

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Est. Branch, South Euclid Park
Photographer: Danielle Prosser

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

- City of Beachwood
- City of Cleveland
- City of Euclid
- City of Highland Heights
- City of Lyndhurst
- City of Mayfield Heights
- Village of Mayfield
- City of Richmond Heights
- City of South Euclid

Euclid Creek Partners:

Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek & Cuyaboga Soil & Water Conservation District

What Watershed Do You Live In?

Find out in the new Euclid Creek Watershed Fact Sheets!

Did you know that Beachwood's storm water runoff flows downstream into six different watersheds? Did you know that water from your property ends up in Lake Erie, our source of drinking water? Now you can find out these and many more interesting facts in one of nine community-focused Watershed Fact Sheets!

The Euclid Creek Watershed Council Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Committee came up with the idea for a community-focused fact sheet, and the Watershed Coordinator and intern, Babette Oestreicher, got down to business and created the nine fact sheets.

Each fact sheet has a map showing watershed boundaries, parks and natural resources, and current projects helping the streams in your community. You can also find out roughly how many miles of streams are above ground and how many miles are buried underground in culverts due to urban/suburban development. Additionally, the fact sheet includes basic information about what a watershed is, facts about each watershed, information on what your community is doing to help its watershed(s), and what you can do to help your watershed.

The main goal of watershed planning is to collaboratively address water resource issues like water quality protection and to look at each watershed holistically by its watershed boundary and drainage area. The watershed planning approach allows stakeholders to better target limited financial resources and address common water-related problems. The community level fact sheets take a closer look at each community and efforts underway to protect each watershed's resources within the community. The fact sheets will be distributed at community events, school programs and displayed at libraries, civic centers and community centers.

Each fact sheet is available for download on the Euclid Creek Website (web address on back page) for all nine Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities (Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights and South Euclid), or you can find a hard copy at your community's civic center.

City of Lyndhurst Watershed Fact Sheet

Lyndhurst is in 2 watersheds

Euclid Creek drains an area of approximately 24 square miles from 12 communities in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.
Chagrin River drains 267 square miles from 22 municipalities and ten townships within four Northeast Ohio Counties.

BOTH of these watersheds drain directly into Lake Erie, Lyndhurst's source of drinking water. Protecting your watersheds from polluted runoff also protects Lake Erie and YOU.

Did you know?

- Lyndhurst has 7.76 miles of streams above ground with an estimated 2.05 miles of additional streams that have been channeled underground in pipes/culverts.
- As water moves across lawns and hard surfaces into storm drains, pollution is picked up and sent untreated to creeks and rivers which eventually empty into Lake Erie.
- Vegetated surfaces, like rain gardens, help water soak into the ground which allows for natural filtration of polluted runoff.
- The rate of extinction for freshwater animals is 5 times greater than that for land animals.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

What is a watershed?
Flip to find out!

2012 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Friends of Euclid Creek Monthly Meeting
January 3, 6:30pm
South Euclid Community Center

Forest Forum in Euclid Creek
January 19, 1:30 & 5:30pm
Two identical sessions at two locations in South Euclid
Call 216-241-2414 x610 for details

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting
February 9, 7:30am
Location TBD

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee
February 24, 9:00am
Mayfield Heights City Hall

Rain Barrel Workshop & Compost Seminar
March 22, 6:30pm
Mayfield Village Community Room
Registration required by March 14, call 216-524-6580x16

Rain Barrel Workshop & Sale
April 21, 10:00am
Euclid Historical Society
Registration required by April 6, call 216-524-6580x16

Invasive Plant Pull Event
May 12, 10:00am-noon
Wildwood State Park

Please see website (address on back page) for more event details and to see newly scheduled workshops and events



Friends of
**EUCLID
CREEK**

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

Great food, friends and music were to be had at the Friends of Euclid Creek's annual holiday party and fundraising event on December 6th. Several people were recognized for their outstanding work to preserve and enhance the watershed, including:



FOEC Officers and Award Winners

Tom Jenkins Award: Ken Messinger Rapport for his role as treasurer and watershed service
Volunteer Award: Barb Pophal for her 10th year coordinating the holiday party and auction
Volunteer Award: Rick Evans for his dependability and good nature in volunteering
Elected Official Award: David Roche for his staunch leadership and support of FOEC
Support Award: Lou Rifici for his extraordinary volunteer role managing the water monitoring program
Pioneer Award: Lee Gase for his longtime leadership in preservation and restoration

Photography Contest Results

FOEC announced winners of the Euclid Creek photo contest at the November meeting. Thank you to photo contest judges—**Bob Hinkle**, Cleveland Metroparks, and **Stuart Pearl**, Stuart Pearl Photography.

25 talented photographers submitted 87 fantastic photos, and 23 photos were winners.



Brianna Motley's Autumn Leaves Best of Show photograph

Special congratulations go to:

Best of Show Winner: Brianna Motley for her *Autumn Leaves* photo

Best of Show Runner Up: Daniel Hancock for his *River in Snow* photo

Visit FOEC Blog to see winners and photos.

NEORSW Watershed Support Grant

FOEC is proud to announce being the recipient for a third year of a **Watershed Grant** from the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSW)**. This very important funding source helps FOEC advance our role in watershed protection and restoration supporting staffing and operating costs.

FOEC Youth Corp

FOEC is planning activities for the 2012 Youth Corps. If you'd like more information about how to become a volunteer in this program, please contact Larry McFadden at lmcfadden71@yahoo.com.

Join FOEC Today!

To become a member contact:

Friends of Euclid Creek

P.O. Box 21384

South Euclid, OH 44121-0384

FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com

Log on to **FOEC's website & blog:**

friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net

foecnews.blogspot.com

'Like' FOEC on Facebook!

2011 Euclid Creek Watershed Program Highlights

2011 was yet another fantastic year with all of our partners in the watershed. We held six rain barrel workshops where 305 participants put together 229 rain barrels.

Two public events marked the completion of one exciting project and the beginning of another. In April, we celebrated the first dam removal in Euclid Creek where 90+ people attended to hear project partners discuss the benefits of dam removal projects for stream health and fish passage at the Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation. In September, a public meeting was held to present the concept for our stream and wetland restoration project at Wildwood State Park. Residents and fisherman had great questions about the project the goal of which is to create habitat and spawning areas for Great Lakes fish and to control invasive plants in the Park.

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach group, led by Stephen Love, held nine Saturday beach cleanup events where 811 pounds of trash was collected by volunteers.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time and expertise on watershed projects and events, and I want to thank a few key people for their exceptional roles.

Babette Oestreicher was the first Euclid Creek Watershed intern. She exceeded our expectations and added value and enthusiasm to the program in 2011. Congratulations are in order as Babette was hired as Tinkers Creek Watershed Coordinator in November!

Thanks to our dedicated Volunteer Stream Monitors: **Mary K. Evans** and **Lillian Houser**, **the Smith group (who monitored 3 sites monthly!)**, **Stephen Love**, and **Jeanette and Rick Evans** for their monthly chemical monitoring of the five sites.

Special thanks go to **South Euclid's Mayor Welo** who has served as the Euclid Creek Watershed Council Chair for five years and is stepping down in 2012. Mayor Welo will remain involved, and we truly appreciate her leadership on the Watershed Council and in her own community greening efforts in South Euclid.



Mayfield and Richmond Heights Key Clubs help plant a rain garden at the County Airport Administration Building



Over ninety people celebrate the 1st dam removal project in Euclid Creek at the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation



SWCD Interns Jacob Dennis and Babette Oestreicher—at Bioswale Cleanup at Wildwood State Park

Rain Barrel Workshop in Beachwood—64 residents put together 52 rain barrels to take home and install

Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project Update

Since the last update on the Wildwood State Park wetland and stream restoration project, the consultant team has been busy with permit applications, project design and field work.

EnviroScience conducted fish sampling in Euclid Creek to see what fish are present before the project is constructed. Once the project is complete, post construction monitoring will take place to see if fish and bug populations have increased. EnviroScience also sampled in Arcola Creek, a tributary east of Euclid Creek in Lake County, that has a protected natural estuary in a watershed of similar size to Euclid Creek. The hope is that fish living and spawning in Arcola will thrive in Euclid Creek once the wetland is complete. The sampling team found several species of fish in Arcola that we hope to see in Euclid Creek like Bowfin and Northern Pike.

EnviroScience also began spraying several exotic invasive plants that are taking over native vegetation in the park. The two main culprits, Japanese knotweed and Phragmites, are plants that cannot be controlled through pulling by hand. The crew sprayed with an herbicide that does not hurt aquatic fish and bug species in nearby Euclid Creek. The team worked with the adjacent Water's Edge Condominium whose common greenspace is being taken over by Japanese knotweed. Japanese knotweed forms thick, dense colonies and has a distinct bamboo-like hollow stem. Its invasive root system is strong enough to damage building foundations, roads and retaining walls.

These invasive plants are not unique to Wildwood and are found throughout the watershed and our ecoregion, so prevention of these invasive plants will be an ongoing effort. In fact, Jennifer Hillmer, Invasive Plant Coordinator at the Cleveland Metroparks, said the park spends several hundred thousand dollars a year controlling invasive plants that are negatively impacting habitat diversity in the metroparks system.

The first public meeting held at Euclid Hospital on September 8th was a success. Thirty residents and fisherman heard about the project concept and construction timeline and had great questions for the consultant team. If you have questions about the project, please check the project website at www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm, or contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator at 216-524-6580 x16.

-This project is funded through a US EPA administered Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.



Northern Pike found in nearby Arcola Creek—we're hoping to see some in Euclid Creek once the project is complete!



Flowers of the invasive Japanese knotweed, an aggressive plant inundating Wildwood State Park

NEORSD Euclid Creek Tunnel Update, from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District



This 2007 photo shows the inside of the Mill Creek Tunnel, a massive underground sewage pipe that was the prototype for a series of seven more tunnels being planned by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The Euclid Creek Tunnel is next to be built and will actually extend under Lake Erie for about half a mile along the shoreline. Michael Scott, the Plain Dealer.

Greater Cleveland's earliest sewers (primarily within the City and its inner-ring suburbs) are *combined sewers*. Built around the turn of the 19th century, these sewers carry sewage, industrial waste and stormwater in a single pipe. During heavy rains, there is a dramatic increase of water flowing through the combined sewers. When this happens, control devices may allow some of the combined wastewater and stormwater to overflow into area waterways—such as Lake Erie and Euclid Creek—to prevent urban flooding. This event is called a *combined sewer overflow* (CSO), and harms our clean water environment.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has broken ground on the Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel, part of a larger network of underground tunnels that are being constructed to considerably reduce CSOs. Currently, CSOs in the Euclid Creek area overflow more than 60 times a year. When the tunnel is completed, overflows should be reduced to four or less in a typical year of rainfall.

Most of the visible construction, including most of the excavation, for the Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel will take place near Nine Mile Creek in Bratenahl. The tunnel will be located 190 to 220 feet below ground and will be 18,000 feet long, with a diameter of 24 feet. It will have the capacity to hold 52 million gallons of combined stormwater and wastewater.

The estimated cost of construction for the Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel is \$197 million and should be completed by early 2015.

For additional information, please contact NEORSD Public Information Specialist Jeannie Chapman at 216-881-6600, or go to the project website at <http://www.neorsd.org/ect>.

*Euclid Creek Partners:
Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek &
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Only Rain Down the Drain

Visit our website at www.cuyahogawcd.org – then click on *Services, Watershed Programs* and *Euclid Creek!*

If you would like to **receive this newsletter electronically**, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.



Printing costs provided by the
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Euclid Creek Superstar! BILL ZAWISKI

Ohio EPA's Water Quality / Fish Expert focused on Northeast Ohio tributaries like Euclid Creek

We are spotlighting Bill Zawiski for his technical expertise and commitment to Euclid Creek. Bill has worked in the Euclid Creek watershed doing water quality work for nearly nine years. As an Environmental Specialist for Ohio EPA, Bill authored the Euclid Creek Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report that was approved by U.S. EPA in 2005. The TMDL report is an assessment of water quality problems in Euclid Creek, and identifies specific pollutants that need to be reduced to meet state water quality standards. It also provides recommendations for actions needed to restore Euclid Creek.

Bill has been involved in many aspects of the program, from serving on the Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee and advising the group on water monitoring methods, to taking students from Tri-C East and John Carroll out stream monitoring. Bill's enthusiasm and love for field work is contagious, and his great sense of humor gets kids engrossed in the stream activity most surely inspiring some students to go into the sciences. Bill has also served on several technical committees for restoration projects in Euclid Creek providing fish ecology and habitat restoration expertise.

Bill is a northeast Ohio native with a Master of Science in Biology from University of Akron, and he has an excellent singing voice participating in local barbershop choruses. He has worked at Ohio EPA for 22 years doing varied work from facility inspections and sewer treatment plant plans reviews, to stream and water quality restoration technical expertise and support, and preparation and implementation of TMDLs. Bill has taught classes at University of Akron in Environmental Regulation and Water Resources for 13 years.

Mr. Zawiski was promoted to Environmental Supervisor at Ohio EPA just over a year ago, and he remains active in several Euclid Creek projects. Mandy Razzano was hired in October as the new Environmental Specialist for the Cuyahoga River and Euclid Creek. While we will miss our more frequent interaction with Bill, we want to congratulate him on his new role at Ohio EPA and thank him for his nine years of dedicated service to the Euclid Creek Watershed Program.

