



cuyahoga
SOIL & WATER
conservation district

ON *the* LAND

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District | Leading Conservation in the Urban Landscape

FALL 2025

Restoring Rocky River and Euclid Creek Greenbriar Valley Floodplain Restoration

In 2022, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District was awarded funds from Ohio EPA Section 319(h) and NEORSF to address erosion on a Rocky River tributary that was destabilizing the bank below the Greenbriar at River Valley HOA community center in North Royalton. The incised stream was draining floodplain wetlands and contributing sediment and nutrient pollution to the Rocky River downstream.

The riparian area included high quality wetlands within a conservation easement that were degrading over time due to erosion, which caused the stream to disconnect from the floodplain. Invasive species were encroaching into the wetland area and nutrients from sediment pollution were contributing to poor water quality.

Untreated, the erosion would only continue to worsen. This restoration
(continued)

project, completed in 2024, reduced bank height, stabilized bank angles, and replanted with native species to prevent future erosion. The active stream channel was relocated away from the valley wall and into a historical stream channel using in-stream woody debris structures that mimic natural processes. By removing the active flow away from the bank, decompacting floodplain soils, strategic grading, and

installing grade control, the stream was reconnected to the natural floodplain. Storm flows can once again spill out over the banks into the wetlands instead of further eroding vertical channel walls. This project will prevent 12 tons of sediment, 24 pounds of nitrogen, and 12 pounds of phosphorous from entering the stream system every year.

Addressing erosion issues and protecting riparian corridors continues to be

among the most pressing water quality concerns in the Rocky River Watershed. Partners, such as the HOA, Biohabitats, Meadville Land Service, OEPA, NEORSD and the City of North Royalton, were crucial to this success.

**To learn more or get involved with the Rocky River Watershed Council, contact Meg Hennessey Watershed Coordinator
mhennessey@cuyahogawcd.org**

Visit us at cuyahogawcd.org/watershed-management

West Branch Euclid Creek, Mayfield Sand Ridge Stream Restoration



Pre-Construction



Bank stabilization

The Mayfield Sand Ridge Stream Restoration Project was identified in 2014 as a solution to extensive flooding and erosion on the Mayfield Golf Course property in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

These problems were causing risk to infrastructure and ecosystem, washing down excess nutrients and sediment with each storm.

Upon completion of all six phases of this project, 10,850 feet (two banks) of poor-quality streambank

will be regraded or relocated and stabilized using native plants and bioengineering techniques. Roughly 27 acres of existing riparian forest will be enhanced and treated for invasives, roughly 8.7 acres of rough will be converted to native riparian forest or meadow.

With funding from the Ohio EPA, NEORSD, and the Mayfield Sand Ridge Club, Phase 1 & 2 of this project were completed in July 2025.

Phases 1 & 2 included the

restoration of 2,433 linear feet of stream with bank stabilization throughout. A little over four acres of habitat has been improved through native plantings of trees, shrubs, live stakes, plugs, and seed mixes.

**To learn more or get involved with the Friends of Euclid Creek, contact Kate Chapel, Watershed Coordinator
kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org**

Spotlight: School & Youth Programming

Cuyahoga SWCD educates and empowers Cuyahoga County's youth to be the conservationists of tomorrow!

Visit us at cuyahogawcd.org/education-outreach

Soil & Water Summer 2025 Fun!

Summer Educator Trainings

This summer we hosted over 20 educators for trainings at the University of Akron Field Station and Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve. Through these trainings, educators were able to get many new curriculum resources, ideas, and field experiences to take back to their settings. These are hands-on and engaging trainings and we were so excited to hear from some of this year's attendees that this was "one of the best PD's (professional development)" they have attended. Congratulations to all the educators that received certifications this summer!

2025 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Each spring we host a county-wide K-12 poster contest that aligns with the National Association of Conservation District's Stewardship Week. This year's contest theme was "Home is Where the Habitat is." Congratulations to Madison Kisan our 4-6th grade category winner and Lovely Traylor, our 10-12th grade category winner! Thank you to all the students who participated in the 2025 contest and we are excited to see your work again in 2026.

Camp Canopy

Each summer Cuyahoga SWCD sponsors 8-12th grade students to attend Camp Canopy, a week-long sleepaway camp organized by the Ohio Forestry Association. This summer we sponsored two students for camp and they learned about environmental topics such as forestry, wildlife, conservation, all while enjoy outdoor activities! Applications for 2026 camp sponsorships open next Spring.



Educators participating in an electrofishing survey of Old Woman Creek



Senior, Lovely Traylor, has the winning poster design in the 10-12th grade category

Sign up for the School Scoops eNewsletter and keep informed about our upcoming educator workshops, youth programs and events, and local resources!



cuyahogawcd.org/service-programs/school-scoops-newsletter

On The Land | Fall 2025

Spotlight: Dry Basins, Fresh Ideas!

Detention basins reimagined to be not only functional, but a learning tool for local students

Visit us at cuyahogawcd.org/stormwater-services



Dry Detention Basin Gets a Makeover

Installing native seed in a dry detention basin at a local high school

Construction projects disturbing one acre or more are required to manage stormwater on-site using stormwater control measures (SCMs) that slow runoff and improve water quality. This results in a network of stormwater infrastructure across the county. Cuyahoga SWCD's post-construction stormwater program focuses on the long-term maintenance of these facilities, providing guidance to landowners, contractors, and maintenance personnel.

A common SCM is the dry detention basin, which is an engineered, often grassed area that temporarily holds water and slowly releases it. Though typically offering little ecological value, these basins can be enhanced with native plantings. Native species are better adapted to periodic flooding and can improve infiltration, nutrient uptake, habitat, and aesthetics.

To explore this potential, Cuyahoga SWCD secured two grants from the Friends of NACD and the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio for a research project on native plantings in stormwater basins. Two high school sites were chosen to integrate education into the project. Students were involved in learning about stormwater, selecting plant species, and designing planting layouts.

Test plots were installed in spring 2025 and are successfully growing. With students returning in the fall, they will help monitor native plant populations and develop outreach materials. Research will continue beyond the initial one-year grants to identify the best native planting practices for stormwater basins.

Welcome Ana Spiridigliozzi, Urban Technician



Ana's love of nature came from growing up running around the woods of Upper Michigan. Her interest grew as she learned more about biology and conservation.

Ana received a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Exercise Science from Wittenberg University. Then, she went on to get a Master's degree in Biology through Miami University's Project Dragonfly Program. In her free time, Ana enjoys spending time with her family, gardening with native plants, reading, knitting, and playing D&D with her friends.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water
Conservation District

ANNUAL MEETING & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY
18
OCTOBER

8:30AM-10:30AM

Masjid Bilal of Cleveland
7401 Euclid Avenue | Cleveland 44103

Join Cuyahoga SWCD to learn about
our conservation work across
Cuyahoga County and celebrate the
past year's accomplishments.

- ✓ Highlights from Cuyahoga
SWCD's 75th Anniversary
- ✓ Celebrate the 2025 Conservation
Award Winners
- ✓ Tour Masjid Bilal, a NWF Sacred
Grounds host site
- ✓ **FREE BREAKFAST!!**



Event is FREE
to attend, but
registration
is required.



[cuyahogaswcd.org/
2025AnnualMeeting](https://cuyahogaswcd.org/2025AnnualMeeting)

Each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Ohio is administered by a five-member board of supervisors, each serving a three-year term. These supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in their respective counties. Supervisor elections are special elections, independent of a general election, conducted annually by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) pursuant to rules adopted under Chapters 119 and 940 of Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Department of Agriculture staff, as official designated agents, oversee local SWCD supervisor elections on behalf of the OSWCC.

HOW TO VOTE



IN PERSON AT THE CSWCD OFFICE

September 19th – October 17th | 8:30am–3:00pm
3311 Perkins Avenue | Suite 100 | Cleveland, OH 44114
(Free parking available on Perkins Ave. & East 36th St.)



ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN VOTING

September 19th–October 10th | Request a mail-in ballot

- **phone:** 216.503.0719
- **email:** thaendiges@cuyahogaswcd.org
- **web:** www.cuyahogaswcd.org/2025supervisorelection



AT THE CSWCD 2025 STORMWATER RUN-OFF OR ANNUAL MEETING

Stormwater Run-Off | October 5th, 8:30–10:30am
Clark Field Park (Tremont Pk. & Clark Ave.)

CSWCD Annual Meeting | October 18th, 8:30–10:00am
Masjid Bilal of Cleveland | 7401 Euclid Ave.

visit www.cuyahogaswcd.org/events to learn more

****You do not have to register for these events to vote in the election, but we hope you do!***

Eligible voters must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of the official election and be a resident or own land in Cuyahoga County.

www.cuyahogaswcd.org/2025supervisorelection

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Mike Jirousek

Mike Jirousek is a career environmental professional and has served on the Cuyahoga SWCD Board for four years, the past two as the Board Chair. In that time, Mike has been very impressed with the energy and dedication of the staff as we celebrated 75 years and continue to grow our services. A life-long resident of NE Ohio, Mike received his undergrad degree from John Carroll University and a MS in Environmental Management from the University of Findlay. Most recently, he was Manager of Environmental for FirstEnergy, managing the air and water compliance efforts for their fleet of 26 power plants. Mike would appreciate your vote so he can continue to use his managerial and environmental experience for the benefit of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and the residents of Cuyahoga County.



Divya Sridhar

Divya Sridhar is a sustainability professional with training in architecture and certification in permaculture. She is passionate about people, planet, and urban systems, and works at the intersection of practice, policy and community priorities. Prior to founding RE Collective consulting, she led climate resiliency and sustainability initiatives at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, where she worked closely with the City of Cleveland and local nonprofits on tree canopy, green infrastructure and circular economy programs. She served on Cleveland's Forestry Commission until 2024 and currently serves on the boards of Power Clean Future Ohio, Near West Theater, and Green Triangle. She lives with her family in Cleveland, and enjoys kayaking, bird watching, winter-hiking and theater when not home, reaping the joys of her native pollinator and abundant food garden.



Sunday, October 5, 2025 | Clark Field Park
Register at www.cuyahogaswcd.org



3311 Perkins Ave., Suite 100
Cleveland, OH 44114

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2025-2026 CONSERVATION ACTION GRANTS

NOW OPEN!

Do you have an idea for a conservation project at your home, in your community or at your school?

Quick Facts:

Who can apply: Residents, teachers, schools, community organizations and units of local government.

What does it fund: Funds can be used for projects that protect and restore healthy soil and water resources. Examples include rain gardens, native plants and trees!

How much can I apply for: Grant requests up to \$1,000

Application Deadline: September 28, 2025

Awards Announcement: October 7, 2025

How to apply: Visit cuyahogaswcd.org/actiongrants for the online application and for more details.

Projects must be located in Cuyahoga County.

