

Issue 24

Spring 2012

# 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

## Euclid Creek Invasive Plant Pull & Bioswale Planting

**Saturday, May 12 9:00am-noon**  
**Wildwood State Park, Cleveland**  
E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

**Volunteers are needed to help  
pull invasives and plant natives**

**Meet** at 9:00am for Bioswale  
Planting at marina parking lot  
**Meet** at 10:00am for invasive  
plant pull at entrance parking lot  
**Dress** for weather (long sleeves,  
pants, work boots, gloves)  
**All groups welcome**, children  
under 18 must be supervised

*Euclid Creek Partners:*

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

## Watershed Council Update

The Euclid Creek Watershed Council, established in 2001, is made up of nine Euclid Creek Watershed communities working collaboratively to address storm water and water quality issues. Council members adopted bylaws in 2004 and have since developed a guiding document, the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan. Additionally, the Council has established a public involvement and education program, and a technical committee.

The Euclid Creek Watershed Program has brought in over \$3.7 million for more detailed planning to implement programs and incorporate watershed improvements. The Council, in partnership with the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, ensure that all projects ranging from watershed educational signage to dam removal projects, are in line with the Council's mission and the Watershed Action Plan.

David Roche, Richmond Heights Council President, was nominated and voted unanimously to serve as the 2012 Watershed Council Chair and Rick Glady, Lyndhurst Service Director, was voted in as Vice Chair. We look forward to an exciting year with David leading the Council.

Special thanks to outgoing Council Chair, Mayor Georgine Welo of South Euclid, who served for five years from 2006 to 2011. Not only was Mayor Welo an outstanding leader in her Council Chair role, she promoted a sustainable South Euclid. From the conversion of a concrete retention basin to a 10-acre constructed wetland, to the Green Neighborhoods Initiative, to passing a stream and wetland protection ordinance, South Euclid is leading by example under Mayor Welo's leadership.



David Roche, 2012  
Council Chair



Mayor Georgine  
Welo, Council Chair  
2006-2011

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sat, May 12, 9:00am-noon  
Wed, May 23, 6:30-8:00pm  
Wed-Thur, June 6-7  
Wed, June 13, 6:30-8:00pm  
Fri, June 22, 9:00-10:30am  
Wed, June 27, 6:30-8:00pm  
Thu, July 12, 7:30-9:00am  
Mon, July 30, 6:30-8:00pm  
Sat, Sept 8, 9:00am-noon  
Tue-Thur, Sept 11-13  
1st Tue of Month, 6:30pm  
1st Wed of Month, 7:00pm

**Euclid Creek 6th Invasive Plant Pull & Bioswale Planting Event**, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland\*  
**Rain Barrel Workshop in Richmond Heights**, Greenwood Farms. Registration required by May 15\*  
**2012 Ohio Stormwater Conference**, SeaGate Convention Center, Toledo; [www.ohioswa.com](http://www.ohioswa.com)  
**Rain Barrel Workshop in Lyndhurst**, Lyndhurst Community Center. Registration required by June 5\*  
**Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting**, South Euclid Community Center  
**Rain Barrel Workshop in Beachwood**, Beachwood Community Cntr. Registration required by June 19\*  
**Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting**, Cleveland, Division of Water Pollution Control  
**Rain Barrel Workshop in Mayfield Hts**, DeJohn Community Center. Registration required by July 23\*  
**Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup Event & FOEC Bioswale Service Day**, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland.\*  
**Great Lakes Restoration Conference**, Renaissance Hotel, Cleveland; [www.conference.healthylakes.org](http://www.conference.healthylakes.org)  
**Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)** meets monthly at South Euclid Community Center; May 1 meeting a wildflower hike at Highland Road Picnic Area; see FOEC website for field trip details and mtg. locations  
**Highland Heights Green Task Force** meets monthly at the Highland Heights Community Center

\*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for more event details at (216) 524-6580x16 or [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org)  
Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for more details about an event listed above (web address on back page)



## From the Friends: FOEC Updates

### FOEC Spring Wildflower Walk

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 1, for our 6:30pm monthly meeting which will be held outdoors at the Highland Road Picnic Area of Euclid Creek Reservation. We will feature a Spring Wildflower Walk with guided narration by Barb Holtz, FOEC member and Cleveland Metroparks Look About Lodge Manager. The hike entails some hills, paved and dirt path and is ~2 miles. Please let Jeanette (jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net) know if you have any questions.

### 2012 Friends of Euclid Creek Environmental Scholarship

FOEC is seeking applications from high school students planning to pursue degrees or certificates in environmental studies. One

scholarship worth \$500 will be awarded to a deserving student for educational purposes. For details, contact jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net., or see the FOEC blog site.

### Want to get involved with Friends of Euclid Creek?

Attend a monthly meeting or a steering committee meeting to get a behind the scene look at the workings of our organization.

Look for the 'No Child Left Inside' display at our summer community fairs.

Request a copy of our first Friends of Euclid Creek member newsletter, 'Euclid Creek Chronicle', by emailing jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net.

## 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

Website, blog and facebook info.:

-friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net  
-foecnews.blogspot.com  
-'Like' FOEC on Facebook!

Monthly FOEC Meetings:

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, South Euclid Community Center, 370 Victory Drive, 44121 Meeting location may vary, please check blog to confirm location

## Millridge Elementary School/MCHI, Mayfield School District, Food Compost Pilot Program

Members of the *Highland Heights Green Task Force* took the idea to start a food composting program to the elementary school at the beginning of the year. The Green Task Force found a grant through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District that would help with the expenses (ie: purchase of compost tumblers, buckets, etc.). The great folks at Millridge authored the grant, that they went on to win. Congratulations to Millridge Elementary School/Millridge Center for the Hearing Impaired (MCHI)! Currently, all supplies have been purchased and the program is ready to start. The composting program should help students learn about the value of disposing of food waste in an environmentally friendly manner, returning it back to nature, where it belongs. The more food waste that can be kept out of landfills, the better.

## Native Plant Kits for Sale



Enjoy spring by planting native plants to benefit our local butterflies and birds, and to help protect our water quality. These low maintenance plants are adapted to our local climate and can handle droughts and downpours.

Garden Kits are ready-to-plant! Each Kit contains 38 plants of 10-12 different native species grown in a deep-cell tray. Kits are grown by Ohio Prairie Nursery.

- Rain Garden (Sun)
- Rain Garden (Shade)
- Hummingbird/Butterfly (Sun)

\$105/kit—available anytime between May 20 and June 30, 2012

Call 216-524-6580, ext. 22 to order or for more details

**Or, find out if your local nursery carries native plants and try planting a few!**

## Volunteer Monitors Needed

Want to do something to help Euclid Creek?

**Become a volunteer monitor! Anyone can do it!**

Have fun learning about the creek and help collect vital data to better understand conditions in Euclid Creek.

**Time commitment is up to you!** We do ask volunteer monitors to attend a training session and that they monitor once a month...if you want to do more it's up to you!



**For more information visit:**

[www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EuclidCreekthehomepage.htm](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EuclidCreekthehomepage.htm) and click on the *Get Involved/Watershed Resources* tab on left side.

**or contact:**

Claire Posius,  
Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator,  
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District,  
216-524-6580 x16,  
[cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org)



## Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project Update

The Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project located in Wildwood State Park in Cleveland is moving along! Design-build team RiverWorks is still immersed in the design and permitting phase of the project, working closely with the Technical Advisory Committee of community representatives and wetland/stream ecologists.

If all goes well with permitting, construction will begin this summer to create the 2-acre wetland for fish habitat and spawning, and restore 1,100 feet of stream. The RiverWorks Team has been at Wildwood State Park conducting soil testing and continuing to control some of the invasive plant species at the park. In the fall, native plants will be planted to attract birds and amphibians. A meeting to update residents about construction will take place before construction begins. The latest information can be found on the Project Website at: [http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC\\_LacustrineRefuge.htm](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm).

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

## Old Highland Road could become Neighborhood Connector Trail

While hiking in the Euclid Creek Reservation near the Upper Highland Loop Trail, Euclid Councilman Daryl Langman discovered Old Highland Road and decided to hike up the road to its end point at Georgetown Road. Old Highland Road was closed when the current Highland Road was constructed, and the roadway has deteriorated and become more natural over the years. Cleveland Metroparks staff like the idea of converting the old roadway into a neighborhood connector trail, which is how it is currently used by local residents, but it could be spruced up and made safer. This idea will be incorporated in the Cleveland Metroparks strategic plan, an ongoing process that will result in the *Cleveland Metroparks 2020: The Emerald Necklace Centennial Plan*. When funding becomes available, projects like this will be in the plan along with other improvements recommended for the Euclid Creek Reservation.



Old Highland Road (photo taken by Cleveland Metroparks staff)

Please keep ideas like this coming and make sure to get involved in the Cleveland Metroparks planning process so they know how important the Cleveland Metroparks system is to us! For a schedule of the Metroparks Planning meetings, visit their website at: [www.clemetparks.com/centennialPlan/meetings.asp](http://www.clemetparks.com/centennialPlan/meetings.asp).

## Stop All-Terrain Vehicles from Damaging Euclid Creek's Scarce Greenspace

In 2007, the Mayfield School Board of Education collaborated with Friends of Euclid Creek and Cuyahoga SWCD to protect a 12.5-acre site adjacent to Highland Heights Community Park. This land is home to an endangered plant, the Dusty Goldenrod, and some of the last remaining wetlands in Euclid Creek, and was a huge feat for preservation in the densely developed Euclid Creek Watershed.

Cuyahoga SWCD holds 260 acres of land in conservation easements on 86 parcels of land in Cuyahoga County. Annually, Cuyahoga SWCD staff mark and monitor each conservation easement to ensure that these sensitive natural areas are protected. By monitoring each site, staff works with adjacent property owners answering questions and concerns regarding illegal vehicles in easement areas, drainage, invasive plants, wildlife and trees on easements or near property lines.



While out monitoring the Dusty Goldenrod site last fall, Cuyahoga SWCD staff found all-terrain vehicle (ATV) tracks damaging the meadow, potentially causing harm to the endangered dusty goldenrod plant that the conservation easement sought to protect. Illegal ATV use on sensitive natural areas damages wildlife habitat and harms the watershed by assaulting sensitive wetlands, tearing up streambanks causing erosion and sedimentation that ultimately harms fish and bugs in the stream. The noise from ATV's dislocates wildlife fleeing from the noisy vehicles and disturbs nearby residents. Cuyahoga SWCD staff reported the problem to the Mayfield School Board who promptly responded by posting no-ATV signs around the site. We want to thank Superintendent Price and John Folkman, Director of Business Services, for their quick action posting the signage, and for their concern and respect for this greenspace—they truly are model land stewards.

This problem is not unique to the Dusty Goldenrod site. Similar all terrain vehicle use has been reported in Richmond Heights at a County Airport owned property, another fragile ecosystem in need of our watchfulness and protection.

Please help stop this senseless destruction of our recreation and conservation areas. If you see illegal ATV use on our public parks and properties, please call your City Police Department as this is not only devastating to our habitat, but it is trespassing. Thank you all for your vigilance and concern for our watershed.

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

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

## Only Rain Down the Drain

Visit our website at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://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](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.



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## Euclid Creek Superstar! VIRGINIA AVENI

We are spotlighting Virginia Aveni for her outstanding contributions to the Euclid Creek Watershed and her environmental contributions at the state and local level. Ginny was an instrumental part of a group of concerned citizens who started Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC), the watershed group organized to protect and raise awareness about Euclid Creek. This group came together while trying to protect a sensitive piece of greenspace at the headwaters (where streams begin) of Euclid Creek that was ultimately developed for retail.

This core group organized a 'Day in the Creek' event at Euclid Creek Reservation in 2001 to raise interest in Euclid Creek, which led to the steering committee that worked toward getting FOEC's non-profit status. Ginny's leadership skills, background as a legislator and advocate have been an invaluable resource not only to Friends of Euclid Creek, but to the entire Euclid Creek Watershed Program. FOEC continues to grow every year in members and capacity, holding monthly meetings, watershed hikes and stream cleanups, etc., thanks to Ginny and the founding FOEC members.

Ginny's forty year environmental career led to her outstanding leadership skills beginning in the early 1970's when she served on the Cuyahoga County League of Women Voters Board. Her experience and accomplishments could fill this entire newsletter, but we'll try and do her career justice in this brief article.

She served as the chair of the first County Transportation Committee when RTA was created; she chaired Earth Day in 1970 and 1990; she was one of only two woman legislators in the Democratic Caucus; she was appointed Deputy Director of the Ohio EPA by Governor Celeste, heading up the Divisions of Air Pollution, Solid and Hazardous Waste; she helped create the Ohio EPA Lake Erie office; and she served as an adjunct professor at CSU's Levin College teaching Environmental Policy and Administration. Ginny is most proud of her work at the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission where she helped develop two instrumental environmental programs, including the county Brownfields program aimed at helping redevelop our old industrial cities, and the County Greenprint, a regional greenspace plan aimed at encouraging communities to provide parks, trails and greenspace in close proximity to metropolitan Clevelanders.

Ginny continues to serve on and advise multiple boards locally in addition to Friends of Euclid Creek. In her free time she is committed to her family and bird watching.

A strong grassroots group like Friends of Euclid Creek is pivotal to a successful watershed program, so we can't thank Ginny enough for her leadership and conviction for protecting our scarce natural resources.

To quote Ginny, "I believe passionately that well targeted citizen action can make a huge difference in the quality of public life and have worked like that all my life."



*Ginny receiving FOEC  
proclamation of appreciation  
from Mayfield School Board  
at Dusty Goldenrod reception*



*Ginny - Ohio State  
Representative 1977-78*