

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



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.

Volunteer Water Monitors Needed

Want to do something to help Euclid Creek?

Become a volunteer monitor - Anyone can do it!

Have fun learning about the creek and help collect vital data to better understand conditions in Euclid Creek.



Time commitment is up to you!

We do ask volunteer monitors to attend a training session and that they monitor once a month...if you want to do more it's up to you!

For more information visit:

www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org and click on the *Volunteer Monitoring Program* tab.

or contact: Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator (contact info.)



Euclid Creek Streamside Tree and Shrub Program: Get Free Trees!

The Euclid Creek Streamside Tree and Shrub Program is just around the corner, so sign up for your trees and shrubs today!

If you live or own property on the Euclid Creek or one of its tributaries, we want to give you tree and shrub seedlings to plant in the riparian buffer (streamside setback area). Seedlings will be distributed to program participants in April of 2015. All streamside property owners in the Euclid Creek Watershed are encouraged to apply.

Planting trees and shrubs along our streams is one of the easiest and most important actions you can take to help improve water quality and aquatic habitat in the watershed. In addition to their natural beauty, trees and shrubs stabilize stream banks, filter nutrients and sediment from storm water, decrease storm water runoff and increase property values.

If you have questions or wish to enroll in the program, please contact Claire Posius at 216-524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.

This project is funded through the Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is supported by the citizens of Ohio through the purchase of the Lake Erie License Plate.



Mature streamside vegetation on Highland Heights tributary to Euclid Creek

\$1.8 Million Restoration Planned for Euclid Creek in Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation

Cleveland Metroparks (CM) applied for a \$1.8 million grant to restore a section of Euclid Creek at Acacia Reservation in Lyndhurst. The project ranked 2nd of 14 statewide restoration proposals, and only the top 3 fell within funding range. CM is awaiting final approval of the project from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency through their Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program.

Funding will restore 1,300 linear feet of Euclid Creek and will connect the stream to nearly 3.5 acres of floodplain and 14 acres of wetland swales within the 155 acre park. This restoration project was a recommendation from an in depth Acacia Reservation Ecological Restoration Master Plan conducted by Biohabitats, Inc. on behalf of CM and is on the watershed program website on the 'Resources' page.



Degraded section of Euclid Creek running through Acacia about to be restored!

2015 Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Feb 12, 8:00-9:30am Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Euclid*
- Mar 13, 9:00-10:30am Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting, Cleveland*
- May 16, 10:00am-noon Wildwood & Euclid Beach Cleanup Day, Euclid Creek Reservation, Cleve.*
- Jul 18, 9:00am-2:30pm A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, Acacia and Euclid Creek Reservations*
- 1st Tue of Month, 7:00pm Friends of Euclid Creek meetings (NEW LOCATION) details on page 3.

Visit the Euclid Creek Website to see upcoming Rain Barrel & Green Cleaning Workshops, and more!

*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

President's Message, *by Christi Carlson, President*

The holidays are always a time of joy and gratitude. People's spirits are raised and the time spent with family and friends builds new heartwarming memories. It is a time to enjoy the magic that the season brings. As we are settling into the throws of winter, the snow has blanketed our landscape creating a sense of quietness, and glistening beauty that can spark inspiration and joy for those who seek it.

The last six months of my tenure, looking out onto Stevenson's Brooke behind my home in Richmond Heights, I have seen and heard a Barred Owl, Eastern-screech Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, a flock of Fox Sparrows and a Red Fox. Even though I felt vitalized and inspired by these sightings, I was not compelled or prompted to do anything creative with that energy. So, when a poetry student reached out via e-mail to share his poem about the Euclid Creek, I felt inspired to share it with all of you. We are all inspired in different ways, and we are fortunate that we live in the Euclid Creek Watershed, where access to the creek is made easy.

People can go outside, enjoy walking along the creek, and if they are lucky, be inspired by nature in some way that prompts creativity. This is what happened to Jim Lawless and Joan Milder, poets that live in our area. We thank them for sharing their talents with us this winter. Their gentle poems remind us to go outside, and get inspired by the beauty that nature holds! It is a great way to nurture the soul.

Silence at Euclid Creek

Two goldens, wriggling
to be petted, were pulled aside
into the snow by hand signals
as they pass. The man
nodded and touched
his cap.

Silence is the river passing
by the large rock, slipping,
not splashing, easing
along the long creek.

The park is near silence,
only the occasional car
hissing past, not a bird,
not a chatter, just snow
covering the sounds
it might have made.

Winter softens,
muffles bark,
cross hatches
the forest.

~ Jim Lawless, Feb. 4, 2014



*Redstone Run Highland Reserve ravine,
Richmond Heights*

By Euclid Creek

On this July day in May, a broken-off tree trunk
crouches crocodile-like in the stream,
long snout upraised, jaw agape.

Its strong, woody front leg is tensed to spring
at an unseeing duck family which sails serenely
through cottonwood-seed-encrusted current.

Above stiller waters, great willows
trail lacy branches, through which sunlight
dapples lurking monster and watery lair.

And what enchanted creature will sleep tonight
on the downy seed which lines a dark chamber
of the nearest tree's base?

A shadow
swims past, becomes fish
as it rises to snap
at a hovering morsel, then sinks again

through shining circles
to follow its accustomed path.

~ Joan Milder 1991, rev. 2005

Need Money For College?

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) is seeking applications from local students pursuing a degree or certificate in environmental studies, environmental science or a related field.

\$1000 will be awarded to a deserving student for educational purposes. We prefer a student who attends or has attended a high school located in Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid, Pepper Pike, Willoughby Hills or Mayfield Village - the communities in the Euclid Creek watershed.

For more details please visit the website for details: www.EuclidCreekWatershed and click on the 'Scholarship' link on the home page.

And The Award Goes To....

At our holiday party each year we take time to relax with “Friends” and guests, share a delicious meal, and honor those who have made a special mark in helping us achieve our mission. Our 2014 awardees are:

Tom Jenkins Award - Barb Holtz, FOEC Board of Directors and Cleveland Metroparks

Highest honor bestowed by FOEC for someone who epitomizes what it means to be a steward of the Euclid Creek watershed through exemplary service, passion, and volunteerism.

Public Official Award - Cathy Murphy, City of Highland Heights, Council President

For being instrumental in the preservation of our most recent conservation property purchased along Bishop Road near Hawthorne Road. Cathy is an important environmental voice on the City Council.

Community Partner Award - Jan Rybka, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, District Administrator

For being our ally and supporter since Friends of Euclid Creek’s inception. Jan has been the primary resource for support and implementation via the Watershed Coordinator position and has consistently partnered with us on conservation initiatives for the Euclid Creek watershed.

Who Lives In The Watershed? by Barb Holtz



Photo by David Arbour

The Barred owl is hands down my favorite owl. When Christi Carlson mentioned this owl in her president’s message, I knew I had to share its story with you.

Besides its deep, brown eyes and melancholy expression, the most distinctive feature of this owl is its call. *Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?* It’s rich, almost monkey-like noise is curious and comical, guaranteed to make you grin.

While Barred owls generally prefer larger tracts of mature, deciduous woods, I have encountered them in my backyard. I’m lucky to call home the banks of Euclid Creek where wildlife abounds. One of the many reasons to encourage natural habitat at the creek border. (Can you say riparian setback?)

It may seem early to talk of nesting, but Barred and Great Horned owls both court and nest in the heart of winter. Start looking for puffy feathered owlets while we’re still shoveling snow. They have faces only a mother could love.

Explore the watershed at night and you’ll discover a whole new world of wonder. All you have to do is listen and nature will invite you in.

New Location and Time for 2015 FOEC Meetings!

Join us at the headwaters of Euclid Creek for our monthly gathering at a new location - **Acacia Reservation** (26899 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst, 44124), *Dino’s at Acacia*, at 7:00pm. Entrance off Cedar Road. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm (6:30 pm in January only).

We hope you can join us at an upcoming FOEC meeting:

January 6, 6:30pm: Euclid Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) talk—Jeremiah Swetel, Euclid’s Compliance Manger, will talk about Euclid WWTP’s federally mandated upgrades, green infrastructure and the impact to Euclid Creek watershed.

February 3, 7:00pm: Biomimicry Talk—Carol Thaler, Outreach and Admin. Director, Great Lakes Biomimicry, will talk about the emerging Biomimicry industry - the imitation of natural biological designs/processes in engineering/invention.

March 3, 7:00pm: Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC)—Jane Goodman, Executive Director, Cuyahoga River Community Planning Org., will discuss Euclid Creek as part of AOC and progress toward restoration of beneficial use impairments.

April 7, 7:00pm: Lake Erie Water Quality Update—Sarah Orlando, Ohio Sea Grant Extension Educator, will discuss research on non-point source pollution in Lake Erie and information on harmful algae blooms.

We need you to help us **SPEAK FOR THE CREEK!**

Please confirm meeting time and location on our website or facebook page (website addresses on back page) as some meetings are held in different locations, dates and/or times.

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek

This event was the first of its kind in the Watershed and a whole lot of fun!

On October 4, 60 participants and volunteers helped take a snapshot of the creek's health with stops at Acacia Reservation, Highland Picnic Area - Euclid Creek Reservation (ECR), and Wildwood Park - ECR to conduct monitoring.

It was a brisk 40 degree morning, so many thanks to all of you who volunteered or came and helped with the event. Partners from Cleveland Metroparks (CM), Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program and FOEC Volunteer Monitors monitored sites throughout the watershed and provided demonstrations of chemical, macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) and fish sampling.

A big group of students from the Mayfield High School National Honors Society participated, FOEC Volunteer Monitors, Tri-C East, Euclid High School, residents, and CM Watershed Volunteer Program participants came out for portions of, or all of the day.

You can check out the water chemistry results here (<http://tinyurl.com/lhg3cmb>) (click on each comment cloud to see the results for a site).

Thanks to all of our partners and volunteers for making this a great day! And thank you to Patrick Henry for taking amazing photos. And we hope to see you for a repeat of the day on July 18, 2015!



Throughout the day, volunteers monitored for turbidity (upper right photo), chemistry (bottom right photo), macroinvertebrates (above left and center photos), and discussed results / the water quality report card at the end of the day over pizza (above right photo).

Restoration Planting in Highland Heights

On October 11, Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners had our final big outreach event of the year.

FOEC, West Creek Conservancy, and CSWCD protected a beautiful 12-acre wooded site adjacent to the Highland Heights Community Park in July with Clean Ohio funding. The site has headwater tributaries to Euclid Creek running through it and sensitive wetlands, but very little understory due to deer browsing.

We had nearly 50 volunteers plant 430 native plants that are meant for shady, wet conditions and that are as deer resistant as is possible with the neighborhood's high deer population.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who came out from the neighborhood, Mayfield Heights Girl Scouts, Mayfield High School National Honors Society students, Friends of Euclid Creek members, and City of Highland Heights, Holden Arboretum and Hollywood Scapes staff helped out.

A special thanks goes out to Ken Messinger Rapport, and Jeanette and Rick Evans for letting us tromp through your yards to access the site and to interns Maria and Jakob from West Creek Conservancy for your help in leading the event. Also, Chris Vild and Joe Phillips did a great job leading the two groups in the planting effort.

This site has truly been loved over the years - we found tree houses, sheds and lots of other oddities scattered throughout the site - everything AND the kitchen sink (see photo below)!



Photos from left to right: Chris Vild demonstrates correct planting techniques; Mayfield Heights Girl Scouts team effort removing plant from container; Joe Phillips leading planting with Hollywood Scapes employee; and volunteers removing kitchen sink from woods.

Eagle Scout Candidate Installs Monarch Way Stations along Redstone Run

Congratulations are in order for Eagle Scout Candidate, Michael Huber, of Euclid Boy Scout Troop 367, who installed four Monarch Way Station gardens at our Redstone Run Highland Reserve site in Richmond Heights! Michael organized the planning, fundraising, planting of the gardens and recruited fellow Scouts and family to help install the gardens in August. Two of the gardens have fencing to protect the plants from deer browsing and two are not fenced so we can watch their growth and compare success of plant growth over time. The gardens should attract pollinators like monarch butterflies and add beauty to the site.

Great job Michael - the monarch butterfly population and partners in the Euclid Creek Watershed thank you!



Fellow scouts, family and friends assist Huber in amending soil & planting



Deer exclusion fencing installed in two of the four gardens to prevent deer browsing



Michael Huber next to completed garden

How is the Wildwood Wetland Restoration Project Doing? Just look and see!

Here are some of the magnificent wildlife sightings and native plants enjoying the Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration site nearly two full years after construction was complete. Other sightings not captured on camera include a bald eagle while Ron Maichle from NEORS was out macroinvertebrate monitoring; Derek Schaefer of West Creek Conservancy saw a Northern Pike at the mouth of Euclid Creek (a fish species we're hoping will frequent the wetland for a spawning and nursery area). What have you seen? Please send pictures and/or accounts of when and where you saw interesting wildlife or plants. See the website to learn more about this 2010 Great Lake Restoration Initiative funded project.



Tree of Heaven moth, non-native, but beautiful, photo by Jenn Grieser



Mallard sitting next to a Green Heron



Black Swallowtail butterfly on Joe Pye Weed, photo by Jenn Grieser



Blue Heron seen fishing in the wetland daily



Clouded Sulphur Butterfly on Boneset



Spatterdock lily planted by volunteers flowering



Young Buck walking across wetland unphased by our monitoring 10' away



Metroparks Mike Durkalec holding rare pink salmon caught and released near wetland in Euclid Creek



Monarch Butterfly



Gaillardia, Indian Blanket



Asiatic Dayflower, non-native orchid



Wetland vegetation establishing well

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: Christi Carlson, **President;** Ken Messinger-Rapport, **Vice President;** Jeanette Evans, **Secretary;** Rick Evans, **Treasurer;** and **Directors:** Virginia Aveni, Gary Bloom, Barb Holtz, and Chris Vild.

Monthly Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm, Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst. 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 Soil & Water Conservation District
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Program Website and Facebook Page

Website: www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

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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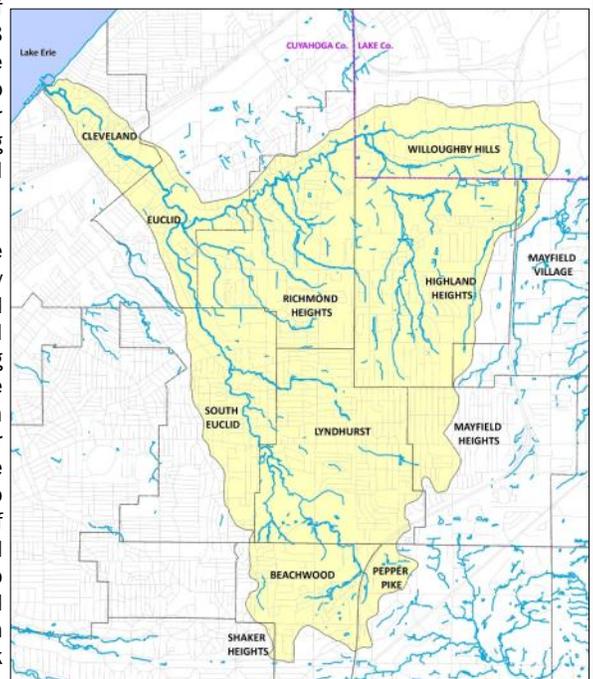


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What is a Watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a single river, stream or lake. Because the actions we take on land directly affect the quality of our rivers and streams, it is important to take the entire watershed into consideration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