

# 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  
 Village of Mayfield  
 City of Richmond Heights  
 City of South Euclid

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## Euclid Creek Rain Barrel Workshops

If you live in the Euclid Creek Watershed or surrounding communities and want to attend a rain barrel workshop in the spring, please contact [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) with your contact information (name, email, city, phone number) and you'll be notified when the next workshop is scheduled.

### Euclid Creek Partners:

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

## Euclid Creek Receives Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is thrilled to announce that we applied for and were awarded \$1,396,050 from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to fund the *Lacustrine Refuge in the Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) project*.

This project has gone by many names in the past, such as the Estuary or Oxbow restoration project. An estuary, or lacustrine in freshwater systems, provides habitat for nearshore fish

and typically consists of wetlands. Today, the Euclid Creek estuarine zone has been modified for a public park and marina, but opportunity exists to restore some of the natural estuary function.

The Lacustrine Refuge project will restore five acres of urban coastal wetlands and restore 1,500 linear feet of shoreline habitat in the Lower Euclid Creek to serve as a fish habitat refuge and nursery for the urban coastal estuary zone.

The Euclid Creek is a part of the Cuyahoga River AOC, which includes the Cuyahoga River and several tributaries east of the Cuyahoga. The AOC status was established by the International Joint Commission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1978) identifying waters within the Great Lakes Basin as impaired and not meeting fourteen objectives (called Beneficial Use Impairments) for healthy water. This project will aid in delisting the Cuyahoga River AOC by increasing habitat for degraded fish and wildlife populations.

Wetlands continue to be identified as an important restoration tool to improve water quality, especially in the urban watersheds of the Great Lakes. Keep updated on this exciting project by checking the Euclid Creek website.



Lacustrine Refuge site covered in invasive Japanese knotweed

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Wed, Sept. 22, 10:00am-12:30pm  
 Sat, Sept. 25, 1:00-5:00pm  
 Fri, Oct. 1, 9:00-10:30am  
 Thu, Nov. 4, 7:30-9:00am  
 1st Tue of Month, 6:30pm  
 4th Wed of Month, 7:00pm  
 Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Nov. 13

Ohio Lake Erie Commission quarterly meeting at Euclid Shore Cultural Centre, 291 E. 222nd Street  
 Richmond Heights Family Fun Fest at Greenwood Farms, 264 Richmond Rd. (City website has details)  
 Euclid Creek Public Involvement & Public Education Committee, Cleveland Water Pollution Control  
 Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting, Mayfield Heights DeJohn Community Center  
 Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) meets monthly at the South Euclid Community Center  
 South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation meets monthly, as needed, at the South Euclid City Hall  
 Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Cleanups meets Sat. monthly from 10am-noon, see website for details

Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for more details about an event listed above.



Friends of  
EUCLID  
CREEK

## From the Friends: FOEC Updates

### Friends Elects New Officers for 2010-2011

Congratulations to FOEC's newly elected officers as voted at the July FOEC meeting.

**President:** Frank Skala

**1st Vice President:** Larry McFadden

**2nd Vice President:** Gary Bloom

**Secretary:** Jeanette Evans

**Treasurer:** Ken Messinger-Rapport

**Directors:** Steve Albro, Lou Drasler, Rick Evans, Francine Hogg, Kathy Schaefer, & Carolyn Suguchi

Thanks to the hard work of outgoing FOEC Officers and board members!

FOEC also voted to amend the bylaws to include five officers, adding a 2nd Vice President position to enhance succession

planning and provide additional leadership for the expanding number of projects in the watershed.

### Photography Contest Deadline Fast Approaching

Don't forget to submit your photos of the Euclid Creek Watershed for the 2010 FOEC Photo Contest. **Entry Deadline is October 5.** Grand prize of \$100 for the winner. For information, entry instructions, maps and more, go to [www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org](http://www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org) or call Larry McFadden at 216-531-7144.

### Visit FOEC Updated Website

Please regularly visit the FOEC website at [friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net](http://friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net)

Special thanks to **J. Meiring Borchers**

for all of his hard work! Please send any comments, contributions or suggestions to [FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.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

[FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com)

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

[friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net](http://friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net)

[foecnews.blogspot.com](http://foecnews.blogspot.com)

## Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program—Results In!

The Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program started in 2005 as a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus, Ohio EPA and John Carroll University. Over the past five years, nearly 40 volunteers have been trained to collect chemical information to test such measures as turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen and other parameters easily collected by volunteers. In addition, many schools and colleges have taken their students out monitoring in the creek like Ursuline, Notre Dame, Tri-C East, John Carroll and Collinwood High School. Volunteers monitor five sites throughout the watershed on a monthly basis. The goal of the data collection is to educate citizens about the importance of Euclid Creek, to understand its impairments, and to determine the types of pollution entering the creek and to gauge how the stream is doing over time.

Bill Zawiski of Ohio EPA analyzed data collected from the five sampling sites from 2006 through 2009. Volunteers made over 2000 observations about the creek and results were consistent across the watershed, meaning that no point-source issues like sewage plant discharge had occurred. Conductivity is a measure associated with sodium and chloride from salting roads in winter. Levels were elevated in winter months and began decreasing in spring, showing direct impacts to the stream from municipal deicing operations on roadways. Turbidity measures the clarity of the water which is affected by urban runoff and erosion /sedimentation, problems common in urban streams. High levels are detrimental to fish species and diversity. No one site had high levels of turbidity, which can be an indicator of construction happening upstream. The last measures analyzed were two nutrient elements, nitrogen and phosphorus, which were chosen to represent impacts associated with human activities such as fertilizer, yard runoff, and dog/goose/human waste. Phosphorous levels were above target levels which can cause algae blooms, and ammonia levels were below Ohio's water quality standards which is encouraging as ammonia is toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. See the Euclid Creek website for the full report.



Water quality data collected by volunteers mirrored impairments identified in the Euclid Creek TMDL, a report conducted by Ohio EPA to quantify water quality problems in Euclid Creek. The fact that we are collecting usable data capable of showing trends is extremely exciting and all of the dedicated volunteers and partners should be commended.

If you or your group are interested in participating in the program to help us collect even more useful data, please contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator.





## Friends of Euclid Creek Recognized by Ohio Lake Erie Commission

The Friends of Euclid Creek were presented with the 2010 Lake Erie Award by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission at their September quarterly meeting in Euclid. This award is presented each year to one organization that has distinguished itself in providing leadership in

protection and restoration of Lake Erie and its watershed. Please join the Euclid Creek Watershed program partners in congratulating the Friends of Euclid Creek for their dedication and hard work in improving the Euclid Creek Watershed over the past eight years.



*Recognition by Mayfield Schools of FOEC preservation project*



*FOEC volunteers clean up Wildwood Bioswale*

## Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Fundraiser Half Way to Goal!

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach team wants to buy new trash and recycling receptacles for Euclid Beach Park and needs your help (see last newsletter for details). Their goal is to raise \$2,500 for the trash/recycling cans and they have raised \$1,500 in individual donations and from the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District (thank you donors!).



*Existing Open Trash Cans*



*Sample New Recycling / Trash Can*

**Help the group with the remaining \$1,000 – any amount helps!** Mail your donation to: Northeast Shores Development Corp., 317 East 156th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Make checks payable to: “Northeast Shores Development Corp.”, and on the subject line “Euclid Beach Project”. For details, contact Stephen Love at [slove@mail.bw.edu](mailto:slove@mail.bw.edu) or 216-571-0685.

**Please join me in thanking the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach group for collecting 500 pounds of trash since October of 2009!**

## Euclid Creek Watershed Implementation

### East Branch Dam Removal Project—Construction Starting this Fall



*Project website created to keep you up to date on the project*

The Euclid Creek East Branch Dam removal and stream restoration project has entered its final stage and construction will begin in the Fall. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, construction manager, awarded the construction contract to Great Lakes Construction Company of Hinckley at their September 16th board meeting.

The anticipated schedule is for the dam to be removed and stabilization structures installed (e.g. gabion mattress, cross veins, and boulder cobble run) in the Fall and early Spring, and for the plantings to be done in the Spring with a project completion goal of April 2011. There will be opportunities to view the construction with the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, so check the project website (on the Euclid Creek website) for more information, or let the coordinator know if you are interested in being added to the dam removal status notification list.

### Storm Water Retrofit Opportunities Inventory Project Update

The Euclid Creek Storm Water Retrofit Inventory and Prioritization project is complete. As a refresher, this was the project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for \$98,000 through its Sustain Our Great Lakes grant program to conduct a storm water retrofit opportunities inventory in the Abram, Baldwin and Euclid Creek watersheds. The purpose of this project was to develop an inventory of sites within the watershed where new storm water management facilities in the watershed could be installed, or existing facilities could be retrofit with storm water best management practices to aid in groundwater recharge and improve water quality treatment of storm water runoff.

A total of 7,387 non-residential sites were compiled and evaluated by intern Christina Keegan and project oversight manager, Jennifer Zielinski of Biohabitats Inc. The sites were then narrowed down to 55 sites that Ms. Keegan visited and compiled detailed information for further analysis. Ultimately, two priority sites were chosen in Highland Heights and Mayfield Village. Conceptual designs and cost estimates were developed for the sites and the next step is to pursue funding for the projects with the communities involved.

The remaining 23 prioritized sites show where storm water retrofit projects will provide the most benefit for reducing storm water runoff impacts in the Euclid Creek watershed and serves as a great list of projects to pursue funding for moving forward.



*Potential sites identified to retrofit (parking lot above, channelized stream below)*



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

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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](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org)

## Only Rain Down the Drain

We're on the web: [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://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](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your contact information.

Printing costs supported by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

## Euclid Creek Places—Euclid Creek Reservation by Paulette Welch, Cleveland Metroparks

From work to play, Euclid Creek Reservation has evolved over the last century and a half. The reservation, located in Euclid, South Euclid and Richmond Heights, is named for the Euclid Creek that runs the length of the reservation and features wooded hillside where the rare rock chestnut oak grows.

The southern portion of the reservation is the site of a "ghost town". The village of Bluestone flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s when its populace quarried the blue-gray siltstone for use in building sidewalks and other construction.

When the quarries closed, the land became available and Cleveland Metroparks acquired it in 1928, making Euclid Creek Reservation one of the early pieces of the "Emerald Necklace". Much of the infrastructure seen in the reservation today is a direct result of work done by the Civil Conservation Corps in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Although one of the smaller reservations in Cleveland Metroparks at 375 square acres, it is very heavily used, and one of the areas where visitors don't need a car to access since it sits on a bus route. In the most recent Park District Visitation report in 2009, Euclid Creek was credited with over 2 million visitor occasions, which includes commuters using the parkway as a cut-through to other destinations, and a little over 1.1 million recreation visits.

And folks on recreation visits can find plenty to do in Euclid Creek. The reservation features six picnic areas, including two areas accessible for the physically challenged, and 2.5 miles of all purpose trail that follows the parkway from Highland Picnic Area right off of Highland Road up to Green Road – part of which includes physical fitness stops for those so inclined. Highland Picnic Area, at the northern end of the reservation, features a ball field and basketball courts while Welsh Woods, located near the middle, includes a playground and a monarch waystation – an area specifically designed to attract monarch butterflies. The waystation sits adjacent to solar panels, installed in 2009, which provide the renewable energy for light in the area near the playground and public restrooms.

From a heavily worked area to an area people use to get to work and stop and play, Euclid Creek Reservation offers much to visitors.



Solar Array at Welsh



Welsh Woods Cliff



Bridge near Highland