Thank You for Participating in the
Euclid Creek Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting Program!

By participating in the program, you are taking an important step to protect and restore the aquatic resources of the Euclid Creek Watershed! Planting and maintaining forested corridors along our rivers and streams is one of the most important actions that can be taken to reduce the impacts of urbanization and nonpoint-source pollution. Thank you!!!

- Claire Posius
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Plant Varieties

The tree and shrub seedlings being distributed were selected because they are well-suited to streamside conditions. Additionally, many of the varieties are fast growing or quickly establish their root systems. Please note that you may not receive all seven species listed below.

- **Red-Osier Dogwood** — Shrub. Mature height ~8 feet. Bright red bark, white flowers. (*PINK)
- **Silky Dogwood** — Shrub. Mature height ~10 feet. White flowers. Fast grower. (*YELLOW)
- **Common Ninebark** — Shrub. Mature height ~8 feet. Relatively slow growth rate. (*BLUE)
- **Allegheny Serviceberry** — Small Tree. Mature height ~ 25 feet. Medium growth rate. (*GREEN)
- **Swamp White Oak** — Tree. Mature height ~60 feet. Relatively slow growth rate. (*WHITE)
- **Pin Oak** — Tree. Mature height ~ 70 feet. Relatively fast grower.
- **American Sycamore** — Tree. Mature height ~ 80 feet. Relatively fast grower. (*BLACK)

*Seedlings will be tied with colored string to indicate what species you received, as is noted above.

Where to Plant Your Trees and Shrubs

The number of trees and shrubs you are receiving is sufficient to establish an approximately 25'-wide buffer along the length of stream on your property (up to 200' long). Plants should be spaced roughly 10' from each other, with the species mixed. Each planting site is unique, with its own set of conditions. It sounds simplistic, but ultimately, you should plant the trees where you would like to see them grow.

Some additional tips:

- **The bare-root seedling roots MUST be kept moist at all times! Plant seedlings within 24 hours and store in a dark, cool place so they don't dry out. Keep out of direct sunlight if possible until planted.**
- Trees and shrubs should not be planted in the stream channel. Rather, the plants closest to the water should be planted at the top of the streambank.
- While each of the tree/shrub varieties that you receive can grow in partial shade, efforts should be made to plant them where they will receive as much sun as possible.
- Do not plant trees over septic systems, water lines, gas lines, or other utilities, and do not plant large trees under power lines.
- Generally, the Red-Osier Dogwood should be planted closest to the water.
How to Plant Your Container Trees

1. Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the root system & dig as deep as the ball or pot.
2. Find the root flare, the place at the base of the trunk where it starts to spread out just above the topmost root. You might have to dig away soil to find it, since nursery plants are often planted too deep in their pots or balls.
3. Spread the roots out on a pile of soil built up in the bottom of the hole.
4. Adjust the planting depth so that the root flare shows just above ground level. Don’t plant too deep, and don’t plant too high. Give tree a slow and steady stream of irrigation (~10 gallons per inch of caliper/trunk).
5. Keep mulch at least a hand-length away from the trunk.

Source: Cuyahoga River Restoration “Woods for Waters—Guide to planting riparian buffers for healthy streams”
How to Install Deer Protection Fencing

1. After planting the 3-gallon tree(s), wrap wire fencing provided around tree and place stake outside of fence where the ends overlap. Place the wood stake through the last metal wrung closest to ground to secure cage.
2. Use plastic zip ties provided to secure wood stake to the wire fencing.
3. Trim grass that grows over time inside caging, so that the tree is not competing with grass for water and nutrients (unlike tall grass shown in photo above).

Caring for Your Plants

Planting your trees and shrubs is just the beginning. In order to give your new plants the best chance to grow and develop properly, consider taking the following steps:

Watering:
- Ideally, water your new plants regularly and amply. Ten gallons per inch diameter of trunk when you plant, five more per tree every week during which you do not get a few inches of rain. If there is water in your stream, use it to water the trees. Scoop it out with a bucket on a rope—kids love to help with this part.

To Mulch or Not to Mulch:
- Leaving a mulched area around the seedlings can help prevent mowing over or stepping on the seedlings. Mulch also prevents grass from competing with the trees/shrubs for water and nutrients. If you go this route, add 2-4 inches of compost and seasoned mulch in a donut shape (keep the materials off of the root ball, collar and flare so water can penetrate).
- Alternately, you can mow or weed grass around your seedlings for 2-3 years until they are established.

Deer Protection:
- To prevent damage from deer and other animals, consider surrounding your seedlings with tree tubes or make your own cylinders with chicken wire.
- If deer are a large problem in your area, you may wish to use a deer repellant (available at local garden centers).
Keep in Touch

Please send tree planting pictures and pictures of your planted seedlings to cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org.

We would also like to monitor plant success over time for our grant funder, so please email cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org your tree/shrub photos annually so we can see how they are growing. And we are in need of these kinds of pictures for future publications.

A fun family activity is to take a photo in front of one of the trees each year with a family member (pets included!) for scale and/or to see how fast your kids grow in comparison to the tree/shrub.

Thank you!!!

The Lake Erie Protection Fund

The Euclid Creek Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting Program is made possible through a grant from the Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is administered by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established in 1990 to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and to promote economic development within the region.

The Lake Erie Protection Fund is supported by the citizens of Ohio through tax-deductible donations and by the purchase of the Lake Erie License Plate. $15 from the sale of each “Erie…Our Great Lake” license plate goes directly to the Lake Erie Protection Fund. Visit your local deputy registrar or www.OPLATES.com to purchase the plates.