

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

2010 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Friends of Euclid Creek Monthly Meeting*

January 5, 7:00pm
 South Euclid Community Center

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee

January 8, 9:00am
 Lyndhurst Community Center

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting

February 11, 7:30am
 Richmond Heights City Hall

Euclid Creek Spring Rain Barrel Workshops**:

Highland Heights
 February 23, 6:30pm

Euclid
 April 10, 10:00am

Richmond Heights
 May 12, 6:30pm

**All workshops require advanced registration through CSWCD

Invasive Plant Pull Event

May 15, 10:00am-noon
 Wildwood State Park

*Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) meets the first Tuesday monthly at 7:00pm at the South Euclid Community Center.

South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation meets the fourth Wednesday monthly at 7:00pm at the South Euclid City Hall.

Euclid Creek Partners:

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

Students Install Bioswale to Help Clean Euclid Creek

Over the past summers, Cleveland's Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) students have played a major role in installing rain gardens and rain barrels to help reduce storm water pollution problems in the City. This year the YOU students and Tri-C Summer Pathways Program students spent two months installing a 2,250 square foot (375 feet long x 6 feet wide) bioswale in a parking lot at Wildwood Lakefront State Park in Cleveland's North Collinwood neighborhood.



A bioswale is a shallow depression designed to store and convey storm water runoff toward a discharge point, in this case a storm drain. This bioswale will collect water from the surrounding marina parking lot. Roughly 900 non-invasive perennial plants and 28 cubic yards of amended soil will slow down the storm water, promote infiltration and remove contaminants before they reach Euclid Creek and Lake Erie. The storm water is expected to move through the system in less than 48 hours.

This project is a model of teamwork consisting of landowner Ohio Department of Natural Resources, funding provided by the City of Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and assistance from Cuyahoga SWCD and URS. Friends of Euclid Creek will be the long-term stewardship group maintaining the garden.

If you would like to learn more about the bioswale there will be ongoing opportunities to learn and help out—Friends of Euclid Creek will be maintaining the bioswale at 9:00am for an hour before the May 15th Invasive Plant Pull event.



Before



After

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding Announced

The EPA received \$475 million as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and proposals for this money are due January 29, 2010. The Euclid Creek Watershed Program is working hard to put together proposals. Read over the Request For Proposals and contact us if you have ideas!! The RFP is available at: <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01>

Call for Presentations / Get Involved in Euclid Creek!

If you are a **school, garden club, boy/girl scout troop, or community group** interested in getting involved, or learning about the Euclid Creek Watershed programs for stream monitoring, storm drain stenciling, stream cleanups, invasive plant pulls, rain garden presentations / plantings, or rain barrel workshops, please contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator at (216) 524-6580 x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org.



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

After a busy year that included pulling invasive plants, cleaning stream beds, helping install rain gardens, selling rain barrels, and exploring many miles of the Euclid Creek, FOEC members ended the year with a relaxing holiday party. The annual holiday fund raising party was held on December 1 at the Mayfield Village Community Center. Everyone enjoyed the good food and camaraderie while listening to the delightful music of Donna Lader and Joe Abate.

This year the Tom Jenkins Award was given to **Mary K. Evans** for her many years of dedicated service to FOEC. Mary K. was one of the founding members of FOEC and served as treasurer for several years. She is also a regular volunteer water monitor and continues to volunteer countless hours on just about every FOEC project.

Mayor Merle Gordon of Beachwood and

Rick Glady, Lyndhurst Service Director, were presented Stewardship Awards for projects in their respective cities. The Volunteer of the Year award went to **Jeanette Evans** for her effort to keep us all informed with the creation of an FOEC blog.

FOEC is proud to announce being the recipient of a **Watershed Grant** from the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)**. This very important new funding source was created to assist watershed groups and will help FOEC advance our role in watershed protection and restoration with support for staffing and operating costs.

The **next meeting of FOEC will be Tuesday, January 5**, at the South Euclid Community Center. There will be a presentation from the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (Dike 14) Environmental Collaborative.

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

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

www.friendsofeulidcreek.org,

foecnews.blogspot.com

FOEC Officers are:

President: Fran Hogg

Vice President: Frank Skala

Secretary: Larry McFadden

Treasurer: Ken Rapport

Directors: Steve Albro, Michael

Ceraolo, Lou Drasler, Larry McFadden,

Kathy Schaefer, & Carolyn Sugiuchi

Beachwood Leading the County in Recycling Efforts

For a second year in a row, the City of Beachwood was recognized at the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District's 2009 annual Trash Oscars event for their recycling accomplishments. In 2008, Beachwood won the *Best Supporting Community in a Recycling Role*, the second highest recycling rate in Cuyahoga County. For 2009, they were awarded the top award of *Lead Community in a Recycling Role* for residents recycling 68.99% of their waste through city recycling and composting programs, up 1.86% from last year.



Collinwood High School Receives Grant to Expand Watershed Education

Collinwood High School was awarded a \$4,996 Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to expand their highly regarded water quality monitoring program. The grant will help teachers adapt the watershed curriculum for use at lower grade levels. The funding will also be used for Henry K. Longfellow K-8 students to monitor the health of urban streams compared to more pristine rural streams. Collaborators include the Cleveland Metroparks, CSU Dept. of Environmental Science, Cuyahoga SWCD, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Dr. James Watson is coordinating the effort with the students and must again be commended for his leadership in bringing the classroom outdoors to his students and into Euclid Creek.

Euclid Creek Watershed Stewards Sweep Awards at SWCD Annual Meeting

The Cuyahoga SWCD presented their two annual awards to Euclid Creek Watershed Program stewards at the 60th Annual Meeting in October! *Conservationist of the Year* was awarded to **Mary K. Evans** for her tireless efforts in the Euclid Creek Watershed. This retired John Hay High School teacher is a member of Friends of Euclid Creek, the South Euclid



Peter Thomas,
Educator of the Year,
and Verna Biemel

Garden Club, and the Western Reserve Herb Society. Mary K. has served as a dedicated Volunteer Water Monitor monthly since 2006 to name just one of her many contributions to the watershed program. **Peter Thomas** was awarded the *Educator of the Year* award. Peter is a teacher, soccer coach and Energy Team coach at Hawken School. Peter has been involved in the Euclid Creek Program for years taking students out storm drain stenciling and this year led an 8th grade internship project to install Hawken's first demonstration rain garden. Peter Thomas received the Roger Biemel Memorial Stipend which is given to the Educator of the Year and presented by Mrs. Biemel.



Mary K. Evans,
Conservationist
of the Year

East Branch Dam Project Update

With funding for construction in line and the Army Corps Nationwide Permit issued you'd think this dam would be gone by now—and at long last we're in the home stretch! Burgess and Niple (B&N) began final design work in November and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) has taken on the role of construction manager. The bidding process will begin once design work is complete and then the NEORSD board will award bids to remove the East Branch Dam.

Concurrently, the Metroparks is close to executing the Environmental Covenant with Ohio EPA. This document serves to protect the land from certain forms of development or use, in this case from building another dam. The cost of the dam removal is expected to be around \$580,000.

While the hope was to remove the dam this Spring, with current timetables, it is more likely to happen in the Summer, so keep an eye out for updates in the Spring newsletter or on the Euclid Creek Website.

Four Euclid Creek Streams Named in Richmond Heights

Last year, Richmond Heights embarked on the important effort of naming streams that are part of the Euclid Creek Watershed. These small tributaries and headwater streams are vital to the overall watershed as they are the true beginning points of the stream system, yet most of these streams do not have names associated with them. Giving a name to a nameless stream, run or ditch, no matter how small, gives it an identity and raises public awareness and concern about protecting these vital natural resources. Even if portions of a stream are underground, giving it a name means that some day it could be daylighted, restored and brought back to the surface.

Officially naming a stream is conducted through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on their topographic maps. Richmond Heights proposed four streams to name in order to identify and promote conservation efforts of these streams and all were unanimously approved by the USGS Board of Geographic Names. Claribel Creek is the original name of Richmond Heights in honor of a woman named Clara Bell who was the daughter of the town's first postmaster in 1892. The name was changed formally to Richmond Heights in 1918. Stevenson Brook and Verbsky Creek refer to important families in the community's history. Redstone Run references the reddish sandstone from the Devonian Berea formation that was quarried extensively in the late 1800's.

There are many more streams in the Euclid Creek Watershed that have no names, so if your neighborhood, school or community group has an idea for a stream name, let's start naming all of our important streams. Contact the watershed coordinator and we can assist you through the USGS process.

South Euclid Addressing Storm Water Management, by Sally Martin, South Euclid Housing

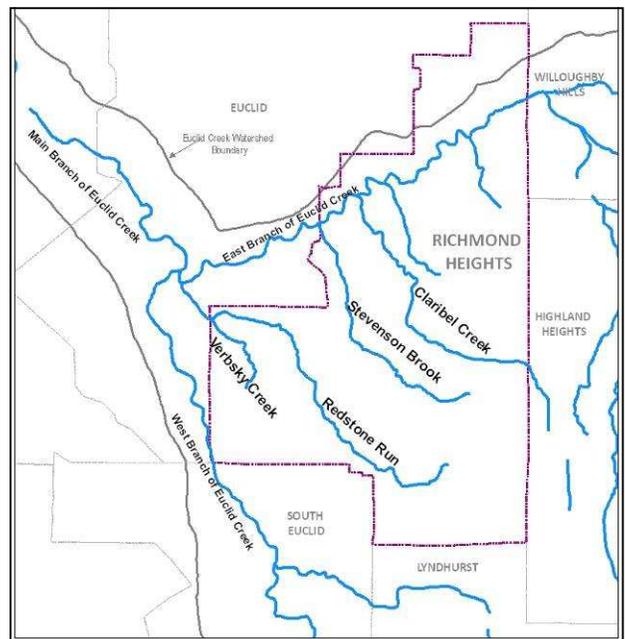
The City of South Euclid was awarded \$5,000 from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORSD) new 2009 Small Scale Stormwater Demonstration Projects grant program to install a demonstration bio-retention cell at Quarry Park. This natural storm water feature will surround an existing catch basin adjacent to the new children's splash park and proposed community garden. The community garden at Quarry is intended to have a children's education component, so the bio-cell project will be a natural accompaniment. This park is also the location of one of the only dog parks on the east side—so there are many visitors to this location. The City plans to break ground on the project early next spring. For questions about the project, contact Sally Martin, South Euclid Housing Manager at 216-381-0400.

Nine Mile Creek Wetland Update

The Nine Mile Creek Wetland project is officially complete and it's time to watch the wetland mature and habitat flock to the site! Visit the new observation deck at the far end of the Workmen's Circle parking lot (1980 S. Green Rd.). Or you can view the wetland at neighboring business, Sanctuary on Green (1936 S. Green Rd) over a cup of tea and browse their gift shop.



The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) started post-construction water monitoring of the wetland in November. The pre-construction monitoring was conducted by Mike Nichols of John Carroll University, who put together a comprehensive report detailing the water conditions. CCBH will monitor at multiple points through the wetland to see how the 13,000 native plants are filtering out pollutants as water travels through the 13 vegetated ponds. Keep an eye out for tours of this wetland which is quickly gaining national attention.



Four Euclid Creek streams named in Richmond Heights: Verbsky Creek, Redstone Run, Stevenson Brook and Claribel Creek

*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

We're on the web: www.cuyahogawcd.org

Then click on *Services* and *Watershed Programs*, then scroll down to *Euclid Creek!*

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

**Only Rain
Down the
Drain**

History of a Place – Township Hall at Euclid Creek: Reclaiming the Watershed's First Place

by Roy Larick, Euclid Historical Society

In 1804, on Euclid Creek's east bank, a hamlet arose at the prehistoric crossroads of Chardon Rd. and Euclid Ave. During the 1810s, residents laid out a square with a government and school lots. During the 1880s, the township built a substantial grammar school and, in 1894, a high school. These became surplus in 1913, when Central School took in all grades. The grammar school was recycled into three brick and stone residences. The high school became an apartment building. The City of Euclid bought the apartment in 1975; it is now the Euclid Historical Museum.

The Euclid Historical Society is now restoring one of the grammar residences as "Township Hall". Working with the Kent State University School of Architecture, we now have a multifaceted "green" renovation plan. We hope to make Township Hall a conservation-minded meeting place for the Euclid Creek neighborhood and watershed. The renovation will also serve as a model for sustainable practices in all Inner Ring legacy residences. More important, Township Hall will merge local historic preservation and watershed revitalization strategies to rebuild the neighborhood. Under LEED guidelines, we will implement water conservation and recycling strategies in the building and on the surrounding public lots. Township Hall will be the place to meet for learning how to live at Euclid Creek and with the creek during the twenty-first century.



Duplex residence (left) and Township high school as the Euclid Historical Museum (right)



Township Hall renovation plan, Wade Kratzer, 2009

Euclid Township as defined in Sept. 1796. By chance, the survey unit centered on the stream soon named Euclid Creek. The settlement called Euclid Creek arose in 1804 at the intersection of current Euclid Ave. and Chardon Rd.