

Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2017 Work Plan (Annual Update)

Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Implementation

1. Submitted and received Restoration, Conservation, and Green Infrastructure Projects: Continue implementing stream and floodplain restoration projects, greenspace conservation and stormwater management projects in the watershed and within the Council's community boundaries.

Annual projects list:

- **Dusty Goldenrod Preserve, Highland Heights – Ecological Management Plan**
 - Western Reserve Land Conservancy / Dominion grant for \$2,500 through FOEC to coordinate with school on management plan for property – main goal, to protect state endangered plant and to get student involvement
 - Hired Davey Resource Group to create management plan; coordinating with FOEC's Conservation Committee on project goals. Project timeline - May through September. Kickoff meeting June 14; Site Assessment on 6/22; FOEC Conservation Committee meeting to set plan goals. Management plan completed in October.
- **Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus – Hydrologic Reconnection Concept Plan**
 - Considering Sustain our Great Lakes Grant with Watershed Collaborative staff assistance to look at stormwater pond, stream and wetland water resources to assess stormwater retention functionality and ecological function.
 - EnviroScience putting together Concept Plan for improving drainage and ecological function at site through Watershed Collaboration funding. Timeline – Summer kickoff meeting 6/14. Fall/Winter deliverable.
- **Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus – Stream Restoration Project**
 - Submitted proposal 7/31/17 for Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) – not funded, but participated in conference call to get feedback and proposal next year looks encouraging; spring site visit with funders to get more detailed feedback for improving funding odds.
- **Wildwood Reservation Parking Lot - Green Infrastructure Project (City of Cleveland grant / Cleveland Metroparks-implemented project)**
 - City of Cleveland Shoreline Communities/GLRI grant awarded to retrofit rain garden and create more bioswales in marina parking lot, will participate in hiring consultant and project implementation (e.g. relocating rain garden plants with volunteers) in 2017.
 - Consultants hired and design work started (high Lake levels impacting design), F. Buddie Contracting and OHM Advisors
 - Watershed Outreach: Volunteer event held to move plants from rain garden to other locations in park on May 20
 - Construction completed Summer 2017
- **Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation - Stream Restoration Project, Willoughby Hills**
 - Submitted proposal 9/30/16 for Ohio EPA 319 funding program – funding looks likely, but needed to raise 40% match for project (\$104,000, or \$250,000 project total)
 - Developed Nonpoint Source (Watershed Action Plan) draft update for project to Ohio EPA and submitted 1/13/17, edits submitted 5/22/17, approved 6/7/17
 - City of Willoughby Hills Council approved authorizing full \$104,000 of match needed to be paid through Lake County Stormwater User Fee Program Willoughby Hills funding allocation
 - NEORSD considering contributing match as well

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- Submitted proposal 12/16/16 for Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) funding – not funded, working with OEPA on strategy for next year’s proposal
- **Richmond Heights City Hall Riparian Planting - Monitoring & Invasives Management**
 - Manage invasive Canada thistle plants in riparian area with EnviroScience (\$4,000 budget from NEORS-D-FOEC Service Agreement).
 - Dispersed native seed, City mowed thistle late May, EnviroScience chemically sprayed thistle in over summer; (will repeat for 2-3 years until gone)
- **East 185th Street Fish Passage Project (ODOT spillway) – Feasibility Study**
 - Project was on hold due to NEORS-D sponsorship ending when stormwater program challenged; study resuming in 2017.
 - US ACE-led
 - NEORS-D authorized being project sponsor again at 12/1/16 Board meeting, cost not to exceed \$140,000.
 - Timeline for feasibility study 2017-19; construction by 2021
 - Kickoff Meeting on June 13 to get project restarted; 25% project meeting held 11/6 (existing conditions completed, assessing alternatives now); spring 2018 public meeting anticipated
- **Wildwood Lacustrine Wetland and Stream Restoration Project– Monitoring**

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded project

 - \$1,396,050 GLRI grant closed.
 - Coordinate Year 4 monitoring and compile/submit annual monitoring report to USACE due 12/31/17. Morphological monitoring 5/16; Vegetation monitoring Sept; Annual photo monitoring 8/3/17.
 - Conduct visual erosion inspections when rain events over 2” and coordinate with Metroparks and Cleveland on maintenance of project site. No rain events over 2” as of 6/7/17; 1st event requiring inspection 10/13/17.
 - Plan spring and fall volunteer events at wetland for maintenance. May 20 planting, moved rain garden plants to banks in wetland project area. Sept. 9 cleanup along floodplain area.
- **Redstone Run Highland Reserve, Richmond Heights – Monitoring & Invasives Management**
 - Monitor restoration plantings at site. Monitored site in summer, ¾ of trees established well – overall project looking good.
 - Coordinate education and outreach on property with interested residents and with Richmond Heights schools as land lab opportunity.
 - Manage invasive plants on property with EnviroScience. Spring treatment conducted.
- **Bishop Road Property, Highland Heights Conservation project - Monitoring**
 - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy. Monitored site in summer, very few plantings left, deer browsing prohibitive to forest understory planting efforts.
 - Work with City on any improvements at site, e.g. project signage.
- **Mayfair Lake Dam Removal Project, Richmond Heights - Restoration Project**
 - Encourage restoration project for County Airport safety project through mitigation. Project does not qualify as wetland restoration needed for mitigation, not stream restoration.
 - Continuing to re-evaluate project strategy with City of Richmond Heights and County Airport representatives. In discussions with County on airport mitigation required.

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- **Stormwater Retrofit project prioritization – Green Infrastructure Projects**
 - 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 Branch Dam Removal Project - Monitoring**
 - Grant is 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. Annual project monitoring conducted with NEORSD and CMP, 8/3.

Watershed Plan Update:

- **Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Update / Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy Document (NPS-IS)**
 - Coordinate with ODNR, ODA and Ohio EPA on updates required for 2017 state/federal grant proposals.
 - Plan update to include:
 - Update draft NPS-IS plan with new data, needs, projects, 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
 - Stakeholder meetings and meetings with City Service Directors/Engineers in winter
 - Waiting until NEORSD Watershed Master Planning to compile whole document and to schedule public meetings; process to begin in 2018

2. Watershed Resources:

- Provide watershed resources and conference / training information to Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Technical Committee. Emailed training opportunities to Technical Committee as relevant.
- Interact with local, state and national agency initiatives such as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports, research opportunities, outreach and funding initiatives.

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 – not announced to date
 - WRRSP – proposals were due July 31, submitted for Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Stream Restoration project (not funded)
 - Dominion/WRLC Mini Watershed Grant – up to \$5,000 for Watershed groups. Program being managed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Proposals due July 31, submitted for tree planting at church in Euclid along stream (awarded \$2,000)
- b) Assist local communities on the assembly of grant applications.
 - Utilize NEORSD Stormwater Program Community Cost Share as local match for restoration project grants and other shared priority projects with watershed communities
 - **GLRI – US Forest Service proposal developed for Mayfield Heights** (at request of Council President Teresi) to restore trees in I-271/Mayfield cloverleaves and another area along 271 in Mayfield Heights. Assisted in preparation through CLEB-funded/CRWP housed watershed staff in developing proposal (via Euclid Creek's 200 hours); \$90,725 funding request; proposal submitted 4/13 (not funded)

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- 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
 - Green Creek Watershed, City of Euclid – tree planting monitoring effort with Euclid High School – fall activity
 - d) Provide technical assistance to communities on natural resource issues during master planning or update efforts, on floodplain management activities and on stream maintenance best management practices as requested.
 - City of Richmond Heights and City of Euclid master planning ongoing with Cuyahoga County Planning Commission leading effort. Providing recommendations as plans presented.
 - CRWP-led Green Infrastructure Champions grant to assess barriers to GI in Mayfield Village – pilot to see how program, subsidies, etc. could help promote GI, kickoff meeting 10/17.
 - e) Provide technical assistance to watershed landowners with stream maintenance, erosion and/or drainage issues as requested.
 - 22 calls from residents about drainage/stream issues in Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights and South Euclid
4. Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP): Continue and advance VMP program
- Conduct Volunteer Monitoring Committee meetings as needed.
 - Recruit new citizen volunteers.
 - Outreach and facilitate with interested groups.
 - Input data collected annually and develop annual report for volunteers and watershed communities. June Intern task.
 - OEPA Monitoring of Euclid Creek 2015 – incorporate final data when received into WAP update and present data to watershed partners and community in 2017.
5. Model Ordinances: Implement local ordinances to meet community storm water management plan goals.
- ECWC community's ordinances being reviewed currently through CLEB staff hours and recommendations coming for each community this winter.

Watershed Outreach & Program Partner Collaboration

1. Watershed Outreach
- Continue to coordinate watershed outreach with the goal of reaching a diverse group of stakeholders from streamside property owners to large landlocked landowners.
 - Euclid Creek 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). Spring Newsletter issued 4/21, Summer Newsletter issued 8/16
 - Broadcast emails – Send out monthly broadcast emails, so more frequent emails with more timely information. Published on 3/2, 3/29, 4/21, 5/31, 6/30, 7/21, 8/18, 9/28, 11/1, 12/28
 - 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. Posts to facebook 3-5x/week
 - Targeted Streamside Property Owner Mailing - Building off of 2016 Streamside Management mailing – focus on how streams work (Funding through FOEC/NEORS Service Agreement). Winter mailing
 - Targeted Mailing Property Owners with Large Lots and room to reduce grass or

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- impervious - Letter to see if property owner wants to reduce impervious or grass for green infrastructure or native plant meadow or more watershed friendly practice and offer to provide technical assistance. Mailed to non-residential property owners with lots over 3 acres in July 2017.
 - Targeted Mailing to Septic System property owners (HSTS) – education about maintaining septic systems –November 2017 mailing
 - Targeted Mailing to Restaurant owners (HSTS) – education about proper disposal of cooking oil/grease and impacts on infrastructure/stormwater – Winter mailing
 - Targeted Mailing to Pet owners – education about proper pet waste disposal – Winter mailing
 - Ravine Workshop – July 25 – to identify problems and potential solutions managing our steep ravines in the Bluestone Heights area. Targeting one neighborhood for this pilot project in Euclid Creek led by Bluestone Heights, Doan Brook, NEORS, FOEC – two other workshops in Green Creek and Doan Brook if you can't make this one.
 - Alliance for the Great Lakes (Revitalizing our Ravines program in Chicago) facilitator / technical expert leading training
 - Location for training – Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge, 36 attended and learned about what a healthy ravine looks like. Technical guidance compiled in 2018/19 (ongoing effort).
 - Richmond Heights Stream Signs installed 2/24; 2 signs for four named tributaries
 - Day in the Life of Euclid Creek event – last year as largescale Cleveland Metroparks supported event – rotating to Rocky River in 2018
 - July 15, 9am-2:30pm – 178 participants at event in Cleveland, Highland Heights and Lyndhurst
2. 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. Meetings held 2/2, 6/8, and 11/9
 - Continue coordinating the Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings and committees, including the Technical Committee (Ravine Workshop targeted as technical training) and Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee.
 - Continue to promote best land use practices in communities.
 - Assist with and coordinate the NPDES Phase II Permit among the Council communities as requested by the Technical Committee.
3. 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 meetings and membership meetings/hikes: 3/7, 4/11, 5/3, 6/6, 7/5, 7/20, 8/7, 10/10
 - Coordinate with FOEC members on volunteering at watershed events, tabling at community events.
 - FOEC considering partnering with local watershed group to help with some administrative services – entered into contract with Chagrin River Watershed Partners on 6/19

Watershed Program Sustainability / Funding

- **Euclid Creek Watershed Council MOU for 2017-2020** – renew watershed program MOU with Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities removing PIPE from Watershed services to be included in new PIPE Program MOU (between Community, NEORS and CSWCD) – revised MOU approved by all communities and executed on 5/30/17

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- **Central Lake Erie Basin (CLEB) Watershed Organization Collaboration - ‘Your CLE Watersheds’** – local watershed groups from Black River to Ashtabula/Conneaut River Watershed
 - Meets quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, funding challenges, watershed gaps in coverage, etc. Met on 3/27, 6/15, 10/25
 - 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.
 - CLEB applied for Ohio EPA 319 funding and Gund funding in 2016/17 for 2 new temporary positions to assist existing watershed groups with workload and to assist groups without watershed programs in special projects/programs.
 - 200 hours for Euclid Creek – utilizing hours for ECWC communities Ordinance review; Mayfield Heights grant proposal development; Concept Plan design for Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus hydrology study
- **NEORS-FOEC Watershed Organization Service Program 2017**
 - Proposal developed with FOEC for service oriented proposal. Submitted October 24. FOEC awarded \$35,000 on 1/5/17. Quarterly reporting compiled / submitted 4/14, 7/14, 10/13

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 final public meeting held 5/25
 - **Cleveland Metroparks**
 - **Acacia Reservation** – participate in Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation and Outreach Process and assist with grants obtained
 - o Massive restoration project almost complete from stream restoration to wetland swale creation – Meadville Land Service, PA construction contractor and Biohabitats oversight/designer with Cleveland Metroparks guidance; construction mostly done by summer 2017
 - o NE pond restoration and daylighting project – spring/summer work being done by Sustainable Streams
 - o Tree planting event 9/22 led by Cleveland Metroparks
 - **Euclid Creek Reservation** – participate in capital planning for park with Metroparks planners
 - **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 Once Euclid Central Middle School closed/demolished (2020?); CMP intends to receive back property from Euclid Schools to develop trail through this segment along Euclid Creek
 - **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, AOC delisting criteria and project prioritization.
 - Posius on Strategic Implementation Subcommittee in 2017, meetings 9/6,

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- **DEPAVE Initiative** and demonstration project in Mayfield Heights in Community Center parking lot, 5/6-5/7 project (in Chagrin River Watershed)
- **NEORSD Stormwater Program**
 - Billing to started back up in July 2016
 - Communities can access community cost share money now (through NEORSD application)
 - Attend Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meetings – attended 3/13, 10/17 meetings
- **Cuyahoga County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2016/17 Update**
 - Are all communities participating and providing areas of concern (e.g. erosion)
 - Out in draft form
- **NOACA 208 Plan Update Process**
 - Provide assistance to NOACA through watershed collaboration on Chapter 9 update - Watershed Planning Approaches in NEO chapter (document last updated in 2000).
 - Planning underway, multi-year process, total rewrite of plan, focus is on facility planning area boundaries and wastewater treatment prescriptions and updating chapters on home sewage treatment systems and NPS / stormwater runoff management.