

Issue 36

Spring 2016

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.

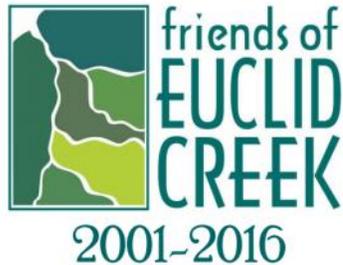
Wildwood Park Spring Cleanup

Saturday, May 14 10:00am-noon
Wildwood Park, Cleveland
E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

Volunteers needed to help with restoration activities at wetland and rain garden.

*Details/Registration on website**

15 Years of Friends of Euclid Creek—Celebrate with Us!



For 15 years, Friends of Euclid Creek has shared the message of clean water and healthy habitat for people and wildlife in the watershed. Throughout 2016, you are invited to take part in many special activities to mark this anniversary year.

Fifteen Miles with Friends

Join us to explore the beauty and diversity of Euclid Creek as we walk 15 total miles throughout the watershed...(continued on page 3)

Habitat Restoration Planning Grant Update

In 2015, Cuyahoga SWCD was awarded a nearly \$50,000 Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Restoration Project Planning grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

With this important funding, we have created a habitat restoration inventory for the watershed, a list of prioritized sites for habitat restoration with input from community stakeholders and program partners. The top three sites selected are the Mayfield Sand Ridge's Golf Course in Lyndhurst, the Cleveland Clinic—Lyndhurst Campus, and the Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation in Willoughby Hills.

In February, Cuyahoga SWCD hired Biohabitats Inc., a local ecological restoration consultant, to develop concept plans and cost estimates for the top three sites, which includes restoration work between 500-1,400 linear feet of stream at each site to improve habitat and reconnect the stream with its floodplain. The concepts and cost estimates were completed at the end of March and are critical in applying for restoration grants to implement these projects.

2016 Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Sun, Apr 17, 10:00am-5:00pm
- Sat, Apr 30, 11:00am-6:00pm
- Tue, May 3, 6:30-8:30pm
- Sat., May 7, 9:00am-noon
- Tue, May 10, 6:00-7:00pm
- May 7 & 8, 10:00am-4:00pm
- Sat, May 14, 10:00am-noon
- Wed, May 25, 6:30-8:30pm
- Sat, June 4, 9:30-11:00am
- Tue, June 7, 6:30-8:30pm
- Sat, Jul 16, 9:00am-2:30pm

- EarthFest 2016, Cuyahoga Co Fairgrounds—visit our Watershed table*
- Entrovation CLE, Beachwood High School, expo showcasing entrepreneurs—visit our Watershed table*
- FOEC 15 Yr. Anniversary Hike at Euclid Creek Reservation, Meet at Highland Picnic area - 2.5 mile hike
- Cleanup Collinwood (+Storm Drain Stenciling Activity), Meet at Collinwood Recreation Center, RSVP*
- Shrink Your Lawn-Landscaping with Native Plants program, Rocky River Civic Center, RSVP*
- Native Plant Sale, Cleve. Metroparks North Chagrin Nature Center—details at clevelandmetroparks.com
- Wildwood Park Spring Cleanup Day, Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park, Cleveland, please RSVP*
- Rain Barrel Workshop & Compost Seminar, Beachwood Community Center - Register by May 20*
- Rain Barrel Workshop, Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst - Register by May 30*
- FOEC Annual Picnic and Elections, Location TBD (check website)
- A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, Acacia, Greenwood Farm and Wildwood Park*
- Friends of Euclid Creek meetings/hikes, details on page 3.

*To register or for questions 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*

As Friends of Euclid Creek prepares to celebrate the organization's 15-year anniversary, I pause and reflect on the work that has been done by this (all-volunteer) organization. Listed, are some of the activities we are involved in:

- ◆ Participate in community events by staffing education tables
- ◆ Educate the community about watersheds, and watershed issues
- ◆ Conduct water quality monitoring at key sites throughout the watershed
- ◆ Preserve and restore headwaters and riparian habitat in the watershed
- ◆ Hold monthly public meetings with speakers, with the goal to educate the community on environmental issues
- ◆ Clean-up trash and weeds in parks
- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs in the watershed
- ◆ Provide an annual environmental scholarship to a local student who lives in the watershed

FOEC does all of this, and so much more!

My term as President expires on June 30. It has been a fun two years. As I look in the backyard where I live, Stevenson's Brook, a tributary to Euclid Creek, is flowing with water, the birds are building nests, the raccoons have reappeared at the bird feeders, and the deer are chomping on the greenery and brush. I am reminded of why I joined FOEC and decided to volunteer my time to this great organization. Our natural world is alive! It is vibrant, full of life, and inspirational on so many levels.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you. Your passion is infectious! Thank you for sharing it with me, and allowing me to share mine.

The next 15-years holds so much promise for this organization. Increasing our visibility at city council meetings in the watershed would have the greatest impact. We are looking for new ways to motivate the general membership in volunteering their time for the organization. This is evident in the development and creation of a new committee structure. Two pending projects that will continue to the next fiscal year is the development of a management plan for the Dusty Goldenrod Meadow, and the redesign of our new brochure.

The health of Euclid Creek is vital to the health of Lake Erie, and we must do our part to ensure that our quality of life is improved. This organization is relevant to the local community and its passion is attributed to all of the caring and talented people who have chosen to participate in its' vitality and longevity. Happy 15th Birthday Friends of Euclid Creek and cheers to many more!

Watershed Wildlife, *by Barb Holtz*



Canada Goose Photo—Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife

I have a love/hate relationship with Canada geese (never called "Canadian" geese). Early in my career I was tasked with planting a large marsh. Every plug I dug in or seed that sprouted was munched by these feathered grazers. Much to my chagrin, I spent more time goose-proofing than planting.

But spring softens my heart toward geese as I watch males get their "crabby on" in defense of their mates. Goose moms choose their nest spot, knowing their doting gander is nearby. Even if the nesting site seems out of the ordinary to us (i.e., parking lot island), the pair are inseparable.

Then come the goslings along about Mother's Day on our human calendar. Packed tight under mother's wing, surrounded by down plucked from her breast, she sits for safety from weather and predator. When feeding, they travel as a team with one parent to lead and one the sweep behind.

Those geese...despite droppings and car-stopping strolls across streets, they remind me of ties that bind. They remind each spring of nature's many lessons.



Signs of Spring, by Barb Holtz

As the first warm days of spring tease us to spend time outdoors, we relish in robin song and crocus bloom. Even the air smells better as if Mother Nature has a new perfume. With so many lovely things to enjoy, why is it at the first sign of winter’s break we power up the lawn maintenance machines and unleash lawn chemicals?

Even after a mild winter, we are all chomping at the bit to see our landscapes come to life. But, consider this before you fall into the same yard work routine:

1. **It’s too early to start manicuring.** That means mowing, digging, raking and blowing. Nature isn’t fully awake in northeast Ohio. Hold out until *at least* late April or early May.
2. Heard of Lake Erie algal blooms? **More fertilizers are dumped on lawns than agricultural fields.** Suburban yards are part of the problem. When you do mow, leave your grass clippings lie—they’re free fertilizer.
3. **Pesticides affect pollinators.** The bug you’re trying to smite isn’t the only victim. Without native pollinators to take flower to seed or fruit, humans and wildlife suffer food loss. Plants suffer reproductive loss.
4. **Pesticides and herbicides travel off our yards, into storm sewers and into Lake Erie.** These are not filtered out of our drinking water. Food for thought when you turn on the tap. (That doesn’t mean buy bottled water. Ecological impacts of that are just as great.)
5. The suburban lawn came on the American landscape scene after WWII. Isn’t time to change up the time, energy and funds we dump into turf grass? [See the bigger water health picture and let go of a resource guzzling lawn routine.](#)



Enjoy spring as the wake up, slow down season it is. Honor spring as a time of new life in an ancient cycle. Be part of spring not with “my yard” blinders on, but with a full view of what happens in our yards happens to the entire watershed. Spring—the perfect time to change our property care perspective!

15 Years of Friends – Celebrate with Us! (Continued from page 1)

Fifteen Miles with Friends

Join us to explore the beauty and diversity of Euclid Creek as we walk 15 total miles throughout the watershed (all hike details online at www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org).

May 3	6:30-8 pm	Highland Picnic Area, Euclid Creek Reservation	2.5 miles
Jun. 18	9:30-11 am	Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus	2.0 miles
Jul. 16	9am-2:30pm	A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek (see below)	1 mile
Aug. 2	7-8:30 pm	Acacia Reservation	2.5 miles
Sep. 6	6:30-8 pm	Wildwood parking lot	1.5 miles
Oct. 8	1-3 pm	Schaeffer Park area neighborhood walk	3 miles
Nov. 5	9:30-11 am	Acacia Reservation	2.5 miles

ANNIVERSARY EVENT in partnership with Cleveland Metroparks...

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek

July 16, 9am to 2:30pm

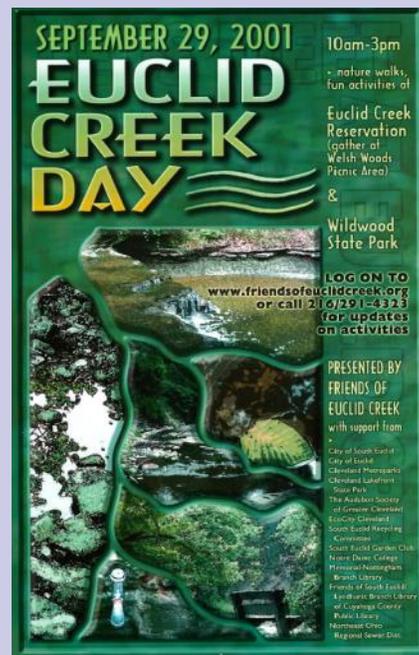
Travel to three different locations in the watershed to explore the landscape and biology of the creek from its headwaters to east branch to mouth on Lake Erie. Join us for all or part of the day.

Euclid Creek Watershed Summit

October 6, 5-7pm, Mayfield Village Community Room

This gathering brings together citizens, partners and city officials for a State of the Watershed-style event. Enjoy conversation and camaraderie as we learn about watershed research as well as how each one of us can make a difference to watershed health.

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

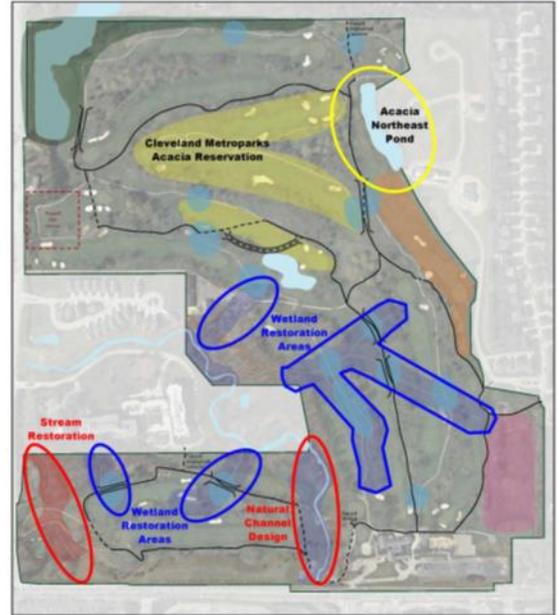


2001 Flyer for FOEC’s First Watershed Festival!

Acacia Reservation Update

Northeast Pond Restoration Plans Complete - In 2015 Cleveland Metroparks received a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through USEPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to explore ways to improve water quality associated with the northeast pond at Acacia Reservation Metroparks within the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Cleveland Metroparks hired Sustainable Streams to provide the designs (see location graphics to right, yellow circle area), which were presented to neighbors of Acacia at a community meeting on February 4, who also learned about basic pond management recommendations. The concept design proposes feathering out bank slopes to add wetland fringes to the pond as well as daylighting the stream at the outlet of the pond. The proposed modifications will provide water quality benefits by allowing water to seep through riffle structures and also soak into the ground rather than simply flowing through a storm sewer. The project will also improve hydrology by prolonging base flows and capturing peak storm events.



Tree study - Cleveland Metroparks is partnering with Case Western Reserve University to study soil and its impacts on the establishment of tree seedlings supporting restoration. The study also includes an experimental design that will allow for some analysis of how climate change may effect the vigor of plant stock from nurseries in other areas of the country. Most recent progress includes the installation of a 2 acre fence in the southeast corner of Acacia Reservation. The project is funded by the Charles Pack Trust.

Euclid Creek restoration, wetland establishment and stream daylighting - Biohabitats and Meadville Land Service were selected as the design-build team for this series of restoration projects at Acacia (see location map above, projects circled in red and blue are a part of this project). Ecological assessments and survey are complete and the team is fully engaged in design with an eye towards commencing project installation by fall 2016. The southwest corner of Acacia Reservation will likely be closed during project construction. The primary project funder is OEPA's Water Resources Restoration Sponsor Program with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as the local sponsor. Additional funding is provided by USFWS, OEPA Section 319 and The Conservation Fund.

Student engagement at Acacia - After participating in 2015's Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, Lisa Bugenske could not wait to get her Beachwood High School students involved in the transformation taking place at the newly acquired park. Lisa coordinated with Tri-C professor Lou Rifici on water quality monitoring protocol and borrowed equipment occasionally. Her class of A.P. Environmental Science students have documented Euclid Creek through water quality and photo documentation measurements every other month throughout the school year, including the frigid month of January! We look forward to seeing their compilation of data from the year.



What's all that water? - Last year Natural Resource (NR) Manager, Erik Shaffer, and other NR staff worked on reversing a couple of the most environmentally negative golf course legacies - unnatural drainage and greens. Golf courses typically have an extensive system of underground pipes to irrigate greens and tees, while then quickly shedding water off the landscape. Utilizing a mini-excavator, Erik broke these lines and then ripped, tilled and plowed the greens associated with these new wet areas with the intention to create wet meadows. These areas were subsequently seeded in March. We look forward to seeing a diversity of native grasses, sedges and perennials that attract and benefit an array of pollinators, while establishing deep root systems that will soak up more water than the previous fescue cover.



Sim's Park Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team Started in Euclid

The Sim's Park Adopt-a-Beach Team organized in 2015 through the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach program to organize local teams to clean up trash off of Lake Erie shores. The team is led by Anne Roberto, a FOEC member, and she has partnered with Cleveland State University's Student Environmental Movement (SEM), a growing group on campus who has enthusiastically helped in beach cleanup efforts.

Their first cleanup of 2016 is scheduled for April 17 from 10am-noon and they anticipate cleanups every other Sunday. Check their facebook page for cleanup updates (www.facebook.com/cleanupsimspark/).



CSU SEM at Sim's Park Beach (left) and 6 lbs of cigar tips (right)

Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

Watershed Council Update

At our first Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC) meeting of 2016, Chris Vild, was voted in to serve as the 2016 ECWC Chair for the 3rd year in a row. Chris Vild of the City of Beachwood's Service Department is Mayor Gorden's appointee to the Council. Richmond Heights' Mayor Roche who was appointed for a 2nd year to the Vice Chair role. We cannot thank Mr. Vild and Mayor Roche enough for their commitment to and support of the Watershed Program and for continuing in their leadership roles.

The Euclid Creek Watershed Council, established in 2001, is made up of nine Euclid Creek Watershed communities that work collaboratively to address stormwater and water quality issues. 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.

Regional Stormwater Management Program Back Up and Running

After a lull in the program due to a legal challenge that has been resolved, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS D's) Stormwater Management Program is back up and running. Managing stormwater at a regional scale is a necessity in protecting our natural resources, reducing streambank erosion and flooding, and decreasing pollutants in our waterways.

The stormwater fee is based on the amount of impervious (impenetrable surfaces like driveways and rooftops) surface on a property. You can view your property's impervious surface amount and fee at neorsd.org/FindMyFee. Credits are still available for residential and non-residential properties. You can find out more at the program website, www.neorsd.org/stormwaterprogram.php, or by calling NEORS D's Watershed Team leader for our Euclid Creek region, Jeff Jowett, who can be reached at 216-881-6600.

NEORS D is constructing projects in 2016 that will address flooding, streambank erosion and water quality issues. One of their first projects in the Euclid Creek Watershed is to repair concrete in a spillway near E. 185th Street and I-90. Large chunks of concrete from the walls of the spillway have been failing and breaking over time in large storms, threatening to damage culverts running under I-90. So this emergency work is important to the flow of Euclid Creek and surrounding infrastructure. This ~\$400,000 repair project is scheduled to start in late Spring. NEORS D is also putting together master plans for the watersheds in the NEORS D Service Area starting with the Cuyahoga River, then Rocky River, then Euclid Creek and the Lake Erie Direct Tributaries Master Plans will begin in 2018 into 2019.



Repair of concrete at the E. 185th Street Spillway is one of NEORS D's 'first out' emergency repair projects in 2016

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
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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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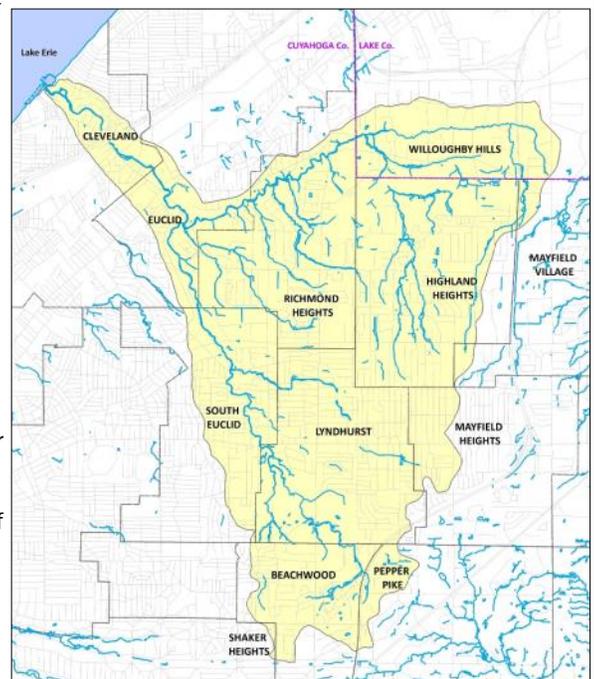


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Newsletter printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through its Watershed Grants Program.

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!