Bioretention Project at Wildwood Park

by Jenn Grisier, Cleveland Metroparks

With funding from US Environmental Protection Agency and City of Cleveland community cost share from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s Stormwater Management Program, a series of bioretention cells totaling over 9,000 sq. ft. were designed earlier this year. Project construction has commenced and will be completed after this fall’s planting season. Managed by Cleveland Metroparks, the team also includes OHM Advisors for design and F.Buddie Contracting for construction.

The bioretention cells will capture runoff from the expansive parking lots at Wildwood (see location map above), as well as enhancing native habitat for migrating pollinators and birds. At the advice of the project team, the Park District is testing the use of Haydite, an expanded shale, clay, and slate material. One bioretention area will have the typical biosoil, another area will have a combination of biosoil and Haydite and another area will have all Haydite as its planting medium. Purported benefits include better plant vigor and survival, higher pollutant removal and better infiltration.

To see the project status, join us for a tour of the project at 10am on Saturday Sept. 9 to kickoff our park cleanup that day (details on website under ‘Wildwood Park Cleanup & Tour’). 

Aerial image showing where bioretention cells will be added in the parking lot medians. Native plants to be planted include swamp milkweed, obedient plant, fox sedge, switch grass, swamp rose, gro-low sumac, bayberry, serviceberry, bur oak, black gum and hawthorn.

2017 Upcoming Meetings & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue, Sept 5, 6:30-8:00pm</td>
<td>FOEC Monarch Program, Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst, Meet at Cedar Rd. parking lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Sept 9, 10:00am-noon</td>
<td>Wildwood Park Fall Cleanup &amp; Tour, Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park, Cleveland, please RSVP*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Sept 13, 6:30-8:00pm</td>
<td>Rain Barrel Workshop, Mayfield Village Civic Hall - Register by Sept 8*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Oct 3, 6:30-8:00pm</td>
<td>FOEC Dusty Goldenrod Preserve Site Tour, Meet at Highland Heights Community Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Nov 1, 7:00-8:30pm</td>
<td>Detoxify Your Home and Garden Workshop, Pepper Pike Fire Dept., Register by Oct 30*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Nov 9, 5:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Euclid Creek Watershed Summit, Lyndhurst Community Center, details on website*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Dec 5, 7:00-9:00pm</td>
<td>FOEC Annual Holiday Party &amp; Awards Ceremony, Mayfield Village Community Room</td>
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*To register or for questions contact the Watershed Coordinator or check the website (contact info on back page).
President’s Message by Ken Messinger-Rapport

It has been a busy Summer so far, despite the rains. Our schedule of programs and events have delivered loads of interesting, educational, and we hope, ultimately useful information about environmental happenings that are either affecting or going on within our watershed. There is a lot to catch up on. Three highlights come to mind: the Annual Picnic and scholarship award in June (p. 3 announcement), the strategic arrangement with Chagrin River Watershed Partners which commenced in July, and the very successful Day in the Life of Euclid Creek event.

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual picnic and who, as always, brought along something delicious to share. The picnic also serves as our annual meeting, and this year we had just one slot to fill on the FOEC board. Brian Gilbert, I am pleased to report, was re-elected to a two-year term. Brian has done outstanding work as our Conservation Committee chairperson, focusing this year on the development of a conservation management plan for the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve. That work is being conducted with consultants from the Davey Resource Group, thanks to a $2,500 grant from Dominion Energy. The work is on-going, although it is on track to be completed by the end of October, which is why we are so pleased that Brian eagerly “re-upped” for two more years. In the coming year, we hope to add perhaps two additional board members for two-year terms, which will enable the organization to have smoother transitions between election cycles.

Next on our list of accomplishments, the board approval of an administrative and technical support agreement with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP). For those of you who may not be familiar with CRWP, it is a nonprofit organization which operates very much like our own Friends of Euclid Creek, except that they operate in the Chagrin River Watershed which includes parts of Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Portage counties. Our impetus for forming this partnership is to help reduce the administrative burden on the members and officers of the board. It is difficult enough to plan and staff a full calendar of events. Administrative work such as mailings, bookkeeping, government compliance, etc., can wear down an all-volunteer organization such as FOEC. So, we have decided to farm out much of that work to CRWP which has a paid staff person who can take over much of that workload, freeing our board to do more substantive jobs. In addition, CRWP has an expert staff of environmentalists and grant writers who can provide technical assistance to Claire as she develops projects which share a common geographical or subject matter area with work that CRWP is doing. Much of this collaborative work is already taking place among the Watershed Coordinators regionally through a recently established Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative (CLEB). So, FOEC’s step into this partnership is the next logical move towards greater regional collaboration.

Last but not least, FOEC was pleased to host and participate in the fourth annual Day in the Life of Euclid Creek along with our partners the Cleveland Metroparks (CMP) Watershed Volunteer Program, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD). This year’s event boasted the best attendance yet with 98 guests showing up for the day and a total of 178 participants from volunteers to exhibitors. The day’s events moved from the top of the watershed at Acacia to the bottom at Wildwood which makes it a challenging but highly informative program to present. In the middle, in Highland Heights for the first time ever, FOEC volunteers and CMP Staff worked together to present a program of macro-invertebrate sampling and a scientific/naturalist hike. Special thanks go to Brian Gilbert for leading two tours of the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve (DGP); to Barb Holtz for leading the children’s watershed game, and to David Ianiro, Highland Heights Director of Parks and Recreation, for making the traffic and parking situation work flawlessly.

We say “We Speak for the Creek”, and the way we do that is by planning and putting on events like Day in the Life with our partners and sponsors that are meant to get people out into nature, to teach about what is going on in an urban watershed which has been significantly altered and affected by the structures we humans build and maintain, in order to educate and inspire people to help protect, preserve, and restore our environment so that our children and our children’s children will have a livable planet when we’re gone. So, thank you to everyone for coming out to learn and stay tuned for next year.
Friends of Euclid Creek Update — We Speak for the Creek!

Watershed Wildlife—Orange and Black by Barb Holtz

We often equate monarch butterflies with milkweed, as we should. But another orange and black insect depends upon milkweed too – the milkweed bug. Check out creek side or meadow milkweed plants as you explore the watershed to uncover life hiding among the leaves.

Large milkweed bugs (pictured here) are hearty eaters and are not always welcome in the “save the monarchs” milkweed world. They can take over a plant in large numbers but fortunately have a short life cycle. Like monarchs, they feed on the milky sap making them unpalatable to predators. Large milkweed bugs migrate farther south once winter nears while small milkweed bugs overwinter as adults in leaf letter.

So, what to do if these bugs take over your garden milkweed plants? Best advice is to live with it. Why take the risk of harming butterflies by spraying? Simply enjoy the orange and black of summer be it monarch or milkweed bug. It all seemed to work before we got here so let’s trust Mother Nature on this one.

FOEC Awards Fourth Annual Scholarship to Mentor High School Graduate by Ken Messinger-Rapport

The Friends of Euclid Creek recently announced the recipient of its 2017 annual Environmental Education scholarship to Caleb Rykaczewski. The $1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student who has exhibited the potential to make a contribution to the environment through a related field of study.

Caleb worked as a wildlife volunteer at the Penitentiary Glen Wildlife Center. His research project involved preventing the spread of avian flu from wild bird populations to domestic poultry flocks. He also researched the dietary preferences of raptors in captivity in order to reduce waste at facilities where these birds are sheltered.

Caleb is a recent graduate of Mentor High School and was a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. He was also a starting defensive lineman for the Mentor Cardinals and a team captain. Caleb will be attending The Ohio State University in the Fall.

Our scholarship committee was most impressed with the work he had done volunteering at the Penitentiary Glen Wildlife Center. Past scholarship winners have made an impact with their later environmental work, most notably Anne Roberto who now serves on our board. So, we seed the world with promising talents, and see what sprouts.

Deer Tick Resource

Check out FOEC Conservation Committee’s new resource on deer ticks and Lyme disease.

We want you to enjoy the outdoors, but to be aware of what you can do to avoid ticks, check for and remove ticks, and identification / follow up actions if you find a tick on you.

DEER TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

DEER TICKS (Ixodes scapularis) are the main vector of Lyme disease in North America. They can also transmit other serious diseases and parasites. Conservation, vigilance, and prompt treatment are key to avoiding infection.

PREVENTION OF DEER TICKS – Deer ticks are most active in spring and summer. Wear long pants and tick-proof outerwear. Non-light colored clothing is best. Pay special attention to the air vents of clothing, with particular attention to the armpits and the back of the neck. Use insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin and clothes. Use a tick chip or collar. Pay close attention to your pets while they are outdoors.

IDENTIFICATION OF DEER Ticks – Deer ticks go through 4 life stages: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. The egg stage is the smallest. The larval stage is the first and very small. The nymph stage is the second stage and is larger. The adult female is the largest stage. The male does not feed. The female feed on a host.

You can download the guide on our website at: www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org/Resources/DeerTicksAndLymeDisease
Acacia Restoration Update

by Jenn Grieser, Cleveland Metroparks

Two New Project Areas Underway at Acacia

While the Euclid Creek mainstem and associated swales are nearing completion two new project areas went under construction this summer and will be completed after the fall planting season.

**SW tributary:** In the southwest corner of Acacia, a tributary flows from under Cedar Rd northwest about 1,100 ft. to Richmond Rd. A portion of this stream was covered by an approximately 150’ culvert and tons of soil just to provide golf course access to holes 11 and 12. Over the last couple of weeks, the project team has removed the soil and culvert and constructed boulder and cobble riffles to improve the function of this tributary to Euclid Creek. This project is financed in part through grants from The Conservation Fund, United States Fish and Wildlife Service as well as United States and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies, under provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

**NE Pond:** Opposite the SW tributary, in the northeast corner of Acacia, contractors have begun enhancements to the pond that is shared with residents of Acacia Estates. As a stormwater control measure for the development, the design team modeled run-off and storm elevations to determine optimal sizing and contours. The project will naturalize the western pond slope, provide wetland habitat and daylight the pond outflow over a rocky stream bed rather than sending it underground via pipe. Allowing the outflow to course through rock riffles will filter pollutants and provide greater storm volume capture.

Look at that Rack!

Perhaps you have driven by Acacia Reservation on Cedar Rd. or visited the park and noticed all the debris caught in the cages currently protecting newly planted trees and shrubs from deer browse. Those “in the know” call that debris a Rack Line. After large storms, stream ecologists often visit creeks in search of great racks, which show how high the water rose. Late June delivered nearly 2.5” of rain within less than an hour, resulting in a 25-year storm event and delivering lots of debris to the now functioning floodplain of Euclid Creek.

Critter Corner

At Acacia Reservation, the numerous new little ponds resulting from tile removal were not only visited by ducks this spring, but also quickly inhabited by thousands of tadpoles (toad tadpole to the left). During a July site visit, Cleveland Metroparks observed a mink hunting in one of these pools (photo to the right).
Euclid Creek Watershed Program Update

Why are Stream Setbacks so Important? by Jared Bartley, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Did You Know? There are 34 miles of above-ground stream in the Euclid Creek Watershed? As a streamside property-owner or a friend of one, you have a special opportunity to protect and restore our local creeks and watershed by establishing or maintaining a healthy stream setback aka a riparian buffer.

What is a Riparian Buffer? Why do they matter?
The riparian area is the land alongside a stream or river that directly affects—or is affected by—the water. A riparian buffer is a green corridor along a river or stream that separates the water from surrounding land uses. Healthy riparian buffers contain trees, shrubs, and other vegetation that protect both the stream and streamside property. In our urban watersheds, many of our riparian buffers have been cleared in order to make additional space for lawns, houses, fields and roads. The lack of healthy riparian buffers has contributed to stream bank instability and erosion, diminished water quality, and habitat degradation. Properly maintained riparian buffers stabilize stream banks, decrease high storm flows, filter nutrients and sediment from stormwater, provide essential habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, and increase property values. Generally, the wider the buffer, the more effective it will be. At a minimum, a streamside buffer should extend to the top of the streambank slope.

**A healthy riparian buffer protects your property from the stream, and the stream from you.**

So how do I go about establishing a healthy Riparian Buffer?

1. **Stop mowing next to the stream.** Generally, a buffer width of at least 25 feet is recommended, but every little bit helps – do what you can! If you can only do one step from this list, this is the one you should do.

2. **Plan a Planting.**
   - **Species:** Native trees and shrubs adapted to floodplain and streamside conditions should be selected. Native grasses and wildflowers can be seeded as well. Consider site conditions such as amount of sun/shade.
   - **Number:** For complete reforestation of a 25-foot wide buffer along a 50-foot long stream segment, you’ll want to plan on planting about 12-15 trees and fill in with gaps with at least that many shrubs.
   - **Spacing:** The trees that will have the largest mature canopy should be planted at a distance of 20-25 feet from each other, then the rest of the trees filled in, maintain at least 10-12-foot spacing between trees. Shrubs can then be filled, and even clumped together, to fit the landscape of the planting site.

3. **Plant your trees and shrubs.** The best times of year to plant trees are early spring and fall. For healthy plants and improved survival, follow these simple guidelines for planting trees and shrubs:
   - **Dig your hole as deep as the tree’s root system, and 2-3 times as wide.**
   - **Spread the roots out.** It may be necessary to cut the roots if they are bound.
   - **Adjust the depth of the hole to ensure that the root flare (where the trunk begins to spread out near its base) is just above the level of the surrounding ground.**
   - **Backfill the hole with the dug soil or a combination of soil and compost.** Mulch the area that was dug for the hole, being careful to make sure that no mulch touches the trunk or root flare.
   - **Water new trees immediately after planting (5 gallons per inch of trunk diameter) and at least once/week over the first summer (5 gallons per tree).**

4. **Protect your trees.**
   - **Deer:** If you live in an area that gets deer browsed, you’ll want to cage your trees. This can be done using chicken wire or welded wire fence that should extend to the tree’s dripline, and anchored with wooden stakes.

For more technical guidance on planting or general streamside health issues, call the Watershed Coordinator.
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!

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: President—Ken Messinger-Rapport; Vice President—Chris Vild; Secretary—Sue Swisher; Treasurer—Christine Laskin; and Directors—Christi Carlson, Brian Gilbert, Patrick Henry, Jim Juknialis, Anna Kozlenko and Annie Roberto.

Meetings: FOEC holds educational meetings, hikes and tours throughout the year. Check our website or Facebook page for the meeting schedule.

Support FOEC by becoming a member or donating as we need your support! Call, email, or check the website to find out how.

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 electronic newsletter, sign up on the website, email, or call the Watershed Coordinator with your email address.

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