Highland Heights is in 2 watersheds

**Euclid Creek** drains an area of approximately 24 square miles from 12 communities in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.

**Chagrin River** drains 267 square miles from 22 municipalities and ten townships within four Northeast Ohio Counties.

**Did you know?**
- Highland Heights has 13.1 miles of streams above ground with an estimated 1.03 miles of additional streams that have been channeled underground in pipes/culverts.
- As water moves across lawns and hard surfaces into storm drains, pollution is picked up and sent untreated to creeks and rivers which eventually empty into Lake Erie.
- Vegetated surfaces, like rain gardens, help water to soak in which allows for natural filtration of polluted runoff.
- The rate of extinction for freshwater animals is 5 times greater than that for land animals.

**What is a watershed?**
Flip to find out!
**Water—the Ultimate Resource**

**What is a watershed?** A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow to a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. Our landscape is made up of interconnected watersheds.

**We all live in a watershed!**

**A Watershed**

- Watershed Divide
- River Mouth
- Ground Water (Aquifer)

**How the City protects your water**

- Leaf pickups in fall to prevent clogging of storm drains.
- Partners with Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and other watershed communities in the Euclid Creek
- The City passed a Flood Damage Prevention ordinance to protect flood plains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which also protect streams.
- The City also has sensitive wetlands within and surrounding its Community Park which provide valuable pollution filtration and water retention to help prevent flooding and flashy flow events.
- Ongoing Tree Planting Program.
- Offers used motor oil drop-off locations and curbside recycling for residents.
- Hosts rain barrel workshop in coordination with permeable paving.

**How YOU can protect your water**

- Don’t litter, and pick up litter where you see it.
- Keep grass clippings, paper and other waste out of storm drains.
- Report illegal dumping! Call the Non-Emergency Police (440-442-1221) or the County Board of Health (216-201-2000).
- Install a rain barrel and/or plant a rain garden.
- Pick up outside pet waste and put it in the trash.
- Reduce hard surfaces. Replace your driveway and walkways with permeable paving.

Get involved with your local conservation / watershed group and take part in keeping your watershed clean and healthy.

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**Highland Heights within Euclid Creek Watershed**

- Highland Heights makes up 19.8% or 4.8 square miles of the entire Euclid Creek Watershed.
- 90.7% of Highland Heights land area is within the Euclid Creek Watershed or 4.72 square miles.
- Highland Heights Community Park and the surrounding area have some of the last remaining concentrations of high quality wetlands in the entire Watershed.
- Highland Heights makes up 19.8% or 4.8 square miles of the entire Euclid Creek Watershed.
- 84% of Highland Heights residents live within Euclid Creek Watershed.
- 23% of Euclid Creek has been channelled underground.
- 12.5-acres of high quality wetlands were protected through a conservation easement in 2007—this site is the only known location in Ohio where the endangered Dusty Goldenrod plant is found!

**Highland Heights within Chagrin River Watershed**

- 9.3% of Highland Heights’ land is within the Chagrin River Watershed or 0.46 square miles.
- 14.3% of Highland Heights within the Chagrin River Watershed is impervious surfaces (hard surfaces such as pavement).
- There are no protected lands found in Highland Heights within the Chagrin River Watershed.
- Due to the high level of impervious cover most streams in Highland Heights within this watershed have lost their sensitive fish/bug species.

**Major issues impacting water quality**

- Excess nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, caused by urban pollution and fertilizers from gardens, lawn and turf maintenance.
- Low fish populations due to poor water quality as well as loss of habitat and man-made barriers (e.g. dams).
- After major storms, high intensity stream flow (called flashy flows) increases stream bank erosion.
- Loss of green space and habitat surrounding streams that provide a buffer zone to filter pollutants and provide shelter/food for bugs and fish.

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**Euclid Creek Partners**

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<th>Euclid Creek Watershed Council</th>
<th>Friends of Euclid Creek</th>
<th>Cuyahoga Soil &amp; Conservation District</th>
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**Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator**

- Claire Posius
- 6100 West Canal Road
- Valley View, Ohio 44125
- 216-524-6580x16; cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org
- Euclid Creek Website: www.cuyahogaswcd.org
- Click on Services - Watershed Programs - Euclid Creek!

**City of Highland Heights**

- 5827 Highland Road
- Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
- 440-461-2440
- www.highlandhts.com

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