

Why does Euclid Creek need our help?



Every drop of water that falls on the land anywhere in the watershed eventually makes its way into Euclid Creek, and then into Lake Erie.

The Creek and the streams that feed it create a natural water filtering system, but that system isn't working as well as it should, and we have to help out.

- Euclid Creek is a feeder stream to Lake Erie – our source of drinking water.
- Water quality along Euclid Creek and its tributaries is too poor to support fish and the micro-organisms that feed them.
- Fertilizers, pesticides and chemicals wash from lawns, streets and parking lots, polluting the water.
- Wetlands, which would otherwise store and filter water, have been drained and developed.
- Plants and trees, which would normally slow the water, stabilize stream banks and filter out pollution, have been removed.
- Concrete culverts, channels and dams destroy habitat for aquatic life, birds and other animals.

FOEC invites you to become a Stream Steward.

- Be Aware
- Become Educated
- Be An Advocate
- Be a Steward
- Become a Member of FRIENDS OF EUCLID CREEK

Make a generous tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Euclid Creek to support our work.

Contact the FOEC at

**PO Box 21384-0387
South Euclid, Ohio 44121**

**FriendsOfEuclidCreek@gmail.com
www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org**



Friends of EUCLID CREEK

Welcome to our watershed...



**ENTERING
Euclid
Creek
Watershed**

EUCLID CREEK FRIENDS



Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) works to **PROTECT AND RESTORE** the creek by helping people who live and work in the watershed become stewards of the land and water.

FOEC **EDUCATES** the public about the benefits of restoring, preserving and protecting Euclid Creek.

FOEC **TRAINS** residents and community leaders to value and protect the economic and environmental assets the creek provides.

FOEC **SPONSORS** educational activities, tours, waterway cleanups and native plantings, and events celebrating the watershed.



When you see this sign, keep your watershed in mind...

EUCLID CREEK

MEET EUCLID CREEK

The Euclid Creek watershed drains 24 square miles from 11 Northeast Ohio communities, including Beachwood, Lyndhurst, South Euclid, Euclid, Cleveland, Highland Heights, Richmond Heights, Mayfield Heights, Willoughby Hills, Pepper Pike and Mayfield Village.

The Creek itself includes 34 linear miles of streams and countless feeder streams whose headwaters begin as far as 8 miles away from the Creek's outflow to Lake Erie at Wildwood State Park in Cleveland.

As the creek flows from its headwaters in Beachwood, Lyndhurst, Highland Heights and Lake County, it passes through meadows, golf courses, city parks, Cleveland Metroparks' Euclid Creek Reservation, and residential backyards, as well as retail and industrial areas.



THE EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED PLAN

REPAIRING THE PAST, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Friends of Euclid Creek, the Euclid Creek Watershed Council of local governments, the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator have developed a plan to restore and protect the creek.



THE PLAN is a blueprint to:

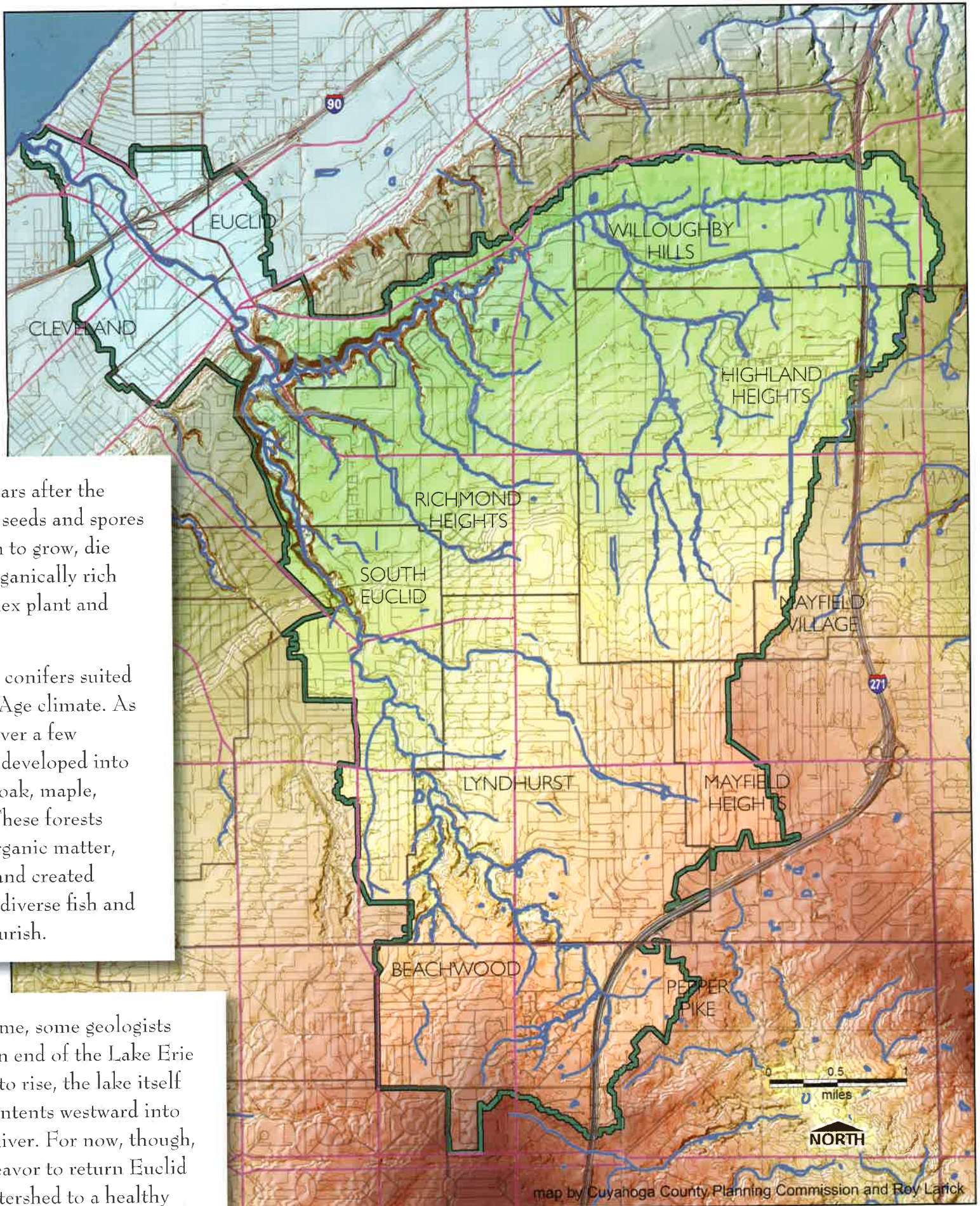
- Reduce water pollution
- Reduce the impacts of paved roads, parking lots and rooftops
- Restore natural areas for wildlife and native plants

The Euclid Creek Watershed

Four hundred million years ago, before any creatures roamed the land, the area where Euclid Creek lies was a vast salty sea. Fine sediment lined the sea bed and hardened into bedrock - layer upon layer of shale and sandstone that can now be seen on the cliff faces of the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation gorge. Fossil evidence tells of a rich marine ecosystem that included sharks and armored fish as well as coral and other tiny invertebrates, and an abundance of marine flora. Cleveland Shale, black in color due to its wealth of organic matter, formed in deeper water, while gray Chagrin shale formed in shallower water.

As the continents took shape 250 million years ago, the seabed slowly rose to become mountains. An ancient river, the Eriean, drained the sea, which would eventually fall once more. The area that would become Euclid Creek sat on the western flank of the Appalachian Plateau, and the drop of nearly 800 feet from the mountains to the lake plain is known as the Allegheny Escarpment.

Two million years ago, the climate changed and an Ice Age began. Glaciers grew and crept southward three times, and each time a warming period followed that melted the glaciers and caused them to retreat. As they moved back and forth they scoured the land, creating the Lake Erie Basin and leaving high ridges to the south. On their last northward retreat, approximately 14,000 years ago, Euclid Creek was born as melt waters cut through the ancient sandstone and shale and made their way to the lake.



It took a thousand years after the glaciers retreated for seeds and spores blown from the south to grow, die and create enough organically rich soil to support complex plant and animal life.

The first forests held conifers suited to the cool post-Ice-Age climate. As conditions warmed over a few thousand years, they developed into deciduous forests of oak, maple, beech and hickory. These forests created even more organic matter, shaded the streams, and created habitats where more diverse fish and aquatic life could flourish.

In millenia to come, some geologists say, as the eastern end of the Lake Erie Basin continues to rise, the lake itself may empty its contents westward into the Mississippi River. For now, though, we can only endeavor to return Euclid Creek and its watershed to a healthy state that resembles the prehistoric wonder that once flowed through our land, feeding, our river, our lake and its inhabitants.



Friends of Euclid Creek
www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org