

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



West Branch of Euclid Creek at Schaeffer Park by Daniel Hancock

Euclid Creek Watershed Program Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

Nine municipalities that came together in 2000 to address common environmental, storm water and development concerns in the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Friends of Euclid Creek

The citizens group whose mission is to raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, the Program's full time staff.

Please Take our Environmental Awareness Survey!

The Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners work to educate residents living in the watershed about ways to improve this valuable community resource. We invite you to participate in a survey to help assess the level of awareness you have of common household activities and their potential impact on the quality of our local water resources.

The answers you provide will help guide future environmental education programming. Over time, the survey will help us gauge the success of our educational programs.

To take the on line survey, click the link below.

<http://tinyurl.com/swcdsurvey>

THANK YOU for your help!

Redstone Run Highland Reserve Restoration

Friends of Euclid Creek, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and West Creek Conservancy can't thank enough the 42 volunteers who spent Saturday, October 5 planting trees, cleaning up debris, and installing a split rail fence at the recently protected 8-acre Redstone Run Highland Reserve!

Students from Richmond Heights High School Ecology & Key Clubs participated with teacher Emmett Keller, and Richmond Heights Kiwanis, Parsons Brinkerhoff employees, Friends of Euclid Creek and Greenwood Farm members, neighbors from Hillcrest and other Richmond Heights residents, and Euclid Creek Watershed Council PIPE Committee members - Chris Vild from Beachwood, Susan Jerome from Mayfield Village and David Roche, Chair of the Watershed Council and President of Richmond Heights Council.

A huge thank you goes out to our event sponsors who contributed nearly \$13,000 in in kind services in the following ways:

- Medina Fence for donating and delivering 250 feet of split rail fence
- Chagrin Valley Nursery (CVN) for donating 20 large trees and shrubs
- Kurtz Bros., Inc. for donating 30 cubic yards of soil and a dumpster for debris removal
- On Call Waterproofing for donating time and the machinery needed to install the fence and trees
- Ohio Prairie Nursery for donating 2 pounds of native plant seed mix
- Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization's ReLeaf Program for facilitating the US Forest Service and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding that allowed purchase of 20 additional trees from CVN
- Cuyahoga County Board of Health for donating materials and staff time

And a special thanks goes out to Joe Phillips, owner of Hollywood Scapes, Inc. and neighbor, and his employees Adam Woodard, John Garrard, & Rob Chesla. Not only did Joe donate his time and money to improve the forest condition by removing dead and diseased ash trees and planting native trees, but Joe and his employees transported all of the Chagrin Valley Nursery trees and shrubs to the site, they volunteered the whole day and provided critical tools like the tree dolly we needed to haul the 200+ lb trees around. Joe will also help us mow the property moving forward - thank you for being an incredible partner!

For more information about the property or our Land Conservation Fund, visit www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org or call the Watershed Coordinator.

- This land protection project was partially funded through a Clean Ohio grant.



Split rail fence installed by volunteers (above) Giant shrub donated by Chagrin Valley Nursery (below)



Hollywood Scapes employees moving tree (above) Richmond Hts. students planting tree (below)



2014 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Feb 27, 8:00-9:30am	Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Beachwood*
Mar 7, 9:00-10:30am	Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting, Euclid*
Mar 22, 10:00-11:30am	Rain Barrel Workshop at Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst*
May 2, noon-6:00pm	Beachwood Entrovation, Stop by our FOEC table!
May 17, 9:00-noon	Wetland Planting and Bioswale/Beach Cleanup at Wildwood Reservation*
July 15, 6:30-8:30pm	Rain Barrel Workshop and Compost Seminar, Richmond Heights*

*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for more event details at 216-524-6580 x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or check the website at www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

Congratulations to Award Winners

At the annual Friends Holiday Party, we take a moment to recognize those who have gone above and beyond to forward our message. We congratulate the following recipients:

Tom Jenkins Award - Fran Hogg, FOEC Member- In her service of mayor of Highland Hts. and as a FOEC member, Fran has been an environmental voice. Fran has served as president and a director for FOEC. Her dedication and service to Friends, the community and the health of the watershed is exemplary.

Volunteer of the Year - Connie Herron, FOEC Member - Connie's dedication to the preservation of Redstone Run in Richmond Hts. helped make our goal of conserving this beautiful piece of property a reality. She did much to gain support of neighbors and get the necessary land assessment completed for preservation decision-making and grant applications.

Public Official Award - Chris Vild, City of Beachwood - Chris has been a top notch volunteer to many watershed projects. He keeps the watershed conservation message front and center within his city and beyond. He was a wonderful tree planting teacher at the Redstone Run clean up and planting day and with the rain garden planting at Hilltop Elementary School.

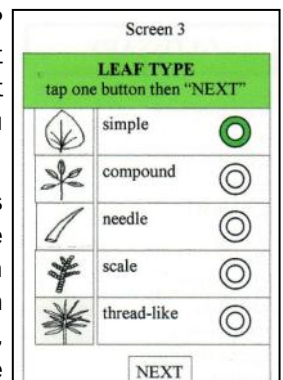
Community Partner Award - Derek Schafer, West Creek Conservancy - Despite many projects on his plate, Derek gave the Redstone Run property much attention. Without his help and commitment, FOEC would not have been able to check preservation of this land off its list.

Good Neighbor Award - Joe Phillips, Hollywood Scapes, Inc. - When Joe became aware of the work being done to preserve land in his backyard, he stepped right in to help. He has maintained the frontage on his own time and own dime. His crew, machinery and expertise were made available to us for Redstone clean up and planting day.

Identify Plants in Euclid Creek? There's An App For That...Soon! by Brian Gilbert

Have you ever taken a walk at the Euclid Creek Reservation and seen a plant you couldn't identify? Was there a naturalist nearby to identify it for you? Did you remember to bring your plant identification field guide with you that day? Have you ever wished that field guides were really light weight and truly pocketable? Wouldn't it be nice to have an application on your smartphone that you could use to identify the plant? Wild Plant ID is working to create just such an app.

HOW WILL WILD PLANT ID WORK? From a smartphone, you will start a search of basic plant features found on most plants: leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, thorns, and tendrils. You will select any of these features that appear on the plant you want to identify. From there, the program will lead you through different plant features to ultimately identify the plant. From the plant identification screen you can learn the common name of the plant and a whole lot more including: scientific names, family, rarity, environment fit, typical flowering and fruiting times, and uses just to name a few. You will also be able to see images of the plant you just identified. And you won't have to worry about confusing botanical jargon. One of the best features of the app is its built in glossary. You will be able to get a definition for any term in the app by tapping and holding it.



We've even created a simulated prototype of the app which can be viewed on any iPhone. Simply go to the App Store, locate "AppGyver Scanner" and download it. When the app is on your iPhone tap the large central "Scan" button and scan the QR Code below using your iPhone's camera.



WHEN WILL THE APP BE READY? The app design is complete. Data collection will be finished by the end of this year. We are currently working to raise the necessary funds so we can hire the computer developer who will write the code to make an application which functions on a smartphone. When the fund-raising is complete the code will be written and we will begin field testing the app - hopefully this coming spring - and releasing it to the public as soon the app is debugged.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND HELP?

Invitation...we would welcome the opportunity to speak to any group about our application. Invite us to your next meeting.

Publication...let us write an article about Wild Plant ID for your school or community group's newsletter.

Registration...let us put you on our email list so you can receive periodic updates on the progress we are making to develop, test and release this app.

Donation...our immediate need is for funds to hire an app developer who will write the computer code to make this app work. A contribution of any size will help us demonstrate to funding sources that we have support for our project. This past summer the Friends of Euclid Creek became the fiscal sponsor of the Wild Plant ID project to help us raise the necessary funds. Any donation made to the Friends of Euclid Creek for the Wild Plant ID project is tax-exempt.

WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT THIS APP? If you have any questions about the Wild Plant ID app or would like to arrange for a presentation to your group please contact Brian Gilbert via email bgilbert18212@att.net or phone (216) 533-9935.

A Year in Review *by Barb Holtz & Gary Bloom*

It's always good to look where you've been before you forge ahead. What worked and what didn't? Where did efforts fall short and when did they excel? FOEC had a good year...actually, a great year!

In any volunteer organization, there are times when it's tough to find the work force needed to keep moving forward. I can honestly say, in 2013, our troops rose to the occasion. We cleaned up, planted, learned, planned and accomplished. Here's just a snapshot:

- ✓ Developed and implemented a strategic plan with the help of facilitator, Tom Romito
- ✓ Developed Board and committee structure
- ✓ Amended by laws to support strategic plan
- ✓ Created Land Conservation Fund and developed fundraising plan to support fund for land purchases or grant matching funds (Letters to members and businesses, Wine and Cheese Fundraiser, added on-line donation capability)
- ✓ Raised \$13,500 for Redstone Run Highland Reserve preservation (\$20,000 goal!)
- ✓ Cleaned-up and planted Redstone Run Highland Reserve property
- ✓ Recruited new board members (Welcome Chris Vild and Stephen Love!)

Behind this list is a lot of hard work and dedicated time. Behind this work is also a group of folks who enjoy each other's company. We love our watershed and find camaraderie in this common thread.

So what's next? New land interests to pursue, environmental events to attend, funds to raise, and an important message to share... We need your voice to help us **SPEAK FOR THE CREEK!**



FOEC Holiday Party (above) and Redstone Run Fundraiser (below)



New Board Members Chris Vild (left) and Stephen Love (right) hard at work volunteering at watershed events

Who Lives In The Watershed? *by Barb Holtz*



It's winter...let's look for insects! Not the usual search one takes on in snowy times, but under the right conditions and with a keen eye, you can find snow fleas. Peppered on the snow's surface near the base of tree trunks, these tiny springtails (not really fleas) can be seen hopping and moving about.

Snow fleas live in the leaf litter, soil and moss and feed on bacteria, algae, microscopic animals and dead plant matter.

On warm winter days, these "fleas" emerge to look for food. A sort of anti-freeze protein in their body keeps them from becoming snow flea popsicles!



Snow fleas are actually springtails.

What's coming up on the FOEC calendar...

Our Program Committee is in the process of planning the speakers, field trips and events for 2014. We hope you will take a moment to visit the Euclid Creek Watershed Partners website to see what's coming up (www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org). Whether it's taking in a lecture at one of our regular meetings, joining us on the trail or socializing at a gathering, we would love to have you join us as a guest or member.

Here is what we have scheduled for the beginning of 2014:

January 7: Chemical Free Lawn Care—Speakers from Good Nature and Beyond Pesticides Ohio will discuss strategies for keeping our gardens green and chemical free.

February 4: Acacia Reservation Talk—Hear about plans for the new Acacia Reservation from Cleveland Metroparks Plant and Restoration Ecologist, Connie Hausman.

FOEC meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the South Euclid Community Center 1370 Victory Dr. (located behind Giant Eagle on Mayfield Rd.). Check our website to confirm meeting location.

2013 Watershed Program Highlights, *by Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator*

Each December when I look back at the year, I am amazed at all we've accomplished as a watershed program, and this year is no exception. We completed three major watershed restoration projects that will help improve water quality in Euclid Creek:

- A 2.3 acre wetland restoration project with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding at Wildwood Reservation in Cleveland with three major volunteer planting efforts (planted 150 trees, 950 live stakes, 710 small upland and wetland plants). Thank you to our consultant team RiverWorks who constructed the restoration project and to Davey Resources for effective oversight management.
- Partnered with the West Creek Conservancy to protect an 8-acre forested property along Redstone Run in Richmond Heights with Clean Ohio funding and a major fundraising campaign led by Friends of Euclid Creek (included a massive volunteer planting described on p. 1). We can't thank all of the donors enough for helping us preserve this land.
- Partnered with the Cuyahoga ReLeaf to plant 150 trees along Claribel Creek next to Richmond Heights City Hall with 170 volunteers.



Wildwood Wetland Greening-up in August



South Euclid City Hall's new permeable parking lot

The Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities of Cleveland (North Collinwood's Waterloo Neighborhood), Richmond Heights and South Euclid completed three demonstration green infrastructure projects with Ohio EPA funding. I assisted in designing educational signage for the Richmond Heights and South Euclid projects.

Volunteers contributed a total of 2,130 hours of time to the program installing trees and native plants, pulling invasives, water quality monitoring, attending watershed meetings, tabling events, etc.!

Through the education and outreach program, here are a few highlights:

- Held 3 rain barrel workshops where 139 people put together 93 rain barrels to take home and install.
- Held 1 green cleaning workshop where participants learned about chemical free indoor cleaning and outdoor landscaping.
- Installed rain garden at Beachwood's Hilltop Elementary with 82 energetic fifth graders and teacher Melanie Musulin.
- Planted bioretention cell at Highland Heights Service Department with Mayfield Schools Excel TECC students.
- Euclid Creek Watershed Program event tabling at seven community events.
- Outreached to Notre Dame College, Cleveland Citizens Academy, Mayor Jackson's Youth Summer Employment Program students, Hawken School in Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights High School, Beachwood's Hilltop Elementary, and Mayfield School's Excel TECC program.



Mayfield Village Green Cleaning Workshop participants make non-toxic cleaning solution to try at home



Beachwood's Hilltop Elementary students plant a rain garden

I have appreciated all of your calls alerting me to erosion problems in the watershed, illegal dumping, forest clearing, and invasive plant concerns to name a few. And I had a blast working with Friends of Euclid Creek through their first Strategic Plan and watching the group grow. As always, I'm looking forward to all that 2014 has in hold for the watershed and I hope to see you at a creek event.



Our 2013 Watershed Interns, Wade Peerman (left) and Joe Higgins (right), did a fantastic job helping with water monitoring and special projects.



FOEC Awarded Watershed Support Grant for Fifth Year

Friends of Euclid Creek is thrilled to announce receiving a **Watershed Operating Support Grant** from the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)** for the fifth year in a row. As funding from other sources declines or is completely eliminated due to continuous local, state and federal budget tightening, this funding is more critical every year to the sustain the work we are doing to protect and restore the Euclid Creek watershed. Funds help support the Euclid Watershed Coordinator position, our sole program staff, and offsets FOEC's operating costs. Thank you, Sewer District!

Underground and Behind the Scenes City of Lyndhurst Improving Euclid Creek Water Quality,

by Rick Glady, Lyndhurst Service Director and Euclid Creek Watershed Council Vice Chair

While mostly out of sight, out of mind and taken for granted, well-maintained sanitary and storm sewer systems are critical for the health of Euclid Creek and Lake Erie.

Not many know that the City of Lyndhurst is responsible for maintaining 112 miles of sanitary and storm sewers that run underground throughout the City. A majority of these sewer lines were installed in the late 1920s-30s, some under Roosevelt's WPA program.

Over the years these sewer lines have aged and developed deficiencies such as broken pipe and open joints due to settling and poor construction practices.

In the mid-1980s the Administration and City Council of Lyndhurst adopted a sanitary and storm sewer rehabilitation program. This program is conducted on an annual basis. Throughout the years the program has maintained our lines and solved many sewer problems. This program is ongoing to date and begins with visual and remote TV inspections of both storm and sanitary sewers. These inspections are the first step in identifying problem areas such as broken or separated pipe, collapsed connections and obstructions including roots and other debris. When problems are discovered the pipes are rehabilitated through a variety of technologies including epoxy lining, grouting of the entire sanitary service connections, tee liners at the interface between the main and laterals and pipe replacement. In addition, there is testing taking place consisting of flow monitoring, dye and smoke testing. These tests help detect sanitary sewage that is infiltrating into storm mains and potentially then into Euclid Creek through dual manholes and other points of entrance such as broken pipes and cross connections. We have found that the combination manhole overflows have been eliminated, along with hundreds of calls from residents who used to experience basement flooding during heavy storms.

In the last four years, the City has invested \$2,342,467 into its sewer repair and rehabilitation program.

The projects described in this article are helping to improve water quality in Lyndhurst and Euclid Creek downstream communities. The Lyndhurst sewer rehabilitation program and Stormwater management programs are currently administered by City Engineer Jeff Filarski, Melissa Bukowski of Chagrin Valley Engineering, Service Director Rick Glady and the Lyndhurst Service Department staff.

Euclid Creek Program's Added Momentum halted with NEORS Regional Stormwater Management Program

After 9 months of getting the much needed Regional Stormwater Management Program up and running, the momentum came to an abrupt halt when the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) was told they did not have the authority to implement the program by the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals. It's truly unfortunate because good things were starting to happen not only in Euclid Creek, but in all of the watersheds in the NEORS service area.

Increasingly severe and unpredictable storms inundating our streets and streams and stressing our aging infrastructure are exacerbating backyard and basement flooding, property damage and sewage overflows, impacting both the environment and our public health. The Stormwater Program was created to address these issues at a regional level.

As a result of the program's suspension, several projects started in Euclid Creek are cancelled. A repair to the Euclid Creek East Branch stream restoration project was to begin construction in November, but had to be stopped. A critical step in getting the first impediment to fish passage in Euclid Creek removed was also impacted. The US Army Corps of Engineers started work on a feasibility study to look at options for providing fish passage at the E. 185th Spillway just south of I-90. This study required a local sponsor to provide a 35% local match, or roughly \$100,000—the NEORS had agreed to be that local sponsor, but they had to rescind the commitment. Project partners are now scrambling to find another local sponsor for the project but have not had luck finding an alternate local sponsor to date. The NEORS also began important modeling and monitoring work in Euclid Creek, so that we better understand the complex stream velocity and volume issues in flashy flow storms in order to have better baseline information for stream restoration projects moving forward.

It's truly a shame for Euclid Creek and all of our regional watersheds that the program is suspended. We are hopeful that the NEORS's appeal is granted by the State Supreme Court, so we can get back on task addressing our storm water issues regionally - for now each community and watershed group goes back to solving storm water problems on its own.



Rob Trybus and Matt Gerome, Lyndhurst Service Department Staff, working hard to protect infrastructure and Euclid Creek

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125

More About Our Program Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC)

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

Each community appoints a representative to serve on the Council, which meets three times a year and has several committees that focus on education & outreach, technical issues and volunteer monitoring.

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)

The Friends of Euclid Creek is a community-based watershed stewardship group, a non-profit 501(c)(3).

Board: Barb Holtz, President; Christi Carlson, Vice President; Jeanette Evans, Secretary; Rick Evans, Treasurer; and Directors: Steve Albro, Gary Bloom, Judy Dearden, Lou Drasler, Stephen Love, Bill McReynolds, Ken Messinger-Rapport, and Chris Vild.

Monthly Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, South Euclid Community Center. Meeting location may vary, please check website to confirm location.

Join FOEC or donate to our land conservation fund. For more details call, email, or check the website.

Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21384
South Euclid, OH 44121
FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com



Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, the Program's full time staff person who implements the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan and acts as the liaison between the ECWC and FOEC.

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius
Cuyahoga SWCD
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Program Website, Blog and Facebook

Website: www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

Blog: foecnews.blogspot.com

Facebook: Like 'Friends of Euclid Creek'



Only Rain Down the Drain

If you would like to **receive this newsletter electronically**, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.

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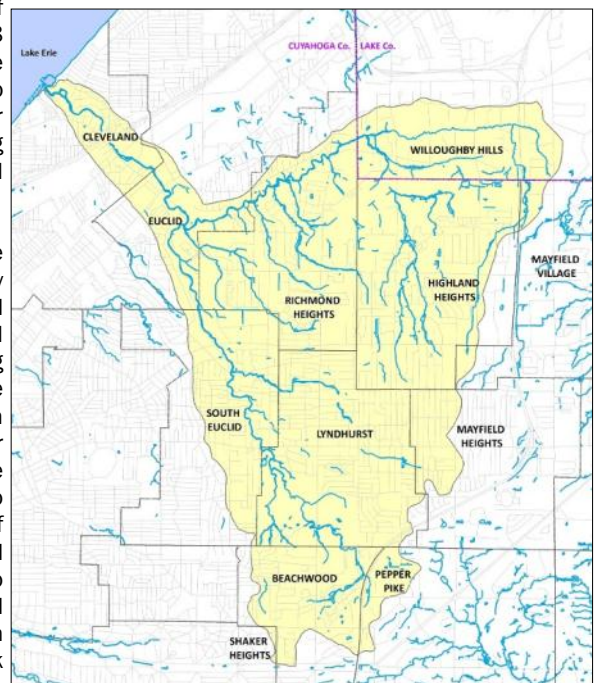


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What is a Watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a single river, stream or lake. Because the actions we take on land directly affect the quality of our rivers and streams, it is important to take the entire watershed into consideration when trying to protect and improve the health of our local waters.

The Euclid Creek Watershed drains 24 square miles from 11 Northeast Ohio communities in Cuyahoga County and a portion of Lake County. The Creek includes 34 miles of streams as far as 8 miles away from the Creek's outflow to Lake Erie, our source of drinking water, at Wildwood Park in Cleveland.



Euclid Creek is one of the most densely populated and developed watersheds along the Ohio Lake Erie coastline—which results in poor water quality. But we have a plan to restore the health of the watershed and it includes you, so contact us to find out how you can help Euclid Creek today!

Map of the Euclid Creek Watershed.