

ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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www.cuyahogawcd.org
Leading Conservation since 1949!



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Conserving land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education and technical assistance
An equal opportunity employer and provider

SCHOOL SCOOPS

Cool Tools for Effective Environmental Education

Area Envirothon - April 30, 2014

The ENVIROTHON is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. A competitive outdoor team event, the Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience. A team consists of 5 students, all from the same high school. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. Envirothon is an excellent team-building and educational program. Cuyahoga SWCD staff can help your team be competitive.



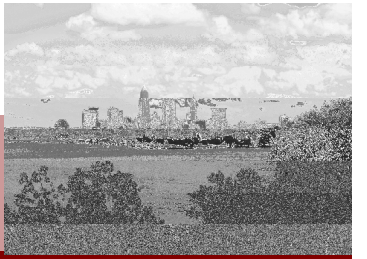
www.envirothon.org
(registration forms will be posted by January 2014)

www.cuyahogawcd.org

Contact Amy Roskilly, Conservation Education Specialist, for more information
216/524-6580, ext. 22 aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org

ON THE LAND

CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LEADING CONSERVATION IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE



Fall 2013/Winter 2014

Re-Thinking Brown Infrastructure Concepts

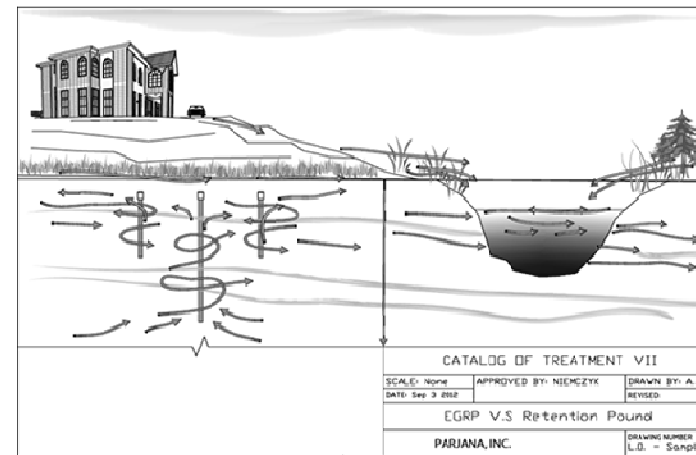
Due to recent Clean Water Act requirements, most communities within Cuyahoga County are working towards reductions in storm water volume and pollutant loadings. While there are a variety of best management practices that can be used to accomplish these objectives, there is an increased interest in applications of *rebuilding brown infrastructure* concepts (urban soil quality and management).

An intriguing example of a new soil technology is known as Energy-Passive Groundwater Recharge Parjana (EGRP)®. The EGRP system (<http://www.parjana.com/>) was introduced in Cuyahoga County at one of our recent Storm Water Toolbox Talks and is being evaluated for demonstration by local communities and the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, among others.

Given that storm water volume reduction and pollutant loading continue to be an issue in metropolitan settings, one may say that a result of improved soil-water regulation in urban soils (and other managed soil conditions) would predictably result in increased nutrient and other ion retention, including the frequently discussed phosphorus ions.

Contact Todd Houser, Storm Water Program Manager at 216-524-6580 x17 or thouser@cuyahogawcd.org for more information about Cuyahoga SWCD's *rebuilding brown infrastructure* efforts.

Parjana's unique technology mimics natural soil pore connectivity by re-establishing soil pressure-suction dynamics, thereby draining free (excess) soil-water and supplying much needed plant-available water during periods of soil-water deficit (drought).



Promoting Land and Nutrient Stewardship

Heavy rains and warm weather in 2011 helped turn Lake Erie a goopy green. Although the proliferation of harmful algal blooms was most notable in the Western Basin, satellite images portrayed a creeping line of algae in the Central Basin as well.

The huge increase in algal blooms was caused by the perfect storm of weather and excess nutrients that act like fertilizer for aquatic plants. With the understanding that taking a proactive approach to help reduce nutrient and other pollutant loadings from further impacting Lake Erie, seven Northeast Ohio soil and water conservation districts seized the opportunity to collaborate on an effort to recognize, manage and provide consistent technical and educational efforts throughout the Ohio watersheds of the Lake Erie Central Basin.

To assist in that effort, the Cuyahoga SWCD received a Tool Box

Grant from the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission to help the Lake Erie Central Basin Work Group implement their first collaborative educational effort that is based on the national 4Rs Nutrient Stewardship Campaign (right fertilizer source, right application rate, right time and right place). The funds provided by the grant were used to produce educational posters for public service garages, plus brochures and book marks for distribution through local libraries based on the theme, "Green Isn't Always Good." The educational materials, printed in both English and Spanish provide guidelines for nutrient reduction and better land care practices.

The Northeast Ohio Public Involvement and Public Education Work Group is producing a 2014 calendar with nutrient reduction guidelines for homeowners. Contact Jan Rybka, jrybka@cuyahogawcd.org for more information or to arrange a presentation.

Upcoming Events

January 22, 2014
Rocky River Watershed
Council Annual Meeting

February 27, 2014
Green Cleaning for
Inside and Out
Cleveland

March 22, 2014
Rain Barrel Workshop
Lyndhurst, Acacia Res.

April 22, 2014
Rain Barrel Workshop
North Olmsted

April 30, 2014
Area Envirothon

June 18, 2014
Rain Barrel Workshop
North Olmsted

www.cuyahogawcd.org

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED UPDATE

Online Interactive Map of Rocky River Watershed Projects Now Available

One of the challenges we face in watershed management is getting information about water quality monitoring results and restoration projects out to the public in a form that is useful, easy to access and succinct. Especially in the Rocky River Watershed, which encompasses nearly 300 square miles and parts of 28 different cities and townships, it can be difficult for residents in widely spread communities to see how different projects relate to each other geographically. To that end, we have created an online map of restoration projects and other activities in the Rocky River Watershed. Color-coded map pins indicate the type and location of the various completed, ongoing and planned projects in the watershed, as well as water quality monitoring sites. Clicking on a pin will bring up additional details about the project, such as project partners, the project's sub-watershed location, and a link to pictures (if available), or water quality data at the monitoring sites. The map is now available at www.MyRockyRiver.org, and includes a link to a full-screen view. Check it out and let us know what you think!

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Stopping Sediment– 25 practices have been implemented, including grassed waterways and cover crops.
- Baldwin Creek-The fourth dam is expected to come down in 2014.
- Healey Creek stream restoration is in progress.
- Water quality monitoring at 36 total sites within the Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties will provide baseline data and help to track changes.

Rocky River Watershed Council Annual Meeting and Board of Trustees Election

January 22, 2014 - 7:00 PM at Medina Metroparks Lodge at Allerdale
141 Remsen Rd., Medina, OH 44256

Contact Jared Bartley, Watershed Coordinator for more information at jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED UPDATE



(above)-The 8-acre Redstone Run site in Richmond Heights

(below)-The Wildwood Reservation wetland restoration



It has been a successful year for the Euclid Creek watershed. The Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek with support from many projects partners, such as the West Creek Conservancy and Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach, have accomplished the following:

- Completion of the restoration of 2.3 acres of wetland and 1,100 linear feet of stream along the lower Euclid Creek at Wildwood Reservation has already provided wonderful land and aquatic habitat and extra storage for water during rain storms.
- An 8-acre site in Richmond Heights, along Redstone Run will be preserved thanks to a Clean Ohio grant. Volunteers helped clean up the site to provide an opportunity to restore high quality habitat.
- Volunteer efforts include stream monitoring, native plantings, invasive plant pulls and stream and beach clean ups.
- More communities are installing green infrastructure projects that will help improve water quality in Euclid Creek. Richmond Heights and South Euclid are addressing storm water with permeable pavement and bioretention system demonstration projects.

Get all the latest information on the Euclid Creek Watershed website or contact Claire Posius, Watershed Coordinator at cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or at 216-524-6580, ext. 16.



**Cuyahoga
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

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Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator

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Conservation Education Specialist

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Storm Water Specialist II

NRCS Staff

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Urban Conservationist

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

The Nature Preserve continues to attract hundreds of local, national and international visitors. This spring, a five acre area was remediated with clean soil and native plants. In addition to new walking paths on the 88 acre site, the Garden Club of Cleveland installed a wonderful resting spot at "the beak." Come to enjoy one of the best views in Cleveland, for great birding or just to relax.



Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District 64th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election

It may have been a rainy morning, but that did not deter the 82 hardy souls from participating in Cuyahoga SWCD's 64th Annual Meeting and Conservation Day on September 21. The event was also a celebration of the recently-completed Euclid Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Project and the heavy rain gave everyone an opportunity to observe how the restoration project was meant to function during a rainstorm.

Other activities included clean ups of the stream and nearby beach, a rain barrel demonstration, watershed and soils

displays and the annual election of a new board member.

One board seat was open this year. Howard Maier and Glenn Odenbrett, two accomplished and highly-qualified candidates, ran for the open seat. Mr. Maier was elected to serve the 2014-2016 term.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the Cuyahoga SWCD recognizes individuals who work towards good conservation, inspire us and serve as community role models. This year we recognized the following individuals as our Conservation Heroes.

Conservationist of the Year

Dorothy Hazel
of Parma

Cooperator of the Year

Avon Standard
of Cleveland Heights

Volunteer of the Year

Joe Newman
of Mayfield Heights
(who was surprised with a proclamation by Mayor DiCicco)

The awardees also received award plaques and proclamations from Cuyahoga County Executive Edward FitzGerald.

With a nod to the entire Cuyahoga SWCD staff for their excellent work and collaboration, District Administrator Janine Rybka recognized Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator Claire Posius for her capable undertaking of the complicated Stream and Wetland Restoration Project.

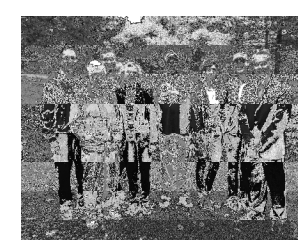
Cleveland Councilman Mike Polensek presented a proclamation on behalf of Cleveland City Council and Ed Rybka, Director of Cleveland's Building and Housing Department, presented a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Frank Jackson.



A tour of the stream and wetland restoration project.



St. Jerome students clean the bio-swale.



(l-r) Mayor DiCicco, Joe Newman, Ed Rybka, Dorothy Hazel, Avon Standard, Jan Rybka, Claire Posius and Mike Polensek

Streamside Trees: Improving Water Quality and Protecting Property

The riparian area is the land alongside a stream or river that directly affects – and is affected by – the water. Healthy riparian buffers contain vegetation such as trees and shrubs that protect both the stream and streamside property.

If you live next to any of the more than 3,500 miles of rivers, creeks, ditches or small headwater streams that make up the surface water drainage network in Cuyahoga County, or if you own any streamside property at all, please consider committing to one or more of the following actions:

- Leave an un-mowed buffer area next to the stream.** Allowing vegetation to become established on a creek's banks and floodplain area has a host of benefits for wildlife, soil health and water quality—think of it as a streamside setback.
- Plant trees!** Streamside trees and shrubs provide even more wildlife habitat, have deeper roots for enhanced streambank stabilization, and provide cooling shade that is especially important for maintaining suitable oxygen levels in smaller, headwater streams. Suitable trees and shrubs for streamside plantings include sycamore, swamp white oak, cottonwood, box elder, silver maple, red osier dogwood, silky dogwood, pin oak and black walnut.

-**Join a local watershed group** in your area to find more ways to get involved.
A listing of local watershed groups can be found at neowatershed.org.