

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 Stream Cleanup

Saturday, September 12
10:00am-12:00pm

Wildwood State Park, Cleveland
Meet at entrance parking lot at
E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

Dress for weather (long sleeves,
pants, work boots, gloves)

All groups welcome, children
under 18 must be supervised

Open Enrollment for Euclid Creek Rain Barrel Workshop

If you live in the Euclid Creek
Watershed or surrounding
communities and want to
attend a rain barrel workshop,
please contact
cposius@cuyahogawcd.org
with your contact information
(name, email, phone number).

Once 30 people have
expressed interest in a
workshop, the Euclid Creek
Watershed Coordinator will
schedule a workshop for the
interested residents.

Otherwise, go on-line to
<http://cuyahogawcd.org> for a
list of scheduled workshops
elsewhere in the County!

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

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In the last newsletter we reported on 58 million dollars in stimulus funding requested for water quality improvement projects in the Euclid Creek. Amazingly, none of these projects were funded with stimulus money, but another funding source may be on the horizon with the President's 2010 Budget allocating \$475 million for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-led initiative.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the product of five years of work conducted by the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force (IATF), a group of Cabinet and federal Agency leaders dedicated to the restoration of the Great Lakes and guided by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. The IATF put together this plan with the long term goals of a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife, safe drinking water, fish safe for consumption and swimmable beaches as a start.

This fall Requests for Proposals for competitive grants will roll out to the Great Lakes communities and Euclid Creek will be ready with many projects to submit, from stream and habitat restoration projects to dam removal projects. For more details about the Great Lakes Multi-Year Restoration Action Plan or the GLRI in general, go to <http://www.epa.gov/glipo/glri/index.html>.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

September	Scrap Tire Round-Up —Keep tires out of Euclid Creek! Call your Service Department to see if your community is collecting scrap tires.
September 11-13	Lyndhurst Home Days —See City of Lyndhurst's website for details. Stop by the Friends of Euclid Creek booth!
September 12, Sat. 10:00am-12:00pm	Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup Event —Wildwood State Park, <i>Volunteers are needed</i> to clean up our Creek before it enters Lake Erie! (See details to left.)
10:00am- 3:00pm	South Euclid Information Fair —Visit South Euclid's first event promoting businesses and organizations/clubs at the South Euclid Community Center. Stop by the Friends of Euclid Creek booth!
October 4, Sun. 2:00pm- 5:00pm	Family Fun Fest at Greenwood Farm —Fun activities for all ages at this fantastic City-owned property in Richmond Hts. on the East Branch of Euclid Creek. See the City's website for festival details.
October 8, Thur. 7:30am- 9:00am	Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting , South Euclid Community Cntr.
October 10, Sat. 9:00am- 4:00pm	Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up , at the County Fairgrounds, Berea. Here's your opportunity to dispose of unwanted oil-based paints, pesticides, batteries, etc.
October 16, Fri. 9:00am-10:30am	Euclid Creek Public Involvement & Public Education Committee , Beachwood Community Center
Monthly Meetings 1st Tue., 7:00pm 4th Wed., 7:00pm	Friends of Euclid Creek , South Euclid Community Center South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation , South Euclid City Hall
	<i>Please check the Euclid Creek website for new event listings or for more details about an event listed above.</i>



Friends of
EUCLID
CREEK

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

FOEC Continues Exploring the Watershed: Did you know that Euclid Creek drains 24 square miles and has 43 miles of stream segments? Many of these segments are hidden gems waiting to be explored. FOEC is continuing to hike through various locations in an effort to better understand the environmental concerns in each of the Euclid Creek Watershed communities. On June 20th, several FOEC members hiked the VFW grounds on White Rd. It was amazing to see a quiet stream with a large beaver dam meandering through a beautiful wooded area so close to busy urban development. *In September, FOEC will hike through the Mayfield Country Club property in Lyndhurst (see FOEC blog website for details).*

Also, FOEC volunteers took part in the invasive plant pull event at Wildwood State Park, provided information at the Richmond Heights Family Day, and helped with several rain barrel workshops.

FOEC Monthly Meetings: At the May FOEC meeting, naturalist *Barb Holtz* talked about invasive plants and the benefits of planting native plants. In June, FOEC member *Athey Lutz* gave a very informative presentation on natural stream design and the latest ideas on restoring streams and rebuilding fish habitat. The July meeting was held at the Euclid Creek Reservation and included a potluck dinner with 50 FOEC members in attendance. And at the September meeting *Bob Gardin*, Friends of Big Creek Director, discussed greenway plans their group is working on with their watershed community partners. Also at the September meeting, elections were held and congratulations are in order for new Vice President *Frank Skala* and Directors *Steve Albro*, *Lou Drasler*, *Larry McFadden*, *Kathy Schaefer*, and *Carolyn Sugjuchi*. At the next FOEC meeting on Tuesday, October 6, the Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative will talk about the Dike 14 Nature Preserve in Cleveland.

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 & blog:**

www.friendsofeuclidcreek.org,

foecnews.blogspot.com

FOEC Officers are:

President: Fran Hogg

Vice President: Frank Skala

Secretary: Larry McFadden

Treasurer: Ken Rapport

Directors: Steve Albro, Lou Drasler,

Larry McFadden, Kathy Schaefer,

Carolyn Sugjuchi

2009 Stewardship in Euclid Creek

2009 has been a fantastic year full of events in the Euclid Creek Watershed Communities. Four rain barrel workshops were held in the Cities of Beachwood, Euclid, South Euclid and Mayfield Village. We sold 144 rain barrels and educated nearly 200 people about the benefits of rain barrels.



Euclid Rain Barrel Workshop

Swimming Pool Maintenance – Where Does the Water Go?

The “No Dumping, Drains to Creek” signs placed by storm drains are to remind everyone that gutters and storm drains carry water and pollutants directly to our streams and lake where we swim, fish and get our drinking water.



Swimming pool and hot tub water contain high levels of chlorine, which if it enters a stream is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Follow these US EPA tips for safe closure of your pool or spa this fall:

- ◆ Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels
- ◆ Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the **sanitary** sewer system (sewage treatment plant)
- ◆ Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferable in a covered area to avoid exposure to storm water

Remember: Only Rain Down the Drain!

Last Chance to Take Survey

We have extended the Euclid Creek Environmental Awareness Survey to November 1 to get more participation. Please take the survey on-line at <http://cuyahogawcd.org>.



Invasive Garlic Mustard Pull

Other events around the Watershed include the Invasive Garlic Mustard Plant Pull in Cleveland, Arbor Day celebration in Richmond Heights, presentations to civic groups, and Friends of Euclid Creek booths at events and Home Days. For a full list of past and upcoming activities, see the Euclid Creek Watershed website.

Volunteer Monitoring Program Update

Please welcome Lou Rifici as the new manager of the Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program. Rifici is an environmental scientist/biologist teaching at Tri-C East, with experience in water monitoring for chemistry. We are all very excited to work with Lou moving forward!



Cuyahoga SWCD Awarded Grant to Conduct Storm Water Retrofit Inventory

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has awarded Cuyahoga SWCD \$98,000 through its Sustain Our Great Lakes grant program. The funding, provided by US EPA and ArcelorMittal, will be utilized to conduct a storm water retrofit opportunities inventory in the Euclid Creek watershed and several Rocky River subwatersheds. The project will advance restoration in the watershed by identifying locations where storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) could be retrofit into the built landscape, determining which BMPs are most appropriate given conditions in the subwatershed, catchment and site levels, prioritizing identified retrofit BMPs and providing preliminary designs for the highest priorities. The ongoing implementation of the prescribed BMPs will lead directly to water quality and stream habitat improvements.

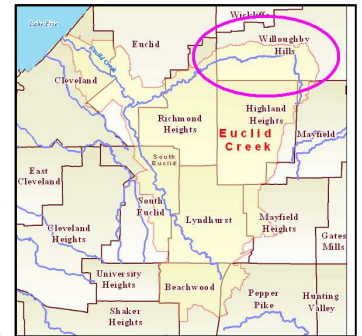
Willoughby Hills Improving Main Branch of Euclid Creek Laura Kramer Kuns, LCGHD

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) conducted an extensive sewage pollution survey in the Euclid Creek Watershed that included sewage system tracing dye testing of household sewage treatment systems and water quality sampling for fecal coliform bacteria in the watershed. The survey began in 1996 and took over three years to complete. In the spring of 2000, the LCGHD submitted the survey report to the City of Willoughby Hills summarizing the findings. The soils in the Euclid Creek Watershed are silt loams with shallow shale bedrock, seasonal high water tables and very slow permeability. The average age of the sewage systems in the watershed were between 30 to 50 years old. The results of the survey were as follows:

- ◆ The sewage systems in the watershed were failing at rates between 50-66%
- ◆ The water quality samples taken in ditches discharging into Euclid Creek and in the Creek itself ranged from 47,000 to 240,000 fecal coliform per 100 ml.
- ◆ Most properties had limited area for on-site replacement sewage treatment systems

The LCGHD report strongly urged the City of Willoughby Hills to take steps necessary to design, fund and construct sanitary sewers in the Euclid Creek Watershed. The City in turn designed and constructed a main sanitary sewer truck line along the Euclid Creek corridor on White Road that is treated by the Euclid wastewater treatment plant. The extension of the sanitary sewer through the various streets was developed in three phases. Two phases have been completed and the Health District has issued orders to 374 property owners to connect to the sanitary sewer and abandon their septic systems. To date 315 have connected and the remainder have either received extensions for connection or are in the legal process. Additionally, the City was able to eliminate several existing pump stations that were causing overflows during heavy rain events and the County was able to eliminate a package treatment plant that discharged to the creek. The third phase of the sanitary sewer project in the watershed will be ready for connection in 2011 and involves approximately 280 additional properties.

The improvements to the watershed will be documented by follow up fecal coliform sampling at the completion of phase three of the project. The improvement in the quality of the water in the drainage ditches in the completed areas is evident as there is no longer black, stinky water and sludge present in the water.



Beach Update

In late July, a report came out of the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) ranking Ohio second in the nation for the number of coastal beach advisories due to water pollution problems. The report is available at <http://www.nrdc.org/beaches>. Beach advisories are issued when high bacteria levels exceed standards allowed for safe swimming.

In the last Euclid Creek Newsletter, two articles were written about steps our local water quality agencies are taking to enhance beach monitoring and research at Euclid Beach / Villa Angela, and upcoming plans to build infrastructure to decrease the combined sewer overflow events in the creek.

Here are simple things residents can do to help improve our beach water quality:

- ◆ Install a rain garden or rain barrel to help reduce the amount of water getting into our storm water system
- ◆ Use natural fertilizers such as compost for gardens, and if you need to use fertilizers and lawn chemicals, use them sparingly
- ◆ Maintain septic systems
- ◆ Properly dispose of animal waste, litter, and toxic household products
- ◆ Get involved! Participate in local beach and stream cleanups (Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup on September 12!), or join your local watershed group, like Friends of Euclid Creek.

You can make a difference to help improve water quality in Euclid Creek and Lake Erie!



Euclid Beach / Villa Angela

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: <http://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 Newsletter electronically, email cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or call 216-524-6580x16

**Only Rain
Down the
Drain**

Euclid Creek Places—Hawken School Lyndhurst Campus

Hawken School's Lower/Middle School campus is a private educational institution in the City of Lyndhurst. Located adjacent to sensitive headwater streams running through the Mayfield Sand Ridge Golf Course, this school has staff who are dedicated to the environment and advancing stewardship education within their programs.

Since 2004, Hawken students have been actively involved in the Euclid Creek Watershed Program by stenciling storm drains in the City of Lyndhurst, and by participating in beach cleanups and invasive plant pull events.

This Spring, Eighth graders from the Middle School installed a demonstration rain garden as part of their year end internship. Students took a field trip to see rain gardens installed around Euclid Creek and to get ideas for their garden design. They then designed a planting plan, dug out the compacted soil and added amended soil, and installed the plants and mulch.

The garden will function to remove pollutants from the outdoor play area and surrounding turf runoff before the water enters a nearby storm drain. The garden was installed next to the school's EcoGarden to complement this outdoor classroom constructed in 2007 for students to learn about the environment and sustainability. This rain garden will only enhance the EcoGarden and students' understanding of broader Watershed-scale and urban storm water issues. This project was initiated and led by Eighth grade Science Teacher, Peter Thomas, a teacher who brought unbelievable enthusiasm to this project.



Hawken Campus in Lyndhurst (above) and the Eighth Grade Class that designed and installed the rain garden (below)

