

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Reservation, Photographer: Anna Gotfrid

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 Partners:

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

Euclid Creek's First Dam Removal Project Underway!



After five years of planning and piecing together funding, work on the Euclid Creek East Branch dam removal and stream restoration project began on October 18th and the dam was removed on December 8th. The dam site is located in the City of Euclid, south of Euclid Avenue in the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation below the Highland Road Bridge, and is one of six dams in the

Euclid Creek Watershed impeding fish and aquatic life from traveling through the watershed's stream network. The dams in Euclid Creek range from small dams built in the old mill days to others built as part of roadway improvement projects in the 1960's. The East Branch Dam was constructed in 1933 to impound water for swimming at a YMCA camp and is roughly 6 feet high by 48 feet wide and made of concrete. Over the years, the area behind the dam filled with sediment and now provides no recreation or other essential purpose.

The construction team has installed a stream by-pass pump to reroute the stream around the dam area so the crew can work in dry conditions. And now that the dam has been removed, large rocks are being installed in the stream to direct stream flow away from the Highland Road bridge footers, and the rocks will slow down the water and provide places for fish to spawn and hide. Disturbed areas will be revegetated with native plants in the Spring. The project cost is \$526,585, of which \$145,000 was for design and engineering through Burgess and Niple, and \$381,585 for construction through Great Lakes Construction. Funding is provided by the following sources: ODNR, Division of Wildlife; ODNR, Division of Wildlife through USFWS; Ohio EPA, Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP); Ohio EPA 319 Program; US Fish & Wildlife Service, Midwest Region, Fish Passage Program; a Federal contract with the Cleveland Metroparks; the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District providing in-kind by acting as the Construction Management Entity; and the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District providing in-kind staff time to pursue and manage the grants and public outreach. This project could not have happened without strong partnerships with the City of Euclid, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga County Engineer, Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio EPA, Friends of Euclid Creek and the Euclid Creek Watershed Council.

Removing or retrofitting the remaining dams in Euclid Creek will improve fish migration and number of species traveling from Lake Erie throughout the upper watershed, which will in turn increased recreational fishing opportunities. Once the project is complete, a celebration will be held to mark this historic first dam removal project in the watershed. Please keep updated on this project and the Spring Dam Removal Celebration at the following website: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/DamRemoval.htm>.

Lacustrine Refuge Project - see the Euclid Creek website for project updates!

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2011 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Friends of Euclid Creek Monthly Meeting
January 4, 6:30pm
 South Euclid Community Center

Highland Heights Green Task Force Meeting
January 13, 7:00pm
 Mayfield Library Meeting Room

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting
February 3, 7:30am
 Beachwood Community Center

Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee
February 11, 9:00am
 Euclid Community Center

Invasive Plant Pull Event
May 14, 10:00am-noon
 Wildwood State Park



Friends of
**EUCLID
CREEK**

From the Friends: FOEC Updates

The Friends of Euclid Creek held their annual holiday party and fundraising event on December 7th. Participants enjoyed great food and music while raising money to support various watershed projects. Several people were recognized for their outstanding work to preserve and enhance the Euclid Creek Watershed. The 2010 FOEC Award Winners include:

Tom Jenkins Award: Carolyn Sugiuchi for her continued service and commitment
Volunteer of the Year: Meiring Borchers for managing the FOEC Website & Facebook site

Public Official: Mike Polencek for his ongoing support of the Lower Watershed

Service Award: Fran Hogg for her continuing grant work

Service Award: Dave Roche for his community watershed support for

Greenwood Farms

Service Award: Jeanette Evans for her continuing grant work

Service Award: Jane Goodman for her photo contest graphics volunteer work

Service Award: Steven Love for his volunteer efforts with the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team

Euclid Creek Photography Contest Deadline Extended

In order to provide the opportunity for photographers to photograph all four seasons, the Photo Contest has been extended to October 5th, 2011. Log on to friendsofeuclidcreek.org for the submittal rules.

FOEC Receives Watershed Support Grant from NEORS

Friends of Euclid Creek applied for and received a \$35,000 grant from the

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to assist with operating support for our watershed group to help with administrative, staffing and water monitoring equipment needs.

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

Log on to **FOEC's website & blog:**
friendsofeuclidcreek.nhlink.net
foecnews.blogspot.com

Euclid Beach Team Purchasing Recycling & Trash Units for Euclid Beach Park!

by Stephen Love, Euclid Adopt-a-Beach Volunteer Coordinator

The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team is purchasing new trash and recycling bins for Euclid Beach Park thanks to roughly \$400.00 raised in individual donations and from The Friends of Euclid Creek, a \$1,000.00 grant from the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District and a \$1,300.00 Neighborhood Connections grant!



The three trash and recycling bins will be installed next spring by Cleveland Lakefront State Park maintenance staff on the beach at the bottom of each stairwell and will be distinctly labeled trash and recycling (for plastic and aluminum). Additionally, the units will be anchored and closed lid. Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach volunteers will be responsible for emptying recyclables weekly. Volunteers will also be responsible for tallying estimated trash and recycling totals collected as well as reporting to park maintenance staff any evidence of damage or tampering to the units. If there is a noticeable decrease in trash collected during our beach cleanups because of the new trash and recycle bins, we will consider installing additional trash and recycling units throughout Euclid Beach Park.

Thank you to everyone who supported this project! -The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team

*For more information on The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team or how you can **volunteer to help empty recyclables** visit us on facebook or email slove@mail.bw.edu



Rain Gardens Multiplying in Euclid Creek



Sunview Elementary School Class

Sunview Elementary third graders in Ms. Tierney's class planted a rain garden in Lyndhurst's Brainard Park with help from the Lyndhurst Service Department staff, and Beachwood M.S. Ecology Club students planted the first rain garden in the City of Beachwood in front of the Middle School led by Science Teacher Ms. Deluca. Thanks to Kurtz Bros., Inc, the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau—Growing Stewards of the Earth grant, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for their support installing these rain gardens.



Beachwood M.S. Ecology Club

City of Euclid and the Euclid City Schools Embracing Permeable Pavement

The City of Euclid passed a porous pavement ordinance this year to help pave the way toward a more environmentally friendly Euclid, with the sponsorship of Euclid City Councilman Daryl Langman. Porous pavement is asphalt, concrete, or pavers that allow rainwater to pass through and soak back into the ground naturally. Typical roads and sidewalks are not porous and rainwater can't penetrate the surface and when a rain event occurs, polluted runoff is carried directly into our storm drains, creeks and streams. Allowing property owners to install porous pavement is an excellent way to protect Euclid Creek, Lake Erie and our groundwater.

The Euclid City Schools quickly embraced the new ordinance by installing a test pour of pervious concrete at their Babbitt Road bus garage. The idea behind the test pour is to find a heavily trafficked area with buses regularly moving over the pervious material to see how well the practice holds up. If the test area is successful, the schools may consider larger future installations. Keep an eye out for newsletter updates on how the test pour is performing.



Pervious Concrete Test Pour at Euclid City Schools site



Wildflower Meadows Popping up in Lyndhurst

The City of Lyndhurst installed two native wildflower meadows in public parks to add beauty to the parks and to save city taxpayer money. The meadows not only create beautiful color and interest in the parks, but are low-maintenance requiring no mowing or watering. The small upfront investment more than covers the long term savings. Not to mention the ecological benefits of planting indigenous Ohio native plant species that

help filter pollutants from storm water runoff and recharge ground water table while providing valuable habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles and amphibian species.

In 2007, the City tested its first meadow at Brainard Park by installing a two-acre meadow with educational signage and a multipurpose recreation trail running through it. This land had been immaculately mown and treated turf grass with trees scattered throughout and was located behind the baseball fields inaccessible for public use. The meadow was installed by Ohio Prairie Nursery, a local grower of the native prairie and wetland seed and they continue to monitor the meadow to ensure its long term viability.



Native Wildflower Meadow at Schaeffer Park, installed in 2008



Native Wildflower Meadow at Brainard Park, installed in 2007



To build upon the first meadow's success, Lyndhurst planted a second meadow in Schaeffer Park in 2008 with financial support from the Lyndhurst Garden Club. This one-half acre area, previously underutilized turf grass, is now a beautiful sea of wildflowers for residents to enjoy, and an amenity for wildlife in nearby Euclid Creek which runs along the northern edge of Schaeffer Park.

Nine Mile Wetland—Habitat Update

The Nine Mile Wetland project was completed about a year ago, and as expected residents are seeing wildlife flock to the site, especially after a generous neighbor installed a dozen bird nesting boxes around the dam, observation deck and the upper meadow. Neighborhood naturalists have witnessed many spectacular sightings, including red foxes raising their four kits; coyotes feasting on the overabundant deer population leaving the spoils for turkey vultures to devour; dragonflies; bird species—Eastern Bluebirds (a new species sighted), Barn Swallows, Rough-winged Swallows, Tree Swallows, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Veery and 17 Warblers species seen during their migratory season.

For a great view of the wetland, either visit the observation deck on Green Road next to the Workmen's Circle, or stop by Sanctuary on Green (1980 S. Green Road) for a cup of tea and an unbelievable view of the wetland—or wait for temperate weather to enjoy lunch in their outdoor patio. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health is continuing to perform post construction water quality monitoring efforts which will be the topic of a future newsletter article.



Bird Nesting Boxes Installed throughout the site by neighbor



View of Nine Mile Wetland from Sanctuary on Green outdoor patio

*Euclid Creek Partners:
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Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Only Rain Down the Drain

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.

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Euclid Creek Places—Golf Courses

In a watershed as densely developed as Euclid Creek, open space and undeveloped land is a rare commodity and extremely important to the hydrology of the watershed. Golf courses are one such critical open space and include roughly 670 acres, or 4% of the watershed. Many of these golf courses are sited close to streams to take advantage of their natural beauty. While golf courses provide valuable opportunities for outdoor recreation, traditional management techniques can harm water quality due to overuse of nitrogen fertilizers, removal of streamside habitat and reduction of storm water management capacity. There are several certification programs such as the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses that help protect our environment while preserving the joys of the golf game.

The Mayfield Country Club has taken steps to help the watershed by converting several low mow areas surrounding the greens to taller grasses for increased filtration, and they have reduced application of harmful fertilizers on their property. They also understand the value their property serves in storm water management as several areas in the golf course regularly flood during storm events. Working and learning from land managers that understand the value of their open space is a real treat.

Unfortunately, in these tough economic times, golf courses are struggling to remain open and several in and around our watershed are up for sale and will potentially be redeveloped. Oakwood and Acacia are historic golfing institutions that have suffered that fate, and Acacia could be redeveloped with anything commercial or residential in nature, therefore reducing our already limited open space. Understanding the importance of land management and the importance our streams play is critical: they minimize flooding and erosion if managed sustainably, filter pollutants, allow infiltration and provide habitat—and these natural functions benefit the community if managed well—at no cost.



Impacts Golf Courses have on Streams
-limited streamside habitat and protection (above)
-limited habitat and unnatural armoring (below)

