

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2016 Work Plan Annual Summary

Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Implementation

1. Restoration and Conservation Projects: Continue implementing restoration and conservation projects in the watershed and within the Council's community boundaries.

Annual projects list:

- **Targeted Habitat Restoration Grant – Planning and Concepts/Costs** – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative subgrant for Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Project Planning, administered by Ohio EPA
 - Submitted grant in December 2014 for potential 2015 program to inventory and prioritize potential sites for habitat restoration in the watershed. The top 5-8 priority sites will have conceptual designs and cost estimates developed in order to pursue future funding if implementation funding becomes available.
 - Awarded \$49,977 awarded in January 2015
 - Hire consultant to create concept plans and roll out to property owners to devise plan for pursuing design/build funding. Biohabitats hired after Qualifications selection process, contract 1/17-3/31
 - Concepts developed for 3 sites: Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst restoration, Mayfield Sand Ridge Corridor Restoration, Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation
 - Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation, Willoughby Hills –
 - submitted proposal on 9/30/16 for Ohio EPA 319 funding; 40% local match dependent on Ohio EPA WRRSP funding announcement and application
 - submitted proposal 12/16/16 for Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) funding
- **Lacustrine Refuge / Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project**– Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded project
 - \$1,396,050 GLRI grant closed.
 - Coordinate monitoring and compile/submit annual monitoring report to USACE due 12/31/16. Morphological monitoring 4/18; Macroinvertebrate monitoring started 6/21 and completed 8/1; Annual Photos/Observations taken 8/12; vegetative sampling 10/14/16; compiled and submitted full report on 12/19/16.
 - Conduct visual erosion inspections when rain events over 2” and coordinate with Metroparks and Cleveland on maintenance of project site. Inspection after 9/17 2.67” rain event.
 - Plan spring and fall volunteer events at wetland for maintenance. Spring event held; fall event held (planted 12 red-osier and silky dogwood shrubs along streamside by pavilion and weeded around young trees in project area).
- **Redstone Run Highland Reserve, Richmond Heights**
 - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy and monarch waystation gardens with Euclid Boy Scout Troop.
 - Coordinate education and outreach on property with interested residents and with Richmond Heights schools as land lab opportunity.
 - Manage invasive plants on property with West Creek Conservancy – invasives treated in 2015 and treated again in July 2016, small, manageable area for treatment but still a \$567 price tag for professionals to treat.
- **Bishop Road Property, Highland Heights Conservation project**
 - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy. Monitored on 6/3, grasses doing very well and spreading, other plants doing ok.
 - Work with City on any improvements at site, e.g. project signage.

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- **Mayfair Lake Dam Removal Project, Richmond Heights**
 - Encouraged restoration project for County Airport safety project mitigation - OEPA denied Mayfair mitigation project for Airport Impacts, instead mitigating project impacts in Grand River Watershed. Suggested I propose Mayfair Restoration to TNC Ohio Mitigation Bank, submitted project for consideration on 7/29.
 - **Stormwater Retrofit project prioritization**
 - For concept plans that were developed for top two sites in 2010, find Green Infrastructure funding sources since Ohio EPA SWIF on hold; find funding to develop concepts for projects on list without plans.
 - **East 185th Street Fish Passage Project (ODOT spillway)**
 - Army Corps feasibility study ceased unless local project sponsor found who can contribute up to \$105,000 for study.
 - NEORS D considering being sponsor again if legal issues worked out, through NEORS D Stormwater Program – met with USACE and NEORS D on 4/18 to discuss steps to getting feasibility study moving again – all parties confident agreement can be worked through legal departments and proceed with study; agreement finalized and in final review by NEORS D and USACE legal departments (approved by NEORS D Board December 2016); optimistic project timeline, 2 years to complete feasibility study and 2 years for construction.
 - **East Branch Dam Removal Project**
 - Grants closed, but continuing with WRRSP Annual Compliance Reporting (submitted in March). Continue with annual monitoring to ensure project stability proximity to Highland Road bridge footers. Costly repairs on hold at this time. Coordinating with Cleveland Metroparks to request discontinuing compliance reporting with condition partners monitor site annually if not more after big rain events to ensure infrastructure stable.
 - Annual inspection of project stability, plant growth, etc. on 8/12 with NEORS D and Cleveland Metroparks (CMP); CMP treated invasive phragmites along stream shortly after inspection and cared for young trees planted during project in 2011.
 - **Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Update**
 - Coordinate with ODNR, ODA and Ohio EPA on updates required for 2017 state/federal grant proposals.
 - Plan update to include:
 - Updating existing plan with new data, needs, etc.
 - Update watershed-wide restoration and protection strategies and meet with partner agencies and affected communities to review / append / approve strategy
 - Hold public meetings to get feedback on opportunities identified
 - Prioritize top restoration/protection projects and incorporate into plan
 - Submit plan to OEPA/ODNR/ODA for review/approval
 - Focus of plan designating critical areas and project's that can be implemented to fix problems, much more prescriptive plan
 - Met with FOEC to discuss stakeholder meetings, 5/17
 - Stakeholder meetings and meetings with City Service Directors/Engineers over spring months 2017
2. Watershed Resources:
- Provide watershed resources and conference / training information to Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Technical Committee. Emailed training opportunities to Technical Committee throughout year as relevant.

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3. Grant Opportunities & Technical Assistance:

- a) Provide communities grant opportunity resources to evaluate for their use.
 - OEPA-SWIF grant - *not available this year*
 - OEPA 319 Program – announced, due September
 - WRRSP – announced November, due December
 - Dominion Watershed Grant – second year of grant – up to \$5,000 for Watershed groups. Program being managed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Proposals due July 22.
 - o **Dusty Goldenrod Ecological Management Plan** - Submitted and awarded 8/26 for \$2,500 management plan – 2017 project/deliverable

- b) Assist local communities on the assembly of grant applications.
 - Briardale Municipal Golf Course, Euclid – direct tributary to Lake Erie
 - o Assist with project concept plan and grant application for restoration and potential daylighting project – project on hold while City priorities identified
 - Alliance for the Great Lakes / City of Euclid Green Creek grant application – provided riparian planting guidance for Royal Bank of Canada grant application, grant awarded on 5/10; riparian planting day planned with Euclid High School for 11/3

- c) Assist Watershed Council communities with watershed projects
 - Provide assistance in developing Watershed Plans for adjacent watersheds like Nine Mile, Green Creek and Euclid Lake Erie Watersheds and in helping with project development (e.g. Green Creek cleanup/restoration work led by City of Euclid)
 - **Green Creek Watershed, City of Euclid** – assisting with cleanup initiative (led by City) and ecological inventory (led by Roy Larick)
 - **City of Euclid Direct Tributaries / Unnamed Watershed** – assisting in chemistry monitoring by lending our equipment and offering training through ECVMP Program Manager’s time; training held on 6/27 to monitor 4 streams in Euclid monthly for 3 months
 - **Orphan Lake Erie direct Watersheds** ongoing discussion – for streams between Euclid Creek and Doan Brook and Euclid’s Creeks east of Euclid Creek with Roy Larick of Bluestone Heights and Tori Mills of Doan Brook Watershed Partners, discussion of how to cover these watersheds.

- d) Provide technical assistance to communities and landowners as requested.
 - **Beachwood** – tree planting call to City regarding incorrect planting of trees on Cedar, Vild was on it and conducted training for landscaper
 - **Cleveland** – reviewed Northeast Shores Development Corp. Green Infrastructure SWPPP and provided input; assisted NE Shores Dev. Corp with lakefront erosion issue at Beulah Park with ODNR Coastal Mgmt office (9/15)
 - **Cleveland** – Councilman Polensek concern about bacteria at Euclid Beach and perception that cause from Euclid Creek. Identified sites for bacteria monitoring throughout watershed with Ohio EPA conducting monitoring summer of 2016.
 - **Euclid** – 2 illicit discharge calls and follow up coordination with City, 1 stream erosion concern site visit Harms Road (6/20), cooking grease illicit discharge (6/27); resident storm drain backup issue (8/23)
 - **Highland Heights** – continued calls from property owner on Millridge, church runoff concern (11/14)
 - **Lyndhurst** – multiple resident complaints (via neighborhood webpage) about sewage smell around Legacy Village, Giant Eagle entrance area (12/8)

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- **Mayfield Village** – site visit recommending rain garden location for resident behind Mayfield High School (7/22)
 - **Richmond Heights** – meeting at Desan Park to discuss drainage issues and solutions; resident call about concerning substance in creek (7/6); resident erosion concern on Harms Road, sent information (7/25); discussion with County Councilwoman Sunny Simon about debris piles and potential for creating pollinator habitat at County Airport as part of construction project (8/19)
 - **South Euclid** – illegal dumping of landscape material into Dugway Brook (6/24); resident question about creek stake (8/19); dead deer in creek resident concern (9/13); site visit 1211 Berwick Lane to discuss creek condition with new prop owners (10/7)
4. Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP): Continue and advance VMP program
- Conduct Volunteer Monitoring Committee meetings as needed.
 - Recruit new citizen volunteers. 2 trainings held, 4 volunteers trained to date.
 - Outreach and facilitate with interested groups.
 - Input data collected annually and develop annual report for volunteers and watershed communities.
 - OEPA Monitoring of Euclid Creek 2015 – coordinate with them on sampling locations; incorporate final data into WAP update and present data to watershed partners and community in 2016.
 - Euclid Stream Monitoring - Equipment borrowed for training of residents and for monitoring for 3 months of Euclid tributaries, being led by Roy Larick and Paul Kovalcik
5. Model Ordinances: Implement local ordinances to meet community storm water management plan goals.
- Work with local communities and City Engineers in updating the ordinances to meet the 5-year Stormwater Management Plan goals. Met with Mayfield Heights (5/17,) and Mayfield Village (1, 29, 2/5) to discuss SWMP and Ordinance updates.
 - Lyndhurst Downspout Disconnect Ordinance discussion – hoping to work with City to update Ordinances to allow for downspout disconnection to rain garden, rain barrel. Resident would like to install rain garden, but cannot with current ordinance. **Lyndhurst passed code allowing rain barrels** in September 2016. City of Cleveland passed Riparian Setback Ordinance in December 2016.
 - Provided Phase 2 Audit guidance to Beachwood, Euclid, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, and Mayfield Village. Guidance and SWMP PIPE template developed and sent to all ECWC communities.

Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Program / Outreach

1. PIPE Program
- Continue implementing the PIPE program through the PIPE Committee and coming up with new and innovative education and outreach opportunities.
 - Continue assembly and distribution of annual 2016 PIPE Outreach Strategy and 2015 PIPE Annual Report to provide to community's stormwater manager (delivered to communities on 3/2).
 - Education Materials – educational articles emailed to communities to put in newsletters/social media and hard copies of article, brochures related to education theme delivered to communities 3 times a year – 3 deliveries to communities.
 - Targeted Streamside Property Owner Mailing – December Delivery - Designed brochure for 1,500 streamside property owners on Life at the Water's Edge #1 on Stream Management. Funding through FOEC/NEORS Service Agreement.

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2. Euclid Creek e-Newsletter, Broadcast Emails, Website, and Social Media

- Newsletter - Continue the assembly and distribution of the Euclid Creek e-newsletter three times a year. Newsletter emailed to distribution list and mailed to ECWC Communities (public officials and city staff). Winter Newsletter issued 1/6/15, Spring Newsletter issued 4/19, Summer Newsletter issued 8/16
- Broadcast emails – Send out monthly broadcast emails, so more frequent emails with more timely information. Sent on 2/26, 4/1, 5/31, 7/5, 7/28, 8/23, 9/23, 10/3, 10/28, 11/22, 12/21
- Website – Continue updating website so relevant and with new projects so will announce in new year when smooth navigation established. Key program update/news included on new Blog page.
- Social Media – Manage Friends of Euclid Creek Facebook page. Post 1-5 times a week and try not to post more than once a day. Manage Twitter account with Tweets weekly at most.

3. Euclid Creek Watershed Council Coordination

- Watershed Coordinator serves as Secretary to Euclid Creek Watershed Council (non-voting member). Gives notice of meetings, prepares meeting agendas with ECWC Chair and content, keeps minutes, and records all votes.
- Continue coordinating the Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings and committees, including the PIPE Committee, Technical Committee and Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee.
- Continue to promote best land use practices in communities. Appreciate opportunity to provide feedback on projects with impacts on streams.
- Assist with and coordinate the NPDES Phase II Permit among the Council communities as requested by the Technical Committee. Meeting held 1/26 to go over December 2016 SWMP and Ordinance required updates and Watershed Friendly Stream Maintenance Manual, email reminder to committee with model codes and stormwater management plan templates 9/14. Guidance and SWMP PIPE template developed and sent to all ECWC communities.

4. Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) Liaison

- Assist FOEC with watershed resources and organizational support.
- Serve as liaison between Euclid Creek Watershed Council and FOEC.
- Provide watershed program updates at monthly FOEC general meetings and participate in monthly FOEC board meetings as time allows.
 - Participated in board/board committee meetings: 3/15, 4/20, 6/23, 7/20, 10/4, 10/17, 11/16
 - Participated in Anniversary planning meetings: 3/10, 5/17
 - Participated in membership meetings/hikes: 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 5/17, 6/7, 6/18, 8/2, 12/6
- Coordinate with FOEC members on volunteering at watershed events, tabling at community events. Participated in FOEC facilitated strategic planning meetings with Board recruitment focus. FOEC recruited 5 new board members and 4 long-term board members stepped down in 2016/17 election.

Watershed Program Sustainability / Funding

- **Euclid Creek Watershed Council MOU for 2017-2020** – renew watershed program MOU with Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities and see if Pepper Pike or Willoughby Hills interested in joining – all communities passed MOU except for Mayfield Village; had to pull MOU and update to separate Watershed Program MOU from new regional PIPE Program MOU.
- **Central Lake Erie Basin (CLEB) Watershed Organization Collaboration - ‘Your CLE Watersheds’** – local watershed groups from Black River to Ashtabula/Conneaut River Watershed

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- Meets quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, funding challenges, watershed gaps in coverage, etc. – meetings attended 1/20, 4/20, 7/20, 10/19
- Table events collaboratively – share watershed volunteer time v. all groups at regional events at separate tables – central messaging key to avoiding public confusion of watersheds – many events collaborated on to date.
- Posius leading Mapping Group coordination with NEORSD – to map watershed projects on one regional platform, and to have regional watershed events in one location.
- CLEB applied for Ohio EPA 319 funding and Gund funding in 2015 for 2 new temporary positions to assist existing watershed groups with workload and to assist groups without watershed programs in special projects/programs. Submitted proposal for staff time assistance in March, proposal interview May; both positions funded, 1 housed at West Creek Conservancy, 1 at Chagrin River Watershed Partners – positions to assist CLEB watershed group members with watershed projects/priorities (200 hours/watershed group per year for 2 year grant)
- **NEORSD-FOEC Watershed Organization Service Program 2016**
 - Proposal developed with FOEC for revised service oriented proposal. Submitted October 15. FOEC awarded \$35,000 on 11/19. Reports compiled and submitted 4/15, 7/15.
- **NEORSD-FOEC Watershed Organization Service Program 2017**
 - RFP issued 9/27, proposal submitted 10/24, \$35,000 award announced 1/5/17
- **Targeted Habitat Restoration Grant – Planning and Concepts/Costs** – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative subgrant for Cuyahoga AOC Habitat Restoration Project Planning, administered by Ohio EPA
 - \$10,000 of grant toward SWCD staff time in 2015 to perform inventory; remaining funding to hire consultant to create designs. \$8,600 in funding utilized of \$10,000 awarded. Final reporting submitted 5/2016 – grant closed out.
- **Cleveland Waterfront Coalition** – FOEC applied for and was awarded \$10,000 one time grant for projects and Watershed Coordinator staff support in July 2015. Will submit progress reports as grant funding spent.
- **Friends of Euclid Creek** – participated in strategic planning meetings with FOEC to guide groups’ direction and board recruitment in spring

Additional Watershed Efforts led by Partner Agencies

- Participate in partner agencies’ meetings and/or planning efforts as requested/needed.
 - **City of Richmond Heights and Euclid Master Plan Processes** – participate in Cuyahoga County Planning-led master plan process to help identify natural resource policies to include in plans
 - Richmond Heights plan initiated 8/9 at 1st Steering Committee Meeting;
 - Euclid plan starting in 2017
 - **Cleveland Metroparks**
 - **Acacia Reservation** – participate in Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation and Outreach Process and assist with grants obtained
 - **Lyndhurst Dam Removal/Retrofit Design process**– participate in Metroparks-led design process for removal/retrofit of dam located off of Cedar at the northwest end of Acacia Reservation – GLRI/AOC grant obtained for design/cost estimates work in 2015. Project could not proceed due to ODNR dam decommissioning requirements and City concerns over downstream flooding. Funding went toward Acacia retrofit design of NE pond and daylighting a section of Euclid Creek downstream of pond.
 - Participated in **Acacia NE Pond Retrofit** public meeting on 2/4, 50 attendees
 - Pursue alternate funding to assess Clinic property stormwater ponds to see if dam removal project feasible if downstream capacity for stormwater retention created.
 - **Acacia Restoration Plan** Public Meeting 8/11, 35 attendees
 - **Restoration Construction** began September 2016; started work in Euclid Creek doing restoration, stream moving and floodplain excavation; 2nd phase will be to

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- improve drainage upland by breaking drainage tiles and restoring to wetland swales; and the final portion is to daylight and remove berm at southwest tributary (2nd and 3rd phase in 2017). Work anticipated to be complete summer of 2017. Funded through USFWS, WRRSP, Conservation Fund money and Metroparks.
- **Euclid Creek Reservation** – participate in capital planning for park with Metroparks planners
 - o *Old Highland Road Connector Project* - City of Euclid-led discussions with Cleveland Metroparks – participate in meetings as scheduled
 - o *Highland Road / Euclid Creek Parkway* – applied for TLCI funding in 2016 to reconfigure intersection so safer for bikes/pedestrians, not funded
 - **Wildwood Reservation** – assist with planning/project input as needed –
 - o City of Cleveland grant submitted to GLRI Shoreline Communities fund to retrofit rain garden and create more bioswales in marina parking lot, will participate in process if funded. Awarded \$175,000 in funding (1:1 match), 2017 project to be implemented by Cleveland Metroparks.
 - **Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park proposed bikeway, Cleveland & Euclid, from 2006 Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan effort**
 - o Participate in meetings to discuss new trail alignment and reconstruction of pedestrian bridge over I-90 as meetings scheduled by City or Metroparks.
 - o Pedestrian bridge over I-90 under construction (May-Fall)
 - o Trail connector on Cuyahoga County Executive Trails Committee priority list for 2018
 - **County Airport Environmental Assessment** – Cuyahoga County hired Mead & Hunt to conduct assessment
 - Submitted public comment encouraging mitigation in Euclid Creek (12/19/15) at Mayfair and consultant Cha Consulting followed up on mitigation proposal. Continue promoting Mayfair project with consultant, County, City and all project partners. Response from Ohio EPA that mitigation will remain in Grand River watershed, but encouraged to submit project to The Nature Conservancy mitigation bank (submitted project for mitigation bank consideration in September 2016).
 - **Forest City Working Group / Tree Coalition**
 - Mission of Group: To provide resources and expertise to assist in the reforestation of the City of Cleveland and the region, to raise awareness about the many benefits of trees and to bring a new appreciation for trees to the residents of Northeast Ohio.
 - Participating on Coalition representing CSWCD as needed
 - **Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinating Committee**
 - Euclid Creek a part of the Cuyahoga AOC. Posius is elected representative for Friends of Euclid Creek on Committee. Participate in quarterly meetings to have voice on Committee and AOC delisting criteria. Participated in meetings/annual symposium on 1/21, 4/21, 9/29, 11/18
 - Posius on Strategic Implementation Subcommittee in 2016
 - **NEORSD Stormwater Program**
 - Billing to start back up in July
 - Communities can access community cost share money now (through NEORSD application)
 - Attended Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meeting – 2/8
 - **Cuyahoga County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2016 Update**
 - Are all communities participating and providing areas of concern (e.g. erosion)