located. How are we to protect and restore something if we don’t know what and where we are protecting and restoring. So, stay tuned on your morning commute to find out where Euclid Creek is.

Tri-C—Euclid Creek Course 
Coming This Summer

Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Campus has been a active and committed partner in the Euclid Creek Program. The College has elevated this partnership this year through their award of an USEPA grant. The college is working on a curriculum coursed training using Euclid Creek as its laboratory this summer for teachers and interested community residents. Information provided below gives the when, what, where and how if you would like to register or find out more.

Course Title: Environmental Science for Educators: Promoting Watershed Stewardship

Credit Hours: 2

Location: Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus 4250 Richmond Road, plus on-site instruction within the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Dates/Times
Monday, July 23 8:30-4:00pm
Tuesday, July 24, 8:30-4:00pm
Wednesday, July 25, 8:30 – 4:00pm
Thursday, July 26, 8:30-4:00pm
Monday, July 30, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Registration for the course will begin late April or early May.

Scholarships: There will be fifteen (15) full course scholarships (tuition and textbook) available on a first come basis to area educators.

For more information, contact Kim Royal at 216-987-2541 or Herb Mausser at 216-987-2236

Thanks to Tri-C as we work on applying Euclid Creek in the classroom!

Euclid Creek 
Student Corner

Notre Dame Student Maintains Monitoring Effort

Thanks to Tim McCunn a senior at Notre Dame College, who has been monitoring the creek over the winter to continue our efforts of understanding the creek. He has been a great resource to our program and we appreciate his volunteer effort. If you are a student looking to apply your knowledge as a volunteer, please contact the Watershed Coordinator

Jane Addams High School Goes to Student Environmental Congress

Five students from Jane Addams High School of Cleveland participated in the Earth Day Coalition’s Student Environmental Congress this March on its work in Euclid Creek. Their presentation included reporting on their participation in the Euclid Creek monitoring program at Wildwood over the past five months and sharing the results. They also conducted a game on how you can’t tell if water is good quality by just looking at it. Congratulations to Jane Addams and their efforts in Euclid Creek to learn and share their knowledge.

Congrats to all of the schools who participated in this year’s Environmental Congress!
Community Stewardship in Action

Richmond Heights Leads Watershed in Community Land Conservation

The leadership of our watershed communities continues to make progress in the goals of the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan. The City of Richmond Heights has taken the initiative to make land conservation occur on the most pristine sections of the watershed; the East Branch. In the past six months, the City has completed purchase of the former Phypers Estate on the East Branch for land conservation to protect this critical landscape. The East Branch holds stream conditions that are typically found only in less developed watersheds. This valued landscape plays a critical role in maintaining the functions that are needed in the Lower Euclid Creek for fish migration and realizing the potential of the upper East Branch functions. Leaders in your watershed are making watershed stewardship happen at the local level.

South Euclid Leads Retrofit Efforts in Nine Mile

Euclid Creek and its little sister coastal tributaries in Cuyahoga County are stressed not by one action but by many actions that have occurred in the past 50 years. Hence its restoration and protection will also take many actions. One of those actions identified in the Watershed Action Plan is retrofitting some of the existing infrastructure that can improve water quality. The City of South Euclid is the first community in Euclid Creek to launch one of these projects. Through a funding award by the Ohio Public Works Commission, the City of South Euclid will begin a retrofit project on the Langerdale Detention Basin, located in the Nine Mile watershed, immediately adjacent to Euclid Creek. The project will take an existing basin that provides no water quality or habitat services to the watershed and retrofit with these services. The project will include adding storage, introducing five acres of wetlands and restoring a natural stream channel within the basin. The City is working on design and engineering drawings in Spring 2007 with anticipated construction in early Fall, 2007. Storm water management and water quality working together is a great way to improve the watersheds and create working greenspaces.

Great Lakes Priorities

What do they mean locally?

As part of the Great Lakes Day held in March, four priorities were identified for congressional funding:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species
2. Cleaning Up Toxic Sediments
3. Wetlands Restoration
4. Water Infrastructure

Euclid Creek will play a role on these priorities primarily on wetlands restoration and water infrastructure. Euclid Creek, as like many local watershed programs, is where the congressional funding actually makes things happen to meet these Great Lakes Priorities. In the past few years, the Euclid Creek program has received federal and state funding through the Coastal Management Program, US Fish and Wildlife, and projects through local municipalities for sewer upgrades through the State Revolving Loan Fund Program and Ohio Public Works Commission. Additionally, Euclid Creek continues to work on reduction of nutrients and fish habitat improvements. The partnerships of local, state, regional and federal agencies working together make these priorities become reality on the ground.
Thanks to all who have contributed and supported Friends of Euclid Creek and the Euclid Creek Watershed Council in protecting and restoring Euclid Creek in 2006 and 2007. Our efforts could not occur without your contribution! If you would like to contribute or sponsor a program area or project, please call us at 216-524-6580 ext 16. There are numerous projects that with your funding we can make happen.

Joe Abate
Stephen & Joan Albro
Georgia Anetzberger
Virginia Aveni
Sally Barber
David Berenson
Denise and Monica Berzinskas
Bruce Biddle
Sue and Stan Biddle
Paul Blake
James Boyle
Maureen Brennan
Dolores Brown
Dorothy Johnson Broz
Alex Carlino
Lisa Chapman
Edith Chase
John Chipko
Joe Ciccia Jr.
Andy & Monica Daugherty
Daugherty Construction
June Daughtery
Barbara Davidson
Ruta DeGutis
Laura Roberts & Daniel Dempsey
Carla DiBello
Nancy Dorer
Janet Downs
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Virginia Ehrbar
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Sue Fike
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Kate Funkner
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Carolyn Sugliachi
Leslie Sugliachi
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Jane Toth
Marcia & Henry Ungar
Terry Vacha
Beverly & Ronald Valencic
Ronald & Carole Vasselaney
Karen & Bart Vrtnski
Dan, Max, Maya & Ariana Zimet
Carl Fuchs
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Hal Daugherty
Tom Marsalis
Lester Stumpe
Chagrin Valley Engineering
Margie Harris
Mary Ellen Stasek
Jane Goodman
Bill Hadden
Belinda Koepp
Fred Koepp

Kent Smith Charitable Trust
Legacy Foundation Change – for Charity Program
WildOnes
Ohio Prairie Nursery
Kurtz Brothers
BioHabitats

Thanks to the partnership of our Local Universities
Dr. Mike Nichols, John Carroll University
Kim Royal, Michael Rowan, Lou Rifici, Michael Kangas and Shirley Kangas at Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Campus
Judith Santmire, Notre Dame College

Join or Renew Friends of Euclid Creek Today
Make Checks payable to:
Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21834, South Euclid, OH 44121-0384

Thanks to the funding provided by Euclid Creek Watershed Communities and local, state and federal programs, and agencies.

City of Cleveland
City of Euclid
City of South Euclid
City of Lyndhurst
City of Highland Heights
City of Richmond Heights
City of Beachwood
City of Mayfield Heights
Mayfield Village

Cleveland Metroparks
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cuyahoga County Engineer
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio EPA
Lake Erie Protection Fund
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Please note: If your name is accidentally omitted or misspelled, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580 Ext 16 for corrections. Thank you.
Conservation in the Neighborhood

There are over 50 neighborhoods in the Euclid Creek watershed that have distinct characteristics in housing type, density and proximity to Euclid Creek. Neighborhoods cover nearly 50% of the total land area in the Euclid Creek Watershed and offer a variety of great places to live. With this large percentage of land coverage in the watershed, neighborhoods can be a great place to put best practices to work. If your neighborhood group would like to learn more about how conservation and best practices can occur in your own neighborhood to protect and restore Euclid Creek and potential partnerships for funding opportunities for projects, contact the Watershed Coordinator or your local councilperson to schedule a neighborhood meeting on this topic.