



ON THE LAND

SPRING 2016

LAKE ERIE STARTS HERE

Your home is the first line of defense for the health of Lake Erie! Rain and snow melt that runs over your property and into the storm drain goes to our waterways untreated. It brings with it stormwater pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, dog waste, winter road salt, oil and gas, litter, eroded soil, and so much more.

This year you will start seeing the Lake Erie Starts Here stencil on storm drains across Cuyahoga County. This stencil was designed by Laurie Garrett and she sent us this explanation of how this project got started: "Stenciling the streets of the Grant Deming Neighborhood of Cleveland Heights was the brain-

child of Susan Miller and Carla Rautenberg. It's a brilliant way to get the message across to anyone walking or driving past a storm sewer that protecting our natural resource, Lake Erie, starts on the streets where we live."

Garret says: "The stenciling above each storm sewer states simply: Lake Erie Starts Here. Designing the stencil was a pretty straightforward assignment. The design needed to be simple and bold, in order to get the message across clearly and to catch the attention of pedestrians and drivers. I hope that it has achieved that goal and that stenciling the streets spreads to other neighborhoods."



THE VALUE OF A POST-CONSTRUCTION MEETING



The end of construction is near, grass and landscape treatments are being installed, and site contractors are tying up loose ends in anticipation of project completion. Cuyahoga SWCD inspects sites during this stage of the construction process to ensure that State and local standards are being met.

Once the standards outlined in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit have been met, Cuyahoga SWCD issues a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWP3)

Completion report indicating that the post-construction stormwater management feature has been installed, all temporary erosion and sediment controls have been removed, and the disturbed soils have been stabilized. Sounds like that's a wrap...but wait; not so fast!

Before everyone walks away it is important to address post-construction stormwater control measures. The best way to do that is by holding a post-construction meeting to ensure that certain protocols are followed enabling the newly installed permanent stormwater control measure(s) to function in perpetuity. Similar to the pre-construction meeting (featured in our last newsletter), the post-construction/transition meeting should be attended by, at a minimum: the site

owner, new facility manager/operator, project engineer, site contractor, and a Cuyahoga SWCD representative. This meeting is primarily geared toward providing information to the new owner/operator and answering any questions he/she may have to ensure these critical features remain an asset to our environment and not a headache for the owner. The group should:

- review the long-term operation & maintenance plan;
- review typical routine and non-routine maintenance work;
- walk the site and point out key features and known trouble spots on the practice;
- confirm the practice has been installed correctly and certify the 'as-built'

- drawings;
- discuss resources such as maintenance logs and contact information for specialized contractors;
- identify any issues caused by construction that need to be fixed before final hand-over.

For more information about post-construction/transition meetings and long-term operation & maintenance of post-construction practices contact Elizabeth Hiser, Natural Resources Coordinator.

*Written by:
Elizabeth Hiser, Natural Resources
Coordinator and Brent Eysenbach,
Stormwater Program Coordinator*

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Cuyahoga SWCD Mission

To promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education and technical assistance.

Highlights 2015

- Cuyahoga SWCD sports its new image
- Increased working agreements with communities
- Stormwater program expands
- Thousands of trees are planted
- Watershed Stream Maintenance Guide published
- Weekly blog posts are shared on the website

Conservation Education Program

Cuyahoga SWCD has educated the public about soil and water resources since its inception in 1949. Education is provided through annual events and programs for targeted audiences and the general public through written materials, social media and direct technical assistance.



Water flowing from all Cuyahoga County streams eventually ends up, pollution and all, in Lake Erie. “Honey, I Shrunk the Lawn” was the 2015 environmental education theme. The theme was incorporated in the public involvement/public education efforts that were implemented throughout the county. Additional efforts provided tailored messages and events for the 24 communities that utilized the SWCD for their Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) programs. Staff instilled the importance of taking action in our own backyards to help protect local streams and our great Lake Erie. Programs and events aimed to inspire a change in behavior. Offerings included public involvement activities, such as stream monitoring, habitat restoration, installing native plants, and stream clean up events, which illustrated the importance of taking action and encouraged the public to adopt changes in their behavior for the benefit of a cleaner environment.

Including the efforts that were implemented through the Watershed Programs, approximately 84,500 households were directly reached by the Conservation Education program. Cuyahoga SWCD's fact sheets, brochures, newsletters and posters were distributed to local libraries, nature centers and placed in local city hall lobbies, as well as at various events that were held throughout the county.

- Newsletters-5600 copies distributed three times per year across the county
- Rain barrel workshops and composting-13
- Green cleaning workshops-6
- Growing Success from the Ground Up workshops-3
- Stormwater Training Workshops-2
- Conservation tours-4

- Other workshops for the general public, teachers, and community partners-15
- National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Stewards-12 participants were certified
- Participation in various county-wide conservation education programs/events, such as EarthFest, Public Works Day, and presentations to civic groups, students, and scout groups.

The SWCD revamped its brand in 2014 with an updated logo and website. Not only does the website look good, users have commented on the ease of navigating the site. Monthly calendars provide easy access to the various public programs and users can easily contact the SWCD staff through the site.

Public Involvement and Public Education highlights

- Stormwater articles and educational materials, including monthly conservation tips and seasonal messages
- Shrink Your Lawn- Landscaping with Native Plants brochure mailed to 39,000 homes
- Shrink Your Lawn-Landscaping with Native Plants poster
- Monthly Conservation Tips – 12
- Blog posts – 52 messages on topics related to pollution prevention, illegal dumping, stormwater management and nutrient reduction
- Students (200) linked in to a Google Hangout to learn about a career as a conservationist.



New Yard: Alternatives to the ‘Perfect’ Green Lawn

More than 100 people attended the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education (NEOPIPE) workgroup's event that featured author, Anita Sanchez. Ms. Sanchez spoke about her book “Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion” and offered her perspective on the home landscape that involves using less chemicals and more native plants to filter pollutants and soak in rain and stormwater pollutants.

Anita Sanchez speaks to a full house on using less chemicals and more native plants in your landscape.





Trees and seedlings planted along Euclid Creek as part of 2015 Riparian Tree & Shrub Planting Program

Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Programs

The Euclid Creek and Rocky River watershed programs are aimed at protecting, restoring and preserving healthy watersheds through watershed planning, public education and collaboration among the watersheds' many stakeholders. Charged with implementing the state-endorsed watershed action plans, the staff seeks funding and works with partners to address impairments in their watersheds through special projects, ongoing environmental education programs and events.

Both watershed programs' successes are achieved through strong collaboration with conservation partner agencies, local officials, watershed residents and excellent staff support.

This year the success of the **Euclid Creek Watershed Program** and the unique partnership between Cuyahoga SWCD, Euclid Creek Watershed Council and the Friends of Euclid Creek were celebrated in the first Euclid Creek Watershed Summit. Program partners shared their historical perspectives of activities in the watershed from 2002 to the present. In addition to implementing the Public Involvement & Public Education (PIPE) Program for the nine watershed communities, other efforts centered on implementing goals in the state-approved Watershed Action Plan that identifies water quality concerns and actions to address those concerns, some of which are also tied into the Cuyahoga Area of Concern's efforts to delist impairments to water quality and habitat.

The Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator provided technical and organizational/administrative support to the local government-oriented Euclid Creek Watershed Council and the Technical and PIPE Committees. The Watershed Council and PIPE Committees have work plans laying out an annual strategy for the outreach program, project planning, and grant development/assistance.

2015 Program Highlights:

- Program activities reduced pollutant loading to the Euclid Creek and its tributaries by 180 pounds of phosphorous.
- The Euclid Creek Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting Program was implemented in 2015 with \$13,700 in funding from an Ohio Lake Erie Commission grant. Streamside property owners (109) enrolled in the program and received 429 trees and 4,725 seedlings to plant along their stream. Those receiving seedlings own a combined 3.8 miles of stream in the watershed. Roughly 30 miles of Euclid Creek is above ground and ~13 miles is culverted below ground, so reforestation 13% of the stream is outstanding. Estimating a 20% survival rate for the seedlings and an 80% survival rate for the 3-gallon trees, over 1

million gallons of storm water will be captured by the trees over 10 years of growth with an ecosystem services benefit of \$11,836. At 20 years, the benefit of the trees will be in capturing over 4.5 million gallons of stormwater with an ecosystem services benefit of \$49,930 – quite the return on this grant's investment (i-Tree calculations).

Public Involvement and Public Education Highlights

- Assisted an Eagle Scout candidate with rain garden installation at the City of Euclid Municipal Parking lot.
- Installed first volunteer rain garden in Mayfield Heights with the help of Mayfield Middle School Student Council students at the Mayfield Heights Community Center.
- 912 volunteers contributed 3,083 hours of time to the watershed program in 2015 (installing trees and native plants, pulling invasive plants, etc.) Ongoing volunteer stream monitoring of 5 sites on a monthly basis.
- Day in the Life of Euclid Creek – hands-on water quality monitoring day in the watershed.
- Coordinated invasive plant pulls (3), Wildwood Park Spring and Fall clean up days (2), Rain Barrel Workshops (4), Green Cleaning Workshops (2), distribution of watershed newsletters (3), and monthly program broadcast emails to Euclid Creek enthusiasts.



Mayfield Heights Middle School students install a rain garden at the Mayfield Heights Community Center

On the other side of the county, the **Rocky River Watershed Program** is equally robust. Unlike the mostly urban Euclid Creek watershed, the Rocky River watershed encompasses rural, suburban and urban communities, which provides opportunities to implement farm-related pollution prevention programs, as well as the usual programs that Cuyahoga SWCD administers.

Achieving Warm Water Habitat Status!!!

Stream monitoring performed by OEPA, NEORS and Cleveland Metroparks indicates that all 11.8 miles of the Main Stem of the Rocky River are now in complete attainment of its Warmwater Habitat (WWH) designated aquatic life use. **This is the first time that the Main Stem has met its Clean Water Act goals for biology.** The West Branch is also in complete attainment, as well as the entire East Branch, except for a short segment near the Bonnie Park dam in Strongsville. These same monitoring efforts demonstrate that the SWCD's removal of three low head dams in 2012 have restored the lower 0.9 miles of Baldwin Creek to full attainment of its WWH designated aquatic life use.

Despite this good news, there's still work to be done, as many of the tributaries continue to be in full or partial nonattainment of their designated aquatic life use, including all or portions of Abram Creek, Baldwin Creek, Blodgett Creek, Cossett Creek, Granger Ditch and both Plum Creeks. Also, bacteria pollution continues to be a problem throughout the watershed.



Volunteers assist with tree planting and streambank stabilization in the Rocky River Watershed

2015 Program Highlights:

- Program activities reduced pollutant loading to the Rocky River and its tributaries by 1700 tons of sediment, 2300 pounds of nitrogen and 875 pounds of phosphorus.
- Watershed-friendly Stream Maintenance: A Guide for Communities" guidance document completed and initial community trainings completed. The project was funded through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.
- Article about Great Lakes Commission-funded "Stopping Sediment at its Source in the Rocky River" published in July-August 2015 issue of Land & Water Magazine. Additionally, 397 acres of cover crops were installed on crop fields in the watershed through the project.
- The "Bucks for Buffers" streamside reforestation program kicked off in 2015. In partnership with the Rocky River Watershed Council, this Ohio Lake Erie Commission-funded pilot project incentivized riparian reforestation on residential properties through the use of a reverse auction, through which eligible land-owners submit bids in the amount of payment they will except in exchange for allowing trees to be planted on their property. The auction process has been completed in the Abram Creek Baldwin Creek and Plum Creek subwatersheds. Tree planting will occur in Spring 2016.
- Through the "Extreme Makeover: Hinckley Stables" project, Cuyahoga SWCD and Cleveland Metroparks restored 530 feet of an ephemeral channel flowing through a former horse pasture, eliminating a severe head cut and adding 2 acres of riparian forest to protect sensitive downstream cold water habitat. The project was funded through a grant from the Ohio EPA's Surface Water Improvement Fund.

Public Involvement and Public Education Highlights

- 1,440 streamside trees and shrubs planted by volunteers throughout the watershed at 5 planting events.
- 2 volunteer river/creek cleanups at which 89 volunteers cleaned trash from over 10 miles of Baldwin Creek and the Rocky River.
- 6 rain barrel workshops, where participants constructed 98 rain barrels to install at home.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

As a non-regulatory public service, the Cuyahoga SWCD Storm Water Program is focused on developing and implementing better methods to help guide planning, design, construction and maintenance of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) on active construction sites. As the permit that communities and contractors operate under evolves, so has the District's program which is implemented on behalf of 17 communities and the County's Department of Public Works. The Cuyahoga SWCD staff continues to build strong relationships with site operators and staff in the various communities, resulting in fewer "notices of deficiency." The SWCD's specialized technical education and assistance in the areas of erosion and sediment control, oversight, soil quality, urban agriculture and urban forestry, continue to play an important role in the county.

This year staff provided the following:

- New sites initiated in 2015-118; Total active sites visited throughout the year-326, with an average of 156 sites active in a given month.
- Review of preliminary plans, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans, best management practice plans, farm and soil quality management plans -179 reviewed.
- 1,870 Comprehensive Field Reviews of active construction sites were conducted throughout the year.

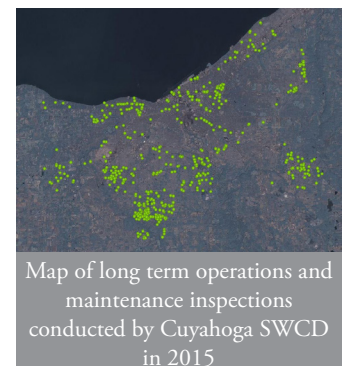
Long Term Operations & Maintenance Program

Maintenance is necessary for the proper function of water quality and quantity treatment facilities. Once most construction projects are completed, staff continues to inspect the storm water facilities designed to address stormwater runoff, such as bio-retention practices, basins, green roofs, and permeable pavement applications. This year, the program was expanded to be more helpful to the communities and to provide additional assistance to facility owners who are required to maintain stormwater treatment facilities. Efforts included mapping sites and facilities, delivering inspection reports directly to individual property owners, providing on-site technical assistance and training to educate community service personnel and home owners associations about the importance of long term maintenance, as well as creating fact sheets for common maintenance items. The benefits of the program expansion have led to a greater awareness of the water quality and cost benefits of a good maintenance program.

- 430 Site Inspections
- 791 Facilities Inspected
- 42 Follow-Up Efforts including calls/emails/additional site visits
- 29 Follow-Up Site Visits in ten communities



Elizabeth Hiser verifies the depth of a retention basin



Map of long term operations and maintenance inspections conducted by Cuyahoga SWCD in 2015

Landowner Assistance

Cuyahoga County residents frequently requested assistance and guidance from the SWCD. Staff assisted callers with issues related to drainage, soils, erosion, flooding, and land protection of sensitive areas. Some on-site assistance is also provided. In 2015, staff responded to 72 requests for assistance, including site-specific landowner assistance related to long term maintenance concerns in water quantity and water quality basins.

Funders

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District's funding, as well as project grants, is almost entirely from state, county and local governments. The board and staff are appreciative of the support of Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio and the 27 communities that the SWCD assists through working agreements. Special thanks are also extended to the Friends of Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Council who receive support through the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The long time partnership between Cuyahoga SWCD and its federal partner, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to grow. NRCS staff continued to bring federal dollars to Cuyahoga County to assist in conservation and urban agricultural efforts focused on Cleveland to help promote and provide fresh local produce in areas defined as "food deserts." The initiative provided incentive payments to qualified recipients for high tunnels (hoop houses) which extends the growing season. The Cleveland program has served as a model to inspire similar programs in other cities. In 2015, 27 contracts were awarded and 69 high tunnels have been installed since 2012. Since storm-water runoff is a resource concern in the county, federal funds may also be used for drip irrigation, most of which is installed in the high tunnel.

High tunnels extend the growing season and notice the plants for pollinators



Conservation Partners

Alliance for the Great Lakes, Army Corps of Engineers, Big Creek Connects, Cleveland Metroparks, Central Lake Erie Basin Watershed Collaborative, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Cleveland Office of Sustainability, Cuyahoga County agencies—Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, County Land Bank, Cuyahoga Solid Waste District, Cuyahoga Community College East, Cuyahoga River Restoration, Cuyahoga Valley Conservancy, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach, Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Councils, Friends of Euclid Creek, Good Nature Organic Lawn Care, Holden Arboretum, Lake Erie Central Basin Work Group, National Wildlife Federation, NRCS, NEO PIPE, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Notre Dame College, ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio EPA, Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, US EPA (GLRI), OSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy, West Creek Conservancy, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Western Reserve RC & D and our great volunteers!

2015 Annual Meeting

On beautiful September 24, the 2015 Annual Meeting was held at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in Brecksville. The program, held in collaboration with the Career Center and the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, featured seasonal produce provided by the Farm Bureau that was transformed into sublime and tasty hors d'oeuvres. Ruth Skuly was re-elected and Rachel Webb elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors for the 2016-2018 term.



Ruth Skuly and Rachel Webb
board supervisors-elect
(2016-2018 term)

2015 Conservation Heroes

Each year at the Annual Meeting, the Cuyahoga SWCD board and staff honors individuals who voluntarily work to promote conservation. This year's conservation awards were presented to Sean Brennan as the Conservationist of the Year; Jamel Rahkeera, Village Family Farm, as the Cooperator of the Year; and the Cleveland Heights Monitoring Gang (David Smith, David Muthersbaugh, David and Bobbie Farrell and Ted Woodbridge) as the volunteers of the year. Congratulations to all!



Jan Rybka, District Administrator and Sean Brennan, Conservationist of the Year

Euclid Creek Monitoring Gang
Irene Smith, Donna & Dave Muthersbaugh accept the Volunteers of the Year award for the team that also included David Smith, David & Bobbi Farrell and Ted Woodbridge.



Jan Rybka and Ruth Skuly recognize Jamel Rahkeera as the Cooperator of the Year.

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED



Habitat Restoration Planning Grant Update



Habitat Restoration Project in
Euclid Creek

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 and have 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 Mayfield 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.

Celebrate 15 Years with Friends of Euclid Creek!

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 FOEC to explore the beauty and diversity of Euclid Creek as we walk 15 total miles throughout the watershed. Check out www.euclidcreekwatershed.org for more hike details.

A Day in the Life of Euclid Creek ANNIVERSARY EVENT in partnership with Cleveland Metroparks

July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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, 5-7p.m., 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. RSVP required.

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED

Rocky River Meeting Clean Water Act Goals!

A recent study conducted by Ohio EPA indicates that all 11.8 miles of the Main Stem of the Rocky River are now in complete attainment of its Warmwater Habitat designated aquatic life use. This is the first time that the Main Stem has met its Clean Water Act goals for biology. The West Branch is also in complete attainment, as well as the entire East Branch, except for a short segment near the Bonnie Park dam in Strongsville.

Sincerest thanks and congratulations to all of our partners and volunteers whose tireless efforts on behalf of the

Rocky River have made this achievement possible!

Despite this good news, there's still work to be done, as many of the tributaries continue to be in full or partial nonattainment of their designated aquatic life use, including all or portions of Abram Creek, Baldwin Creek, Blodgett Creek, Cossett Creek, Granger Ditch and both Plum Creeks. Also, bacteria pollution continues to be a problem throughout the watershed.

With your continued help we can and will restore the Rocky River Watershed to full health!



Thank You to Our Bucks for Buffers Volunteers!

On March 19 and 22, over 50 volunteers planted nearly 250 trees and shrubs on residential properties along Baldwin Creek and its tributaries in Middleburg Heights and Parma as part of Cuyahoga SWCD and Rocky River Watershed Council's Bucks for Buffers Program. Have a work, school or community group that's interested in planting trees? We still have another 300 trees and shrubs to plant in the Abram, Baldwin and Plum Creek watersheds and we could use your help! Contact Rocky River Watershed Coordinator Jared Bartley at jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org or 216/524-6580 x14 for details.

SUPERVISOR ELECTION 2016

A Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor represents county residents in soil and water conservation and natural resources management. Supervisors set the District's policy, provide guidance to staff, and assist on projects. The Board consists of five supervisors who serve for three-year terms on a voluntary basis. Supervisors participate in monthly and special board meetings, and attend area and state meetings. This year, candidates will be nominated to fill one open position. Potential candidates are expected to have experience relevant to the District's goals. The qualities of a potential supervisor include:

- Knowledge of natural resources in the county
- Skills that complement the existing make-up of the district board so that all geographic, educational, and land-use interests within the district are represented
- Leadership ability and willingness to share time and talents

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the election. Qualified residents, 18 years of age or older, may also petition to be on the ballot. Information about the petition process can be found at www.cuyahogaswcd.org

THE STATE OF THE FOREST

Forests and the urban canopy are in need of TLC. Fortunately, great minds are not only aware of the problem, but working at a quick pace to raise awareness about the need to protect, preserve and restore the urban canopy.

Working with our federal partner, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, a proposal for earmarked funds to initiate a pilot project in Cuyahoga and Summit counties is receiving serious consideration. The goal is to utilize Environmental Quality Incentive Funds to plant seedlings in an attempt to regrow urban forest lands. This will be the first of its kind in Cuyahoga County and one way to support the overall Urban Canopy Initiative with a special focus on restoring riparian forests.

Check the Cuyahoga SWCD website for the most updated information and links to the Thriving Communities Institute, Cleveland Tree Plan and Cuyahoga ReLeaf Project.

Ohio's SWCDs now with the Department of Agriculture

For many years, soil and water conservation districts flourished under the umbrella of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Effective January 1, 2016, and in accordance with Amended Substitute House Bill Number 64 of the 131st General Assembly, the following changes have been made to ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Resources:

- All programs and staff related to soil and water conservation have been moved to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) as the new Division of Soil and Water Conservation.
- All programs and staff related to stormwater issues have been moved to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's StormWater Management Program.
- All programs and staff related to forestry/silviculture have been moved to ODNR's Division of Forestry.
- All remaining water resource related programs and staff in ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Resources become the new Division of Water Resources.

Cuyahoga SWCD will continue to provide conservation services to landowners throughout the county and expects to thrive under the Department of Agriculture.

Check our website for information about upcoming programs, initiatives and educational resources. www.cuyahogaswcd.org



Special Conservation Award - Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair

This year, Cuyahoga SWCD presented an award for an outstanding conservation project at the Northeastern Ohio Science & Engineering Fair. Nicholas Tysiachney, a seventh grader at St. Dominic School in Shaker Heights, conducted an experiment to determine if plants grew better in soil mixed with compost versus soil with added commercial fertilizer. Nicholas did a remarkable job enthusiastically discussing his hypothesis and in presenting his information to the public. Congratulations!

**CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
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Conserving land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical assistance.

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Like the newsletter, but hate the paper?

Read it online at:

www.cuyahogawcd.org

Or get on our email list by sending your email to:

mdavid@cuyahogawcd.org

NATIVE SEED SALE

Planting native plants can improve the curb appeal of a home and boost its resale value, all while protecting our environment with their long root systems which hold in soil, slow stormwater runoff and provide vital food and habitat for birds, insect pollinators and many other species.

Cuyahoga SWCD is selling six native seed packets from May - October 15th. Seed packets contain 1 PLS (Pure Live Seed) oz. of seed which is enough to cover 250 sq. feet. The native perennials in these mixes do require some patience to establish, but for instant gratification, consider adding some quick establishing annuals.

Take up that turf and add some prairie plants to your yard.



SEED PACKETS FOR SALE

- **Mesic Woodland Edge** - great for shady spots
- **Rain Garden** - filters stormwater
- **Eastern Great Lakes Native Pollinator**
- **Butterfly/Hummingbird**
- **Mesic Annual/Perennial Forbs** - wildflowers
- **Annual Seed Mix** - for first year color

All packets are \$15, except the Annual Seed Mix for \$12.

Packets can be ordered by calling Megan at 216/524-6580, ext. 10 or by filling out the order form on our website
www.cuyahogawcd.org