

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

2017 Draft Work Plan

Approved: February 2, 2017

Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Implementation

1. 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**
 - Submitted and received 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
- **Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Property – Conceptual 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.
- **Wildwood Reservation Parking Lot Green Infrastructure project (City of Cleveland / Cleveland Metroparks-led 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.
- **Willoughby Eastlake School of Innovation Stream Restoration Project, Willoughby Hills – Restoration Project**
 - Submitted proposal 9/30/16 for Ohio EPA 319 funding program
 - Developed Nonpoint Source (Watershed Action Plan) draft update for project to Ohio EPA and submitted 1/13/17
 - Submitted proposal 12/16/16 for Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) funding
 - Implement restoration project with school participation in 2017/18 if funded
- **Richmond Heights City Hall Riparian Planting - Monitoring & Invasives Management**
 - Manage invasive Canada thistle plants in riparian area with EnviroScience (\$4,000 budget from NEORSD-FOEC Service Agreement).
- **East 185th Street Fish Passage Project (ODOT spillway) – Feasibility Study**
 - Project was on hold due to NEORSD sponsorship ending when stormwater program challenged; study resuming in 2017.
 - NEORSD authorized being project sponsor again at 12/1/16 Board meeting, cost not to exceed \$140,000.
 - Timeline for feasibility study 2017-18; construction by 2021
- **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.
 - Conduct visual erosion inspections when rain events over 2” and coordinate with Metroparks and Cleveland on maintenance of project site.
 - Plan spring and fall volunteer events at wetland for maintenance.

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- **Redstone Run Highland Reserve, Richmond Heights – Monitoring & Invasives Management**
 - 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 EnviroScience.](#)
- **Bishop Road Property, Highland Heights Conservation project - Monitoring**
 - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy.
 - 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.](#)
- **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.

[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

2. Watershed Resources:

- Provide watershed resources and conference / training information to Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Technical Committee.
- [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.
- 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](#)

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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
 - 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.
 - e) Provide technical assistance to watershed landowners with stream maintenance, erosion and/or drainage issues as requested.
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.
 - 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.
- Work with local communities and City Engineers in updating the ordinances to meet the 5-year Stormwater Management Plan goals.

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).
 - Broadcast emails – Send out monthly broadcast emails, so more frequent emails with more timely information.
 - 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.
 - Targeted Streamside Property Owner Mailing - Building off of 2016 Streamside Management mailing – focus on stream dumping to line up with yearly theme of *Lake Erie-Don't Waste It* (Funding through FOEC/NEORS Service Agreement).
 - Targeted Mailing Property Owners with Large Lots and room to reduce grass or 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.

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.
- Continue coordinating the Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings and committees, including the Technical Committee and Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee.

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- 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.
 - Coordinate with FOEC members on volunteering at watershed events, tabling at community events.

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 \(between Community, NEORS and CSWCD\)](#)
- **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.
 - 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
 - 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 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.
- **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.](#)

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
 - **Cleveland Metroparks**
 - **Acacia Reservation** – participate in Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation and Outreach Process and assist with grants obtained
 - **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
 - **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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- **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

- **NEORS D Stormwater Program**
 - Billing to started back up in July 2016
 - Communities can access community cost share money now (through NEORS D application)
 - Attend Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meetings – March & October Annually

- **Cuyahoga County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2016/17 Update**
 - Are all communities participating and providing areas of concern (e.g. erosion)?

- **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).