

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Watershed Council

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

Euclid Creek Stewardship 2009 Event Series

Each year the Euclid Creek Partners have an annual event series that celebrates Euclid Creek and provides opportunities for the watershed community to come together. See the list below to see what events the Partners are hosting in your city in 2009 to make the creek great.

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

Stimulus Money Requests in the Watershed

The Euclid Creek Watershed Communities applied for many projects seeking federal stimulus money. Of these projects, 58 million dollars were requested watershed-wide for projects that could help improve water quality in Euclid Creek.

Cleveland applied for \$9 million to restore a portion of Lower Euclid Creek along the Army Corps flood control channel; Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District applied for \$1.3 million for a habitat restoration project in Cleveland's Wildwood State Park for the oxbow/estuarine zone area; Northeast Shores Development Corporation applied for a \$3.3 million dollar coastal restoration project in Cleveland; Mayfield Hts. applied for additional plantings in the grassed/infield areas of the I-271/Mayfield Interchange, in addition to the 200 trees that will be planted there in the Fall; and, Richmond Hts. applied for three projects including a stream rehabilitation along Euclid Creek running behind City Hall, a project to restore and protect the Mayfair Headwater Tributary of Euclid Creek running through Mayfair Lake, and a project to rehabilitate and renovate Greenwood Farm into an environmental and cultural learning center located on the East Branch of Euclid Creek.

Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Hts., Richmond Hts., and South Euclid also applied for many infrastructure projects to improve or eliminate sanitary and storm sewer overflow issues, to fix deteriorating pipes and outfalls in order to reduce basement flooding issues and to improve water quality. Euclid alone applied for 26 million to eliminate all sanitary sewer overflows in the City. Check upcoming newsletters to see which projects receive funding!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thu, May 7, 7:00-9:00pm
Sat, May 9, 10:00am-noon

Lyndhurst Garden Club Mtg, Euclid Creek Watershed Presentation, Lyndhurst Comm. Cntr.
Euclid Creek 3rd Invasive Plant Pull Event, Wildwood Lakefront State Park, Cleveland.

Sat, May 9, 9:00-4:00pm

Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive garlic mustard (try snack after event!)
Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up, at the County Fairgrounds, Berea. Here's your opportunity to dispose of unwanted oil-based paints, pesticides, batteries, etc. Call your service department for city specific round-up events.

Sat, June 6, 10:00-11:30am

Rain Barrel Workshop in South Euclid, Bexley Park in South Euclid. Build your own rain barrel to take home and to collect water for use on your lawn or garden. Registration Required: Open May 4 for South Euclid residents and May 11 for the public. Cost: \$60 (\$50 if FOEC member). Contact Watershed Coordinator to register (contact info. on back)

Thu, June 11, 7:30-9:00am
M-F, July 13th-17th

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Highland Heights Community Center
Tri-C East Offers Watershed Course for Educators - Environmental Science for Educators: Promoting Watershed Stewardship, Tri-C Eastern Campus, Highland Hills, Contact Kimberly Royal for details Kimberly.Royal@tri-c.edu.

Fri, July 24, 9:00-10:30am

Euclid Creek Public Involvement & Public Education Committee at the Euclid Creek Metroparks Reservation, Rear Quarry Picnic Area.

Sat, Sept. 12, 10:00am-noon
1st Tue of Month, 7:00pm
4th Wed of Month, 7:00pm

Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup Event at Wildwood Lakefront State Park, Cleveland
Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) meets monthly at the South Euclid Community Center
South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation meets monthly at the South Euclid City Hall

If you or your group would like to participate in an event, please contact the Watershed Coordinator (contact info. on back). Please check the Euclid Creek website for new event listings or for more details about an event listed above.



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

Explore Hidden Areas of Euclid Creek with FOEC: Most people are familiar with the part of the Euclid Creek that runs through the Euclid Creek Metropark Reservation or areas that are near their own property, but few people are familiar with the entire watershed. Actually there are many beautiful places of interest in each one of the watershed communities. This year Friends of Euclid Creek will focus on exploring the many hidden gems throughout the watershed. Our goal is to discover the often overlooked streams, tributaries and green spaces and to become aware of environmental concerns in each community. In order to do this, FOEC is reaching out to community groups that are working on projects and issues that have an environmental impact on the Euclid Creek Watershed.

What have the Friends been doing?: Recent FOEC meetings have featured speakers from various community groups such as the South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation, Highland Heights (Love our Green Space) LOGS, and Northeast Shores Development Corporation. Also FOEC partnered with the City of Euclid and Cuyahoga SWCD on a rain barrel workshop. And on April 18 FOEC members toured Greenwood Farm, a property on a very scenic section of the East Branch of Euclid Creek which the City of Richmond Heights purchased for park and nature conservation purposes. Several other tours and joint projects have been scheduled in the upcoming months. At the next FOEC meeting on Tuesday, May 5, Barb Holtz, a naturalist with the Cleveland Metroparks, will explain how to identify and remove invasive plants.

Friends of Euclid Creek's new BLOG website: To view the weblog and to find out what the FOEC group is up to, here is the website: <http://foecnews.blogspot.com/>

Join FOEC Today!

The Friends of Euclid Creek help inform and educate the public on the many things happening in the watershed. Be part of its future by joining and supporting FOEC. New membership dues: Individual - \$15, Family - \$25, Student or Senior - \$10, Special Friend - \$50 and Sustaining Member - \$100.

To become a member contact:

Friends of Euclid Creek

P.O. Box 21384

South Euclid, OH 44121-0384

or Log on to FOEC's website:

www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org

FOEC Officers are:

President: Fran Hogg

Vice President: Virginia Aveni

Secretary: Larry McFadden

Treasurer: Ken Rapport

Directors: Gary Bloom, Mary K. Evans, Mike Ceraolo, Bob Gibbons, Steve Albro

2008 Stewardship in Euclid Creek Thanks to Everyone who Participated!

2008 was another great year teaching people about the Euclid Creek Watershed and learning from experts about the inner workings of a dam removal project, or the importance of restoring habitat for migratory birds. While it's impossible to quantify the fun of playing in Euclid Creek with 9th grade Collinwood High School students filling out water monitoring worksheets, there were thousands of people who participated in Euclid Creek Watershed Events. There were also thousands of people who received mailings about things they can do to improve Euclid Creek, like reducing fertilizer use or properly disposing of dog waste, and hopefully some people will make one change that will cumulatively help to improve our waterways. Lastly, hundreds of watershed partners, citizen water monitors, engineers, professors, service directors, mayors, mayors assistants, etc., contributed immensely to the program. A person we need to honor in 2008 is **Dr. Michael Nichols of John Carroll University** who spent five years leading the Euclid Creek Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program. Dr. Nichols volunteered many an evening and weekend to train new citizen monitors to test water quality at five different locations in Euclid Creek. Dr. Nichols recently resigned from his role in leading the monitoring program to meet an increasingly rigorous teaching and research schedule. We cannot thank Dr. Nichols enough for volunteering his expertise and time in training interested volunteers, calibrating and repairing water monitoring equipment, and for leading many water monitoring events for the Euclid Creek Watershed Program. We wish you luck in all of your future endeavors Mike, and hope you'll make guest appearances in the future.

Euclid Creek Watershed Program

2008 Public Education and Involvement (PIPE) Summary

Theme: Going Green in Your Back Yard

	Participants
Euclid Creek Watershed Council Public Meetings	121
Watershed Booth at Community Events	2,317
Watershed Events Participation	195
Water Monitoring Involvement	418
Outreach to Educators	62
Watershed Presentations at Public Meetings	426
Totals	3,539
	Residents Receiving Information
Educational Mailings to Households	10,036
Euclid Creek e-Newsletters*	569
SWCD Newsletter	1,787
Totals	12,392
	Number of Instances
Assistance to Community Residents and Officials	16
Quarterly Educational Materials to Communities	8,260
Totals	8,276

* In 2008, 113 people signed up for the Euclid Creek e-Newsletter



Dr. Nichols leading one of many water monitoring trainings

Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

East Branch Dam Project Update



The Euclid Creek Dam Removal project made another important progression this spring with the issuance of the Army Corps Nationwide Permit. The Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over all waters in the U.S. and requires a permit to regulate activities in lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands in order to reduce negative

environmental impacts on our waterways. One study required under the permit was to perform a study of trees in the project area to ensure that Indiana Bat habitat was not disturbed in the construction process. The Indiana Bat is an endangered bat that has been found in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. There were about 40 trees identified as possible Indiana Bat habitat in the project area, and some trees have to be removed for access to the dam during construction. Luckily, all of the trees were very small and removal of the trees was determined to have no adverse impact on the bat. Important monitoring work has begun in order to measure water quality improvements before and after the dam is removed. The baseline biological and water quality stream monitoring report was conducted by Ohio EPA staff in August of 2008, and the report is on the Euclid Creek website and on OEPA's Division of Surface Water website. Monitoring evaluated both biological and physical habitat conditions at points above and below the dam. The dam removal construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2009, and should take about 2 months to complete, so keep an eye out for more updates in the Summer newsletter.

Beach Update Lester Stumpe, NEORSD

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) will continue its program of beach monitoring and research of Euclid and Villa Angela beaches in 2009. Objectives of the program are to better understand the significance of the wide variety of individual factors which can affect beach quality. This work is also laying a foundation for the future development of predictive beach models that can provide useful information on beach water quality in a timely fashion. The objective will be to use early morning conditions such as wind, waves, and lake currents to "now cast" beach water quality conditions. In addition, NEORSD will continue to refine its "source tracking" capabilities. While waterfowl (e.g. Canadian Geese) likely contribute to the problems at these beaches, the science to specifically relate measured bacteria to waterfowl is still in development at the national level.

Certainly a variety of pollutant sources affect these beaches. The discharge from Euclid Creek will be a focus area for the summer of 2009. Sophisticated meters are being installed at the mouth of Euclid Creek to help NEORSD track the movement of the stream discharge when it reaches Lake Erie. While the predominant pattern for the discharge plume is thought to be towards the east and away from the beach, hourly and daily variations no doubt exist. NEORSD's research objective for 2009 is to determine if the instrumentation being installed can track the movement of the Euclid Creek plume with reasonable accuracy. Combining plume movement data, along with stream sampling data, and lake current data should help NEORSD predict when bacteria counts will be high at these two beaches. A variety of sources contribute to contaminant levels in Euclid Creek. The article below is a related topic and discusses efforts underway to control combined sewer overflows. In addition, NEORSD is developing a regional program for the management of stormwater, another significant contributor to the pollutant loads in Euclid Creek. Make sure to check the Ohio Department of Health's website (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>) to see water quality conditions. Click on the link for "Beach Monitoring". For more information on NEORSD's work in Euclid Creek, please contact Frank Greenland, Watershed Programs Director, at (216) 881-6600, x6460, or for more information on beach monitoring, contact Lester Stumpe, Watershed Programs Manager, at (216) 881-6600, x6830.

Sewer District Tunnel Project Update

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) has restarted design of a combined sewer overflow (CSO) control tunnel project that will improve water quality in Lake Erie and Euclid Creek. The Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel Project is designed to significantly reduce the number of combined sewer overflows to Euclid Creek and Lake Erie by re-routing the overflow systems into the new tunnel that will extend from the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the E. 140th St. area, running eastward along Lakeshore Boulevard to Euclid Creek at Nottingham and St. Clair.

CSOs are outlets that dump excess water from the combined sewer system into streams and lakes during storm events, when increased waterflow overwhelms the system. These outfalls are managed by the NEORSD. Overflow events occur between 14 and 63 times a year per CSO in Euclid Creek and Lake Erie. This project will reduce events from 7 CSO's by diverting the overflows into the new tunnel which will then send the contaminated water to the Easterly WWTP for treatment. The design of the Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel was suspended due to complex negotiations with multiple state and federal agencies. Now the project is back under design and construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2010 and will last four years at a cost of \$188 million dollars. This massive public investment will greatly improve water quality in Euclid Creek and Lake Erie, our region's invaluable source of drinking water.

Nine Mile Creek Wetland Retrofit Update

Last summer the new wetland in South Euclid was constructed in Nine Mile Creek. Construction is complete and installation of the 13,000 native plants will be finished up this spring. In order to keep wildlife from devouring the new plants, the City installed perimeter fencing to keep deer out and placed three coyote decoys around the site to deter geese and rodents. The City is building an overlook for the community to enjoy vistas of the new wetland, which should be complete by summer. For more background information on this exciting project, see the Euclid Creek Website.



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

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125

Phone: 216-524-6580 x16
Fax: 216-524-6584
Email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

Euclid Creek Website: www.cuyahogawcd.org
Then click on *Services* and *Watershed Programs*, then
scroll down to *Euclid Creek!*

Euclid Creek e-Newsletter: If you would like to
receive this e-Newsletter automatically, email
cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580x16

*Only Rain
Down the
Drain*

History of a Place—Greenwood Farm by Lee Gase, City of Richmond Heights

In 1908 the Pypers family moved into the former Schmidt farm at 264 Richmond Road. The original farmhouse, which was destroyed by fire in 1916 was replaced with the current home in 1917.

The Pypers named their property Greenwood Farm after the ancestral home of Mrs. Pypers in Ipswich, Massachusetts. George and Maude Pypers raised six children on the farm. George Pypers, in addition to forming the Neal Pypers Insurance Company, was very active in the political life of the Village, serving as Council President for many years. The last surviving Pypers, Ruth Pypers Danforth, spent most of her final years at Greenwood Farm before dying in 2006.

The City of Richmond Heights purchased the Pypers estate in 2004 for park and conservation purposes. The 16.73 acre property includes several historically rich structures that are planned to become a cultural asset for the City. In addition, the property encompasses a very scenic section of the East Branch of Euclid Creek, which warrants close environmental supervision, and may eventually become a nature preserve.

A non-profit corporation, formally entitled the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural, and Arts Association, Inc., has been formed by the City to direct the activities of Greenwood Farm. The current Chairman of the Board of Directors, David Roche, can be reached at 216-291-2207.



Pypers Collection

The Pypers house as it looked in the 1930s and 40s (above)
and current photos of the East Branch of Euclid Creek flowing
through the property (below)

