

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Reservation by Jim Lawless

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, or [click here for direct link](#).

or contact: Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator (contact info on back of newsletter)



First Euclid Creek Watershed Summit Recap

On November 12, Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners came together to celebrate the successes of the program over the past fourteen years. This meeting was the first of its kind in gathering all watershed communities, watershed council members, Friends of Euclid Creek members, and partner agency representatives in one room to meet and greet and to learn more about how each facet of the program works to create the whole Watershed Program.

For years each committee has met separately, so Chris Vild, Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC) Chair representing Beachwood and Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, decided to try out the Summit idea to get everyone together. Attendees were excited to see all of the work being done in the watershed and agreed that a Watershed Summit should continue annually to keep the discussions and momentum going. Key members of the program discussed their agency, group or committee's role in the program.

The meeting consisted of an overview of the program and water quality issues by Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator from Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Next, Jan Rybka, SWCD District Administrator, discussed how the program began and how SWCD came to host the Watershed Coordinator position. Next, Chris Vild discussed the Watershed Council history and its Committees: the Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE) Committee, the Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee (ECVMP) and the Technical Committee. Lou Rifici of Tri-C-Eastern Campus and Manager of the ECVMP talked about the program history and structure and the crucial role volunteers play in monitoring Euclid Creek and watching its condition on a regular basis. Friends of Euclid Creek's President Christi Carlson discussed the history and highlights of the nonprofit watershed group and Dr. Roy Larick discussed an exciting initiative in Euclid and Cleveland focusing on the Bluestone Heights watersheds that surround and include Euclid Creek. (To see the full presentation, click [here](#).)

Highlights from the evening include Ms. Posius' summary of outreach and watershed implementation project highlights, from dam removals to stream restoration projects, land preservation wins, and green infrastructure projects being implemented in ECWC communities to reduce storm water volume and improve water quality. Perhaps the most potent presentation was by Bill Zawiski of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency who discussed a Euclid Creek water quality survey conducted this past summer. While not final results, initial findings show that water quality in Euclid Creek overall appears fairly good for an urban watershed. They found bacteria issues and elevated conductivity, chlorides and total dissolved solids, likely as result of road salt use. Lastly, fish populations were not meeting Ohio EPA standards. Ohio EPA plans to continue sampling in 2016 to investigate problem areas further. To see a full recount of the evening please go to the website Blog.



Program Partners



Chris Vild and Mayor Gorden



Program Partners and Mayor Roche (2nd from right)



Program Partners and Councilman Fiorelli (2nd from left)

2015 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Feb 12, 9:00-11:00am

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting, Richmond Heights*

Mar 24, 8:00-9:30am

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Location TBD*

May 14, 10:00am-noon

Wildwood & Euclid Beach Cleanup Day, Euclid Creek Reservation, Cleve.*

Jul 16, 9:00am-2:30pm

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, Acacia and Euclid Creek Reservations*

Next Mtg. Mar 1

Friends of Euclid Creek meetings (**NEW SCHEDULE**), details on page 3

Visit the [Euclid Creek Website](#) to see upcoming workshops, hikes, and more!

*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for event details (website and contact on back page)

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

Friends of Euclid Creek has offered some very exciting programming since we began our new Fiscal Year Period on July 1st. We were outside in the watershed at every opportunity, starting with the second annual, "Day in the Life of Euclid Creek" in July. The second annual joint meeting with the Highland Heights Green Task Force at Greenwood Farms included a hike led by Chad Clink, Urban Forester at Holden Arboretum, who spoke about the benefits of trees. Lynn Garrity, former Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, took us on a wildflower walk at the Dusty Goldenrod meadow and we saw many unique plants, such as the state endangered Dusty Goldenrod. The Nottingham Water Treatment Facility tour, led by Alex Margevicius, showed how coal and sand were being used in the filtration process.

An exciting highlight of this past summer is that we were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Cleveland Waterfront Coalition. Projects considered for this funding are a watershed brochure update, marketing postcards and other materials to be used at our community events. We are planning to name all of the unnamed streams and brooks within the watershed. Street signage will highlight the tributaries.

Two individuals and one organization were recognized recently at the Holiday Party for their service to Friends of Euclid Creek over the years.

The **Tom Jenkins Award** went to Jeanette Evans for her 6 plus years serving as Secretary on the Board of Directors. Jeanette has been FOEC's sole presence on the web since 2009. She developed our Annual Scholarship Program, and we have awarded two \$1,000 scholarships for two years in a row.

The **Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to Ginny Aveni, who served as our Fundraiser Chair. Her tireless work and effort on our major fundraiser, "Spring Celebration," is why we reached our goals for the event.

Friends of Euclid Creek has received funding over the last seven years from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), which is why they were chosen as this year's **Community Partner**. Through their financial support, FOEC has initiated and implemented programming in an effort to improve water quality in the Euclid Creek Watershed. Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Deputy Director of the Watersheds Program, and Jeff Jowett, Watershed Team Leader for the Euclid Creek area, were on hand to accept the award.

These individuals have contributed many hours of volunteer time over the past 15 years, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) has provided much needed funding for the implementation of clean water programs. As we head into the new year of 2016, please remember that it requires both financial donations and volunteer service to achieve our mission *to raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek Watershed*. Please consider helping the Board through volunteer service. Maybe "You" can be the next Tom Jenkins winner.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we are making some important changes in 2016. Wintertime poses a hardship for many of our members in attending the monthly meetings. Therefore we will forego the meetings in January and February, and reconvene again in March. Our March program will be Sarah Orlando, an Ohio Sea Grant Extension Educator and Outreach Coordinator for the ODNR Office of Coastal Management. This meeting will focus on the harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie. In April, we will hear from Terri-Lyn Nagao, Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist with the US Department of Agriculture. She is preparing a talk on invasive species and their effect on the environment as well as the economic impact from a government point of view.

Lastly, 2016 will include a series of events to highlight and celebrate a decade and a half of citizen action in our watershed. These events commemorate the first FOEC watershed event held in September of 2001. Be assured that Friends of Euclid Creek will also have an even more visible presence in the watershed. We look forward to having you join us out there!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and your family.

Fifteen Years and Counting...Celebrate With Us!

On September 29, 2001, the newly formed Friends of Euclid Creek held its first watershed event, introducing itself to communities in the watershed. Let's celebrate fifteen years of citizens protecting and enjoying our beautiful watershed.

Throughout 2016, you are invited to take part in many special activities to mark this anniversary year.

Hope you can join us for one or more. Check out the website or future newsletters for more information.



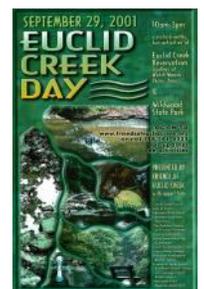
Jeanette Evans, Tom Jenkins awardee (right)



Virginia Aveni, Volunteer of the Year awardee



Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells (center) and Jeff Jowett (right) accept NEORS Community Partner Award presented by Christi Carlson (left)



2001 Flyer for FOEC's First Watershed Festival!

Funding Our Future—Scholarship Application Open

Each year, Friends of Euclid Creek strives to support a college-bound high school senior or current college student pursuing a degree in environmental studies. We award one **\$1000 scholarship** to be used for educational purposes. Applicants are evaluated on their potential to contribute to the field of environmental studies

Eligibility: The applicant must not be a previous scholarship recipient and must be a high school senior or college student planning to pursue a degree or certificate in environmental studies. We prefer a student who attends or has attended a school located in Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid, Willoughby Hills, or Mayfield Village - the cities in the Euclid Creek watershed.



Application deadline: All application materials must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2016.

Questions: Direct questions to jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net.

To apply:

1. Provide a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or community member.
2. Submit a one- to two-page cover letter describing your career goals, past volunteer work related to environmental studies, and significant achievements to date. Follow proper letter format, include your name, address, telephone number, and email, and sign the letter before mailing.
3. Send completed items to Friends of Euclid Creek, P.O. Box 21384, Euclid, Ohio 44121 unless agreed upon otherwise via email.
4. Complete an interview with members of the Friends of Euclid Creek when invited.

Who Lives In The Watershed? by Barb Holtz



Opossum Photo—Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife

Recently, an FOEC member shared that she has a family of opossums living in her backyard. She requested a highlight for these “face only a mother could love” creatures. Changed little in the last 70 million years, these critters appear prehistoric for good reason.

Opossums were probably few and far between before European settlement but once the forest was opened for farming, that all changed. Now, opossums are found throughout the state. If they're so plentiful, then why don't you see them? They're nocturnal and extremely adaptable. Opossums den up in abandoned homes of other animals or manmade structures and are omnivores, eating just about anything.

Opossums have a list of remarkable features: They are the only U.S. marsupial (young are born into and carried in a pouch by the female), can play dead when threatened, have prehensile tails, and opposable toes for climbing.

Opossums may not be the poster children for wildlife beauty, but their talents make up for it. A “star” in the Euclid Creek watershed!

Upcoming FOEC Meetings / Activities

January and February - No meeting (NEW this year, we will only have nine regular meetings)

March 1 @ 7:00 pm - Acacia Reservation - Nonpoint Source Pollution, Lake Erie, and You! Sarah Orlando, from Ohio Sea Grant Extension, shares factors that put Lake Erie health at risk and how we can be part of the solution.

April 5 @ 7:00 pm - Acacia Reservation - Terri-Lyn Nagao, Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture, will speak on invasive species from USDA point of view as well as other agricultural pressures on our water resources.

Please confirm upcoming meetings and details on our [website](#) or [facebook page](#) (web addresses on back page)

Eagle Scout Candidate Installs Rain Garden at Euclid City Hall

In the spring of 2015, Euclid Boy Scout Troop 161 Eagle Scout Candidate Daniel Gale installed a 250 square foot rain garden in a parking lot median at Euclid City Hall. Daniel coordinated all of the details for installing this rain garden, including recruiting fellow scouts and family to install it and in getting all of the native plants, soil and mulch ordered before the planting. The City of Euclid assisted by cutting out two curb cuts in the median to allow rainwater to enter the garden in large rain events. And Cuyahoga SWCD provided technical guidance and designed the educational signage near the garden.

This rain garden serves as a demonstration project to showcase the storm water retention practice to Euclid residents and homeowners. A rain garden is an attractive landscape feature with perennial native plants which don't mind getting "wet feet." Built in a saucer shape, rain gardens are designed to increase infiltration, allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Native plants assist by soaking up water and nutrients while further enhancing infiltration by breaking up the soil with their roots, which can grow as deep as 15 feet. To learn more about rain gardens, native plants or how to install one in your yard, either go to our website or contact Cuyahoga SWCD directly (contact information on back page of newsletter).



Median before installation (left photo); soil excavation to install more infiltrative soil (center); and completed rain garden (right)

Beachwood High School Students Acacia Monitoring, *Lisa Bugenske, Science Teacher*

Beachwood's AP Environmental science class is getting some real-world experience and partnering with Cleveland Metroparks. Because it is designed to be a course in environmental science rather than environmental studies, the AP Environmental Science course must include a strong laboratory and field investigation component. In order to give students an exemplary experience, the Metroparks are working with us at Acacia Reservation bordering the City of Beachwood. This site makes sense for us to study, as part of the Euclid Creek watershed is in Beachwood and because environmental restoration efforts are underway to return it from a golf course to a more natural state. Students will be able to see real restoration efforts taking place at a location near to their homes.

As of November, students have taken two of five field trips to the site. They are using monitoring equipment borrowed from Tri-C to evaluate the water quality of tributaries to Euclid Creek which eventually drains to Lake Erie. Monitoring can be conducted for many purposes including 1) characterize waters and identify changes or trends in water quality over time; 2) identify specific existing or emerging water quality problems; 3) gather information to design specific pollution prevention or remediation programs. For now, students are collecting data that they will later use to evaluate the quality of the stream. Metroparks' staff is interested particularly in the conductivity levels of the site and the impacts from parking lots and road salt. Students will also do a macroinvertebrate study as a way to assess water quality, by understanding what key species of stream "critters" find a home in Acacia. Our last visit showed that the stream at the headwaters of the reservation is in fair condition, not surprising since this site is surrounding by heavy traffic, housing and large commercial sites.

In addition to these monitoring activities, each visit includes applying concepts they are learning about in class. For example, on our last trip we looked for examples of human disturbance and explained the consequences to the site. Our next field trip will look at understanding soils and observing and predicting the succession process that will be taking place naturally as the golf course is no longer maintained. As the Metroparks ramps up its restoration efforts over the next year, students hope to be involved in rebuilding riparian borders along the creek, monitoring restoration efforts, and looking for ways to engage the public educationally. Students will also gain an appreciation and a responsibility for how they can both impact and maintain the environment in their region.



Beachwood High School students monitoring Euclid Creek at Acacia Reservation



More Scout News in the Watershed



Lyndhurst Boy Scouts David Horrigan (left) and Charlie Cole (right) install a Rain Barrel at Greenwood Farm in Richmond Heights.

Over the past two years, Lyndhurst Boy Scout Troop 424 has been working hard at Greenwood Farm in Richmond Heights. This protected property on the East Branch of Euclid Creek is a real natural resource gem.

The troop has installed a walkway down to the creek and helped with many small projects including installing this rain barrel to collect water from a portion of the barn roof for irrigating surrounding gardens.

Many thanks are in order for this hardworking troop!

Hold the Salt!

Did you know? Excess salt applied to icy sidewalks and roads negatively impacts the health of streams, rivers, pets and your lawn.

Reduce your negative impact on Euclid Creek and give your lawn and our watersheds the gift of good health this year by choosing an alternative to salt, such as shoveling a little more and using sand for traction. Your lawn, your pets, and our creeks will thank you!



Help us Name Unnamed Euclid Creek Tributaries!

Euclid Creek is fortunate to have many small streams remaining that feed into the larger Main Branch and East Branch of the creek that travel to Lake Erie. These often overlooked smaller streams are an important part of the watershed, as they are sensitive ecosystems called Headwater Streams (where streams begin). These tributaries typically do not have a name associated with them and tend to be forgotten as part of the larger watershed system.

Giving a name to a stream, run or ditch, no matter how small, gives it an identity and raises awareness and concern about protecting our vital natural resources. Even if portions of a stream are underground, giving it a name offers hope that some day it could be daylighted, restored and brought back to the surface.

In 2008, Richmond Heights named four Euclid Creek tributaries to the East Branch that run through the City. Each stream was named either after an important family in the City's history (Claribel Creek, Stevenson Brook and Verbsky Creek) or after a natural feature on the land, such as Redstone Run, referring to the streams reddish sandstone from the Devonian Berea formation that was quarried extensively in the late 1800's.

A history and natural resource enthusiast from Lyndhurst, Charles Sawyer, is currently researching the history and natural resources associated with the remaining unnamed streams in Euclid Creek (tributaries in red on the map to the right). Mr. Sawyer, working with the watershed coordinator, plans to hold several public meetings in the watershed to suggest names and to get feedback from residents. Top names will then be vetted with each Watershed Community and City Council to get their backing for new names to be proposed.

Official naming of a stream is conducted through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on their topographic maps. Richmond Heights proposed four streams to name in order to identify and promote conservation efforts of these streams and all were unanimously approved by the USGS Board of Geographic Names. Information and procedures can be found at the following website: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/faqs.htm>.

But we need your help! Do you have a name for your backyard tributary, do you have a suggestion, or have you heard of anecdotal names for unnamed Euclid Creek tributaries that you could share with us? If so, please call or email the watershed coordinator (contact info on back page of newsletter).

Weekly Blogs

For over a year, Cuyahoga SWCD staff and FOEC members have been writing weekly articles, or blogs, about all topics conservation—from tree planting advice to seasonal green landscaping tips to technical storm water and backyard stream maintenance topics—it's always a great weekly read. So go to our website (www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org), click on the 'Blog' tab and get caught up on riveting conservation topics. And feel free to send us suggestions for future Blogs!



The Euclid Creek tributaries in red are unnamed...do you have an anecdotal name for a tributary shown above?

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
Mayfield Village	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**; Chris Vild - **Vice President**; Jeanette Evans - **Secretary**; Ken Messinger-Rapport - **Treasurer**; and **Directors:** Gary Bloom, Brian Gilbert and Barb Holtz.

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/time

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
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125
216-524-6580 x16 office
216-524-6584 fax
cposius@cuyahogawcd.org



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.

Printed on

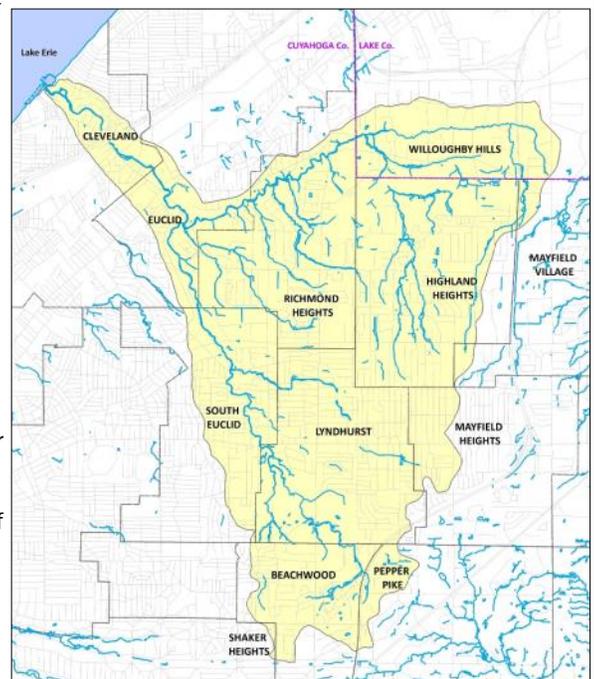


Recycled Paper

Newsletter printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through its Watershed Grants Program.

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.



Map of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

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!