

Issue 33

Spring 2015

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Reservation-Near Ranger Station by Karen Tate

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.

Euclid Creek Streamside Tree & Shrub Program

If you enrolled in the program & have not received a follow-up postcard or email with your plant pickup details, please contact Claire Posius as soon as possible (contact info. at bottom of page).

Euclid Creek Receives Habitat Restoration Planning Grant

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to announce that we were awarded a nearly \$50,000 Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Restoration Project Planning grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). Funds will be used to create a habitat restoration inventory for the watershed and to prioritize potential sites for habitat restoration with input from community stakeholders and program partners. The top 5 to 8 priority sites will have conceptual designs and cost estimates developed in order to apply for future stream/habitat restoration grant funding.

The project inventory will be incorporated into the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan as an update, and into the Cuyahoga AOC report for delisting impairments in the Area of Concern, of which Euclid Creek is a part. Grant funding for restoration and project planning is not a common funding source, so we are very grateful to Ohio EPA for offering this innovative funding to help get projects ready for grant proposals.

Watershed Council Update

The Euclid Creek Watershed Council, established in 2001, is made up of nine Euclid Creek Watershed communities working collaboratively to address storm water and water quality issues. Council members adopted bylaws in 2004 and are implementing the 2006 OEPA- and ODNR-endorsed Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan. The Watershed Council has several committees focused on education and outreach, technical storm water issues and volunteer monitoring. The Council, in partnership with the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, ensure that all work plan projects are in line with the Council's mission and Watershed Action Plan goals.

Congratulations are in order for Chris Vild, who was voted to serve as the 2015 Watershed Council Chair for the 2nd year in a row. Chris Vild of the City of Beachwood's Service Department is Mayor Gorden's appointee to the Council. And congratulations to Richmond Heights' Mayor Roche who was appointed Vice Chair. A big thank you is in order for Rick Glady, Lyndhurst Service Director, who served as Vice Chair for the past three years. We are excited for another great year with Chris leading the Watershed Council.

2015 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sun, Apr 19, 10:00am-5:00pm

Mon, Apr 20, 6:30-8:00pm

Fri, Apr 24, 6:00-8:30pm

Sat, May 16, 10:00am-noon

Sun, May 24, 10:00am-4:00pm

Sat, May 30, 9:30-11:00am

Wed, Jun 10, 6:30-8:30pm

Thur, Jul 9, 8:00-9:30am

Sat, Jul 18, 9:00am-2:30pm

1st Tue of Month, 7:00pm

EarthFest 2015, Cuyahoga Co Fairgrounds—Celebrate *Year of Clean Water* & visit our Watershed table*

Rain Barrel Workshop, Beachwood Community Center - registration required by April 15*

FOEC Spring Celebration, Acacia Reservation - RSVP by April 15 (details on p. 2)

Wildwood Park Spring Cleanup Day, Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park, Cleveland*

Native Plant Sale, Cleve Metroparks North Chagrin Nature Center-details at clevelandmetroparks.com

Rain Barrel Workshop, Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst - registration required by May 25*

Restoring the Pulse w/ Euclid Eco-Greenways, Euclid Library—Roy Larick program (bluestoneheights.org)

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Richmond Heights*

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, Acacia and Euclid Creek Reservations (more details on p. 4)*

Friends of Euclid Creek monthly meetings, details on page 2.

Other groups doing great work in the watershed include the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team, Bluestone Heights, Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural & Arts Assn., Highland Heights Green Task Force, and the Cleve. Metroparks Watershed Volunteer Program.

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

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

The Euclid Creek watershed is hinting at a warming trend. The creek is flowing fast and furious from the last of the winter snowmelt. The sun and blue sky have broken through the clouds, daylight is lasting longer, buds are appearing on the trees, and red-wing blackbirds and robins have returned from their winter jaunts. SPRING IS ARRIVING in EUCLID CREEK!

As we delight in these seasonal changes, Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) is hosting an elegant fundraiser event, "Spring Celebration," on Friday, April 24, 2015.

Shortly after the new fiscal year started, the Board identified four areas that needed special focus for the upcoming year:

1. Prepare for the disappearance of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant that supports portion of funding for our local Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius.
2. Increase our local scholarship program and educational outreach.
3. Replace the reserves in the conservation fund that were reduced through stewardship of the newly protected Bishop / Hawthorne property.
4. Increase membership and Board development.

It is with much enthusiasm that we look forward with our members, neighbors, and the community at large, as we show our support for the Euclid Creek watershed by attending the "Spring Celebration," and/or making a donation to Friends of Euclid Creek. The proceeds from the event will benefit the FOEC Land Conservation Fund, and our watershed education and outreach efforts.

"Spring Celebration" is being held at Dino's in Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation on Friday, April 24 at 6:00 PM. The event includes a reception, dinner, and talk by Chris Ronayne, Celebrity and Executive Director of University Circle, Inc. (UCI), entitled: "The Complete Neighborhood". Chris will share with us the elements of success in UCI and challenge us to be involved in creative planning for redevelopment of our urban communities.

Please join us for a stimulating talk, food, drink, and music by Jimmy Maguire, all while enjoying a beautiful view at Acacia Reservation. We hope to see you there, along with new faces at our "Spring Celebration."



Single tickets for dinner:
\$100 or \$85 for FOEC members

Tables are:
\$750 (8 seats), half tables \$375

Tickets can be purchased online at
www.euclidcreekwatershed.org or
mail your payment or donation to:

Friends of Euclid Creek
PO Box 21384, South Euclid, Ohio 44121
(make checks payable to 'Friends of Euclid Creek').

Please RSVP by April 15th and if questions,
please call 216-381-8433.

Upcoming FOEC Meetings / Activities

May 5 @ 7:00 p.m., Acacia Reservation - Join us for a walk outside as we take in the sights and sounds of spring. We will offer an indoor program in the event of rain.

June 2 @ 6:30 p.m., Euclid Creek Reservation - Our annual meeting and picnic is at Rear Quarry Reservable Picnic Area. Bring a dish to share and your table setting. Beverage and pizza provided.

July 18 from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek—Acacia and Euclid Creek Reservations - Celebrate the Year of Clean Water by taking part in "A Day In The Life Of Euclid Creek". More details on page 4.

August 5 @ 6:30 p.m., Midsummer's Night Social at the creek—Greenwood Farm, Richmond Hts. - A joint meeting of the FOEC, Highland Heights Green Task Force and Greenwood Farm. Join us for a tour of the farm on Euclid Creek and learn about trees from Chad Clink, Community Forester with the Holden Arboretum.

*Please confirm upcoming meetings on our website or facebook page (web addresses on back page)
as meeting times/locations can change.*

A Call To Action

“Volunteers are paid in six figures, SMILES.” Anonymous

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” Anonymous

Friends of Euclid Creek has several urgent needs for volunteers and we could really use your help. Please consider serving your community and Euclid Creek by helping out in the watershed.



1. Help with a tree/shrub distribution event at the Lyndhurst Service Department. Volunteers are needed to help sort and label seedlings, prepare deer protection fencing and distribute plants to enrollees.
Two dates available:
 Thursday, April 30, any time between 11am-8pm or
 Saturday, May 2, from 8:30-11:30am
If interested, contact Claire Posius at 216-524-6580 x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org
2. Water Quality Monitoring:
We have monitored five sites along Euclid Creek since 2006, and this data helps us understand water quality trends and potential problems. Training is provided. To learn more about our water chemistry monitoring program visit the website.
3. Don't enjoy physical labor outdoors? Consider joining the Friends of Euclid Creek Board of Directors. The Board has legal and leadership responsibilities for the organization. The Board manages and leads with their hands, minds, and spirits. Due to terms expiring, we are looking to fill 3-4 open spots, and potentially the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. These are two-year terms, and we meet 12 times in a year. Attending 9 meetings in one year is required. Additionally, the Board member will be asked to become an FOEC member and chair one committee.
4. Educational Outreach:
We are looking for folks to help us staff the Friends of Euclid Creek tables at watershed events this summer at local community events. This includes those people interested in guiding a children's activity.

Interested? Questions? Need More Information?

Please contact Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580, ext. 16 or email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or Christi Carlson, President of Friends of Euclid Creek at 216-509-3324 or friendsofeuclidcreek@gmail.com.

Who Lives In The Watershed? by Barb Holtz



The sight of a white-tailed deer can bring a smile to your face or a feeling of disdain. There seems to be a love-hate relationship with deer these days. The majestic stance of an eight point buck or speckled back of a wobbly-legged fawn may elicit “oos and ahs” while nibbled garden plants and herds crossing the road bring other expletives to mind.

Whatever side of the deer fence you fall on, these large animals are here to stay. So take a moment to enter their lives. What do you see?

- Take note of the many cycles whitetails display from antler sprout to bucks rubbing off the velvety cover, from spotted fawn fur to adolescent to adult coat.
- Consider the doe who has carried her young, usually twins, over this past bitter cold, snow-laden winter.
- Delight in the defenseless fawn, bedded down by its mother, instinctively trusting that she will return to offer milk and safely move the family to another locale.
- Watch for the flash of the “white flag” as herds jump effortlessly over fence and fallen log.



Next time a whitetail graces your yard, don't focus on what they are going to take, but instead consider how your lives overlap. Backyard to you = habitat to them. Fences and property lines have never been part of the natural world. For me, deer are reminders of this lesson. I revel in nature's teaching's and enjoy the show!

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek

Join us for our 2nd Annual *Day in the Life of Euclid Creek* on Saturday, July 18 from 9:00am-2:30pm at Acacia and Euclid Creek Reservations. We will take a snapshot of Euclid Creek starting in Acacia Reservation and ending at Wildwood Park in Euclid Creek Reservation, to see how the creek has changed since last year's event.

Demonstrations related to water quality sampling, macroinvertebrates and fish will be given by natural resources staff, education specialists and volunteers. Join us at just one location or the entire day as we follow the creek from its headwaters to Lake Erie. Ages: adults, 12-17 years with adult. Registration required: 440-887-1968 or clevelandmetroparks.com.



2015—The Year of Clean Water

If you've seen this logo around town, it's part of Sustainable Cleveland 2019, encouraging all of us to celebrate 2015 as the Year of Clean Water. Increasing awareness of our abundant water resources and protecting them for future generations is the goal. Sustainable Cleveland 2019 is a 10-year initiative that encourages everyone to work together to design and develop a thriving and resilient Cleveland that leverages its wealth of assets to build economic, social and environmental well-being for all.

In the past, Sustainable Cleveland has focused on Energy Efficiency, Local Food, Renewable Resources and Advanced Energy, Zero Waste, and this year's theme of Clean Water. There are many ways for YOU to get involved in the Year of Clean Water throughout the region and in Euclid Creek.



- ◇ If you don't live in Euclid Creek, learn what watershed you live in and how you can help to protect it.
- ◇ Put nothing but rain down the storm drain!! Storm drains go directly to our waterways untreated.
- ◇ Install a rain barrel or rain garden. Keep your storm water on your property.
- ◇ Plant native plants. Their long root systems soak up water, prevent erosion and are habitat for animals.
- ◇ Maintain your car – fix oil and gas leaks. Oil and gas are washed away into our storm drains untreated.
- ◇ Pick up pet waste. Bacteria like E.coli is present in dog waste and is washed into our waterways.
- ◇ Plant trees along streams to prevent erosion. Sedimentation is a serious pollutant in our waterways.
- ◇ Fertilize less or not at all. Learn what your yard and gardens need by doing a soil test.

Learn more at the Sustainable Cleveland 2019 website – www.sustainablecleveland.org. We are all a part of clean water!!!

Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

Two Green Infrastructure Projects At Work in South Euclid and Mayfield

Last summer, two more demonstration projects were constructed in Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities. The City of South Euclid and Mayfield Village installed green infrastructure to reduce storm water runoff and improve water quality, and both projects were funded through Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF).

The City of South Euclid was awarded \$144,665 to modify a portion of the aging parking lot, sidewalk and entrance in the rear parking lot of City Hall with 6,924 square feet of pervious concrete brick pavers. Runoff from City Hall goes to the Main Branch of Euclid Creek, and this project will improve storm water infiltration, visual appeal and water quality in Euclid Creek.

Mayfield Village was awarded \$126,500 to treat storm water runoff from ~20,000 square feet of impervious asphalt parking lot at the Mayfield Village Civic Center. ~7,100 square feet of permeable pavement was installed over the summer, helping water quality in Beecher's Brook, a Chagrin River tributary. This project also helped delineate traffic flow to improve safety in the lot, and added a crosswalk to allow for future connectivity to the Village's greenway.

Make sure to thank South Euclid and Mayfield Village officials for taking the lead in improving our local water quality.



South Euclid rear parking lot before (far left) and after (near left) photos



Mayfield Village Civic Center parking lot before (near right photo) and after (far right) photos.

Cleveland Metroparks Projects Improving the Euclid Creek Watershed

Wildwood Park Update—Bridge Over Euclid Creek Under Construction

Construction has started on a bridge over Euclid Creek at the lakefront Cleveland Metroparks (CMP) Euclid Creek Reservation. The bridge will connect Wildwood Park and Villa Angela Beach directly and the path will become a part of the Lakefront Trail. The bridge is scheduled to be complete this summer. This project is ~ 20' downstream of the pocket wetland installed in 2013 through the Lacustrine Wetland and Stream Restoration project and will not impact restoration efforts that established wetland habitat.



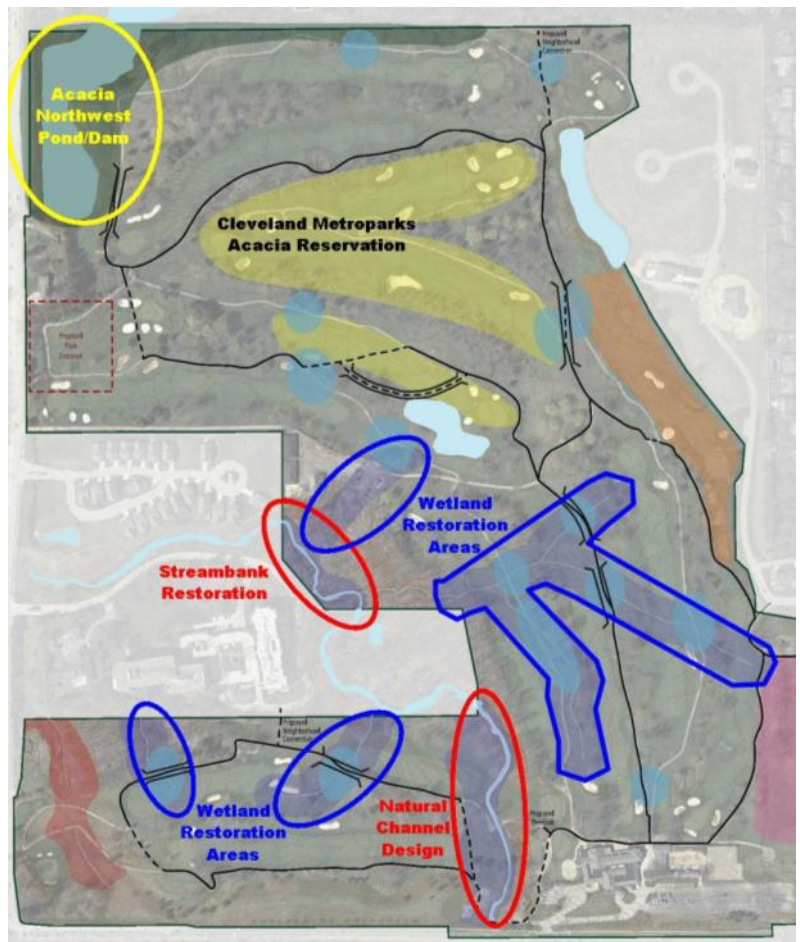
Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan - Euclid Creek Reservation Connector Trail update

A trail planned to connect the Euclid Creek Reservation with Wildwood Park, a part of the 2006 Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan, is moving forward. Partners from Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland and City of Euclid are discussing alignments for the on and off-road trail connecting the two parks. Cleveland Metroparks is planning a spring public meeting in the neighborhood to get feedback on the updated proposed routes. Keep an eye on the Euclid Creek website for announcements of the public meeting.

Acacia Reservation Restoration Updates

Funding for Design/Engineering Work for Acacia Pond

The Park District was awarded a \$16,500 Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Park and City of Lyndhurst plan to restore Euclid Creek at Acacia's Northwest Pond (area circled in yellow on map). A major recommendation in the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan is to evaluate all dams in the watershed for removal, as dams have an adverse effect on the health of the watershed. This dam, located in the northwest corner of Acacia Reservation along Richmond Road, was constructed to serve as golf course irrigation in the 1960's by the City of Lyndhurst when Richmond Road was under construction. Next steps are for project partners to decommission the dam, an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Class III dam, to reduce the impounded water level and create vegetated wetland swales. Providing wetland habitat will greatly benefit terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in and around the park, and additional storm water infiltration and storage capacity will greatly benefit the downstream community by reducing runoff volume in storm events.



Projects Funded for Restoration — by Kristen Trollo, Grants & Outreach Coordinator at Cleveland Metroparks

Several other exciting projects are underway at Cleveland Metroparks Acacia Reservation. The Park District has officially been awarded just over \$2M in funds under two Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs: Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) and Section 319(h). Both grants will fund restoration of the main stem of Euclid Creek and associated floodplain (areas in red on the map), and wetland areas (blue on map) in the southern portion of Acacia. The design and engineering plans will be completed this year and construction will begin in 2016.

Cleveland Metroparks has also been awarded funds from the Charles L. Pack Trust to complete a reforestation and research project at the eastern edge of the Reservation on the site of the former driving range. Park District staff will plant trees and study the effects of different soil treatments on the vitality and reproductive health of the trees. The results will be beneficial not only to the restoration at Acacia Reservation, but to other urban restoration projects as well.

For more information on Euclid Creek Reservation or Acacia Reservation, please visit www.clevelandmetroparks.com.

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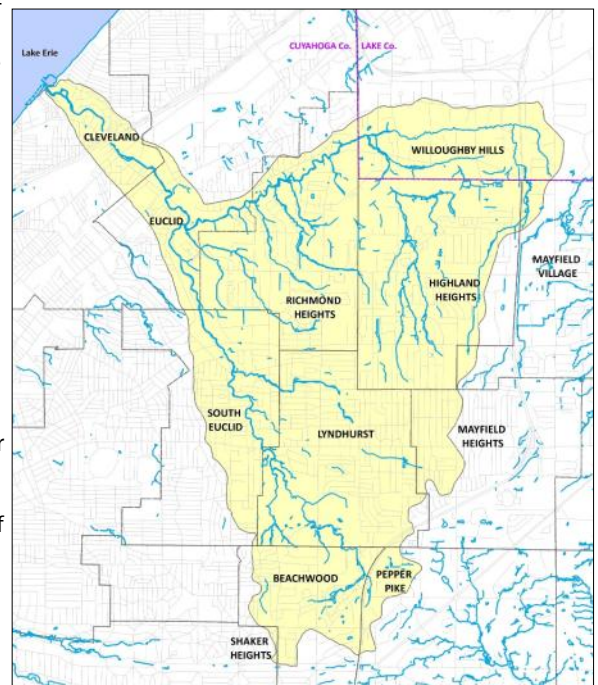
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What is a Watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a single river, stream or lake. Because the actions we take on land directly affect the quality of our rivers and streams, it is important to take the entire watershed into consideration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