

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

2016 Work Plan

June 2016 Update

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 Golf Course](#), [Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation](#)
- **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](#)
 - 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 6/22/16.](#)
 - Plan spring and fall volunteer events at wetland for maintenance. [Spring event held; fall event planned.](#)
- **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 will again in 2016, small, manageable area for treatment.](#)
- **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.
- **Mayfair Lake Dam Removal Project, Richmond Heights**
 - [Encourage restoration project for County Airport safety project mitigation.](#)
- **Storm Water 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](#)

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steps to getting feasibility study moving again – all parties confident agreement can be worked through legal departments and proceed with study

- **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.
- **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 in July/August

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 first half of year as relevant.

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 – not announced to date
 - Dominion Watershed Grant – newly announced – up to \$5,000 for Watershed groups. Program being managed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Proposals due July 22.
 - Suggestions for streamside tree planting sites in your community along Euclid Creek (largescale property owners along stream with ability to plant trees to restore riparian area)?
- b) Assist local communities on the assembly of grant applications.
 - **Briardale Municipal Golf Course, Euclid** – direct tributary to Lake Erie
 - 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

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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 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 Trib Watersheds – assisting in chemistry monitoring by lending our equipment and offering training through ECVMP Program Manager's time
- d) Provide technical assistance to communities and landowners as requested.
 - Beachwod – 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
 - 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)
 - Richmond Heights – meeting at Desan Park to discuss drainage issues and solutions
- 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.
- 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.
 - Provided Phase 2 Audit guidance to Beachwood and Mayfield Heights

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).

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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). [Spring Newsletter issued 4/19](#)
- **Broadcast emails** – Send out monthly broadcast emails, so more frequent emails with more timely information. [Sent on 2/26, 4/1, 5/31](#)
- **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.](#)

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 meetings: [3/15, 4/11](#)
 - 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](#)
- Coordinate with FOEC members on volunteering at watershed events, tabling at community events. [Participated in FOEC facilitated strategic planning meetings with Board recruitment focus.](#)

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
- **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. – [meetings attended 1/20, 4/20](#)
 - 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.](#)

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- Posius leading Mapping Group coordination with NEORS – 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](#)
- **NEORS-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.](#)
- **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.](#)
- **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 – [where are Cities in process?](#)
 - **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 decommissioning requirements and City concerns over downstream flooding. [Funding went to retrofit NE pond instead and daylight a section of Euclid Creek.](#)
 - [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.
 - **Euclid Creek Reservation** – participate in capital planning for park with Metroparks planners
 - *Old Highland Road Connector Project* - City of Euclid-led discussions with Cleveland Metroparks – participate in meetings as scheduled
 - *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 –
 - City of Cleveland grant submitted to GLRI to retrofit rain garden and create more bioswales in marina parking lot, will participate in process if funded. [Not funded.](#)
 - **Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park proposed bikeway, Cleveland & Euclid, from 2006 Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan effort**
 - Participate in meetings to discuss new trail alignment and reconstruction of pedestrian bridge over I-90 as meetings scheduled by City or Metroparks.

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- Pedestrian bridge over I-90 under construction (May-?)
- 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 stay in outside watershed, but to submit project to TNC mitigation bank.](#)
- **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 on 1/21, 4/21](#)
 - Posius on Strategic Implementation Subcommittee in 2016
- **NEORS D Stormwater Program**
 - Billing to start back up in July
 - Communities can access community cost share money now (through NEORS D 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)