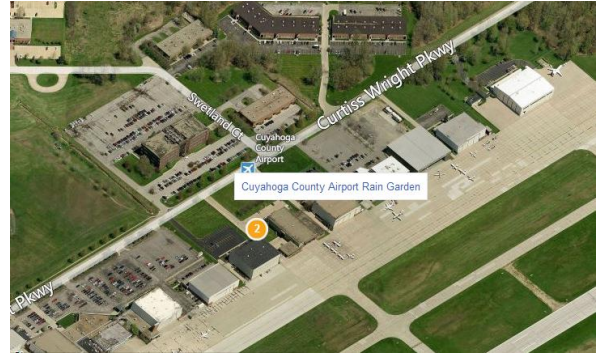


EUCLID CREEK RAIN GARDENS – CUYAHOGA COUNTY AIRPORT

*Euclid Creek Watershed
Richmond Heights, Ohio*

Installed on September 29, 2011, the 480 square foot Cuyahoga County Airport Rain Garden was planted by volunteers from Mayfield Key Club, Richmond Heights High School Environmental Club, and Richmond Heights Key Club. The garden was funded by Friends of Euclid Creek's Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Operating and Support Grant and is maintained by the Cuyahoga County Airport. The plants for the project were provided by Biodiversity Landscape Design & Supply Company and the soil and mulch were provided by Kurtz Bros.



A rain garden is a vegetated garden planted with native plants intended to allow runoff from impervious surfaces such as driveways, roads, rooftops, and parking lots to percolate into the groundwater rather than directly entering streams via storm sewers. This helps protect local streams by reducing the volume and velocity of streams during storm events and by purifying the water by allowing it to filter through the soil, thus lowering the amount of pollutants that ultimately enter the stream. Rain gardens also provide habitat for native birds and insects, and because they are planted with native plants, they require less water and maintenance once established than other non-native species.

Before Installation:



During Installation:



Completed Installation:



2012:



2013:



2014:



Educational Signage:

THIS IS A RAIN GARDEN
~RESTORING EUCLID CREEK~

What is a Rain Garden?
Rain Gardens are attractive landscape features 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 in their roots which can grow as deep as 15 feet.

What are the benefits of a Rain Garden?
Rain Gardens can provide multiple benefits to our soil and water resources. They recharge groundwater supply, help remove pollutants from storm water runoff before it enters local waterways and provide habitat for birds and butterflies.

Why do we need Rain Gardens?
Over the years, development of our land has resulted in compacted soil and an increase in impervious surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots and roads. During rainstorms, instead of being absorbed and filtered by the soil, the storm water runs off the land, which contributes to flooding, erosion and water quality issues. Rain gardens are one measure that can help to increase the infiltration of storm water.

Why is this Rain Garden Here?
This particular Rain Garden was constructed to collect and treat storm water generated from the County Report Administration building parking lot and driveway surrounding the garden. Water that previously flowed into a storm drain now enters the rain garden to allow the storm water to be filtered of pollutants and to infiltrate into the soil providing groundwater recharge. Excess water flows into a storm drain located at the bottom of the garden and ultimately into Euclid Creek.

Plant Choices: Choose native plants because they need to fight moisture and salt. They also structure, height and flower color for increased appeal and butterfly attraction.

Location: Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof downspout or driveway. They can also be located in front and the back.

Depth: A typical rain garden is between four and eight inches deep. This depth is important to surface runoff. Help ensure water will infiltrate rapidly and not pool.

Site: A rain garden is typically 8 to 12 percent the size of the impervious surface that generates runoff.

Soil Amendments: A good soil mix for rain gardens is 40 percent sand, 20 percent gravel, and 40 percent compost.

Contributed in September 2011 by the Cuyahoga County Airport, supported by the City of Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek, Earth-Bios, Inc., and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.
Sponsor thanks to the **Richmond and Richmond Heights Key Clubs** and the **Richmond Heights High School Environmental Club** **through the Rain Garden Project.**

Thanks to our sponsors!!



BIODIVERSITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND SUPPLY COMPANY

For more information, please contact Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, 216-524-6580x16 or email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.