

## Euclid Creek Watershed Council 2019 Draft Work Plan

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### Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Implementation

1. Restoration, Conservation, and Green Infrastructure Projects: Continue implementing and maintaining stream and floodplain restoration projects, greenspace conservation and stormwater management projects in the watershed and within the Council's community boundaries.

*Annual projects list:*

- **Willoughby Eastlake School of Innovation Stream Restoration Project, Willoughby Hills – Restoration Project**
  - Received \$156,462 in Ohio EPA 319, Section 319 funding October 2017
  - Secured in-kind funding for project:
    - City of Willoughby Hills through their Lake County Stormwater Management Program Funds, up to \$104,000
    - Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD), up to \$50,000
  - Construction complete fall 2018
  - Spring 2019 plantings and signage with School assistance
- **Community Christian Church, Euclid – Tree Planting**
  - WRLC/Dominion watershed \$2,000 mini-grant funded for in 2018 to plant ~50 trees with congregation and Tree Stewards.
  - 80 native trees and shrubs planted fall 2018
  - Signage purchased will be installed this spring
  - Spring maintenance performed March 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Workshops with church will continue to help with maintenance
- **Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus – Stream Restoration Project**
  - 319 grant awarded, NEORSD provided match total \$600,500
  - Waiting for land use license agreement from Clinic before proceeding with design build bid
- **Hawken Lyndhurst – Tree Planting**
  - WRLC/Dominion watershed \$2,400 mini-grant funded for in 2019 to plant ~75 native trees/shrubs with students and Tree Stewards.
- **South Euclid – Ninemile Rain Garden and Native Landscape Beds**
  - William Bingham Foundation \$11,800 to install rain garden and native landscape beds spring of 2019.
- **Mayfield Sand Ridge -Lyndhurst– Stream Restoration**
  - Concept complete.
  - Submitting work plan to GLNPO for construction of phases 1 & 3 of 6 in 2019/2020.\$1,700,000
  - Pending approval Cuyahoga SWCD will manage project, money will pass from USEPA through OLEC to Cuyahoga SWCD.
- **Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus – Hydrologic Reconnection Concept Plan**
  - Concept complete.
  - Waiting for NEORSD Master Planning Effort before beginning pursuit of funding
- **Dusty Goldenrod Preserve, Highland Heights – Ecological Management Plan**
  - Davey Resource Group completed management plan through \$2,500 WRLC/Dominion watershed mini-grant in 2017;
  - Two cleanup events held in 2018
  - One invasive plant pull organized in 2018
  - In 2019, FOEC coordinating with school and CSWCD on implementation of top priority management actions.

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- **Richmond Heights City Hall Riparian Planting - Monitoring & Invasives Management**
  - Manage invasive Canada thistle plants in riparian area with EnviroScience (\$1,000 budget from NEORS-FOEC Service Agreement; spent \$1,300 in 2018 – paired with invasive treatment at other easements).
- **East 185<sup>th</sup> Street Fish Passage Project** (ODOT spillway) – **Feasibility Study**
  - Project was on hold due to NEORS- sponsorship ending when stormwater program challenged; study resuming in 2017.
  - NEORS- project sponsor; feasibility study ongoing through 2018; construction by 2021
  - Real Estate worked out – NEORS- will acquire stream through condemnation
  - USACE now narrowing down alternatives for modeling effort
- **Wildwood Lacustrine Wetland and Stream Restoration Project– Monitoring**
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded project complete, \$1,396,050.
  - Final 5 year report submitted to USACE.
  - Conduct visual erosion inspections when rain events over 2” and coordinate with Metroparks and Cleveland on maintenance of project site.
  - Plan spring volunteer event.
  - Coordinate with partners on future monitoring to assess project success.
- **Redstone Run Highland Reserve, Richmond Heights – Monitoring & Invasives Management**
  - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy.
  - Coordinate education and outreach on property with interested residents and with Richmond Heights schools as land lab opportunity.
  - Manage invasive plants on property with EnviroScience.
  - Planted native seed in fall 2018.
- **Bishop Road Property, Highland Heights Conservation project - Monitoring**
  - Monitor restoration plantings at site with West Creek Conservancy.
  - Work with City on any improvements at site, e.g. project signage.
- **Mayfair Lake Dam Removal Project, Richmond Heights - Restoration Project**
  - Need to set up meeting with City and Airport manager Robert Hartigan, most days except Thursday area good for airport.
- **Stormwater Retrofit project prioritization – Green Infrastructure Projects**
  - For concept plans that were developed for top two sites in 2010, find Green Infrastructure funding sources since Ohio EPA SWIF on hold (ensure Highland Heights in support of concept before pursuing funding; resell to Mayfield Village as new administration from when concept developed);
  - Find funding to develop concepts for projects on list without plans.
- **East Branch Dam Removal Project - Monitoring**
  - Grants are closed.
  - Continue with annual monitoring to ensure project stability, due to proximity to Highland Road bridge footers. Repairs on hold at this time.
  - Watching project with partners to make sure bridge repairs do not impact the area.

### Watershed Plan Update:

- **Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan Update / Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy Document (NPS-IS)**
  - Overall plan approved (Version 1.1, dated May 23, 2018) with added critical area to secure funding for Cleveland Clinic Stream Restoration Project.

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- Need to add critical areas and projects in order to get 319 and other federal OEPA and USEPA funding.
  - [Draft for partner input including new proposed critical areas is out for review/input.](#)
  - Plan update included:
    - Update draft NPS-IS plan with new data, needs, projects, etc.
    - Update watershed-wide restoration and protection strategies and meet with partner agencies and affected communities to review / append / approve strategy
    - Hold meetings to get feedback on opportunities identified (with Service Directors, Engineers)
    - Prioritize top restoration/protection projects and incorporate into plan
    - Submit plan to OEPA/ODNR/ODA for review/approval
2. Watershed Resources:
- Provide watershed resources and conference / training information to Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Technical Committee.
  - Interact with local, state and national agency initiatives such as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports, research opportunities, outreach and funding initiatives.
3. Grant Opportunities & Technical Assistance:
- a) Provide communities grant opportunity resources to evaluate for their use.
  - b) Assist local communities on the assembly of grant applications.
    - Utilize NEORS D Stormwater Program Community Cost Share as local match for restoration project grants and other shared priority projects with watershed communities
  - c) Assist Watershed Council communities with watershed projects
    - [Provide assistance with projects in adjacent watersheds like Nine Mile, Green Creek and Euclid Lake Erie Watersheds](#)
  - d) Provide technical assistance to communities on natural resource issues during master planning or update efforts, on floodplain management activities and on stream maintenance best management practices as requested.
  - e) Provide technical assistance to watershed landowners with stream maintenance, erosion and/or drainage issues as requested.
4. Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP): Continue and advance VMP program
- Conduct Volunteer Monitoring Committee meetings as needed.
  - Recruit new citizen volunteers.
  - Outreach and facilitate with interested groups.
  - Input data collected annually and develop annual report for volunteers and watershed communities.
  - OEPA Monitoring of Euclid Creek 2015 – incorporate final data when received into WAP update and present data to watershed partners and community in 2019.
  - [Host water quality monitoring party with program updates and input for future. February 21, Lyndhurst.](#)
  - [Meet with OEPA about potential temperature monitoring sites 3/18/2019.](#)
5. Model Ordinances: Implement local ordinances to meet community storm water management plan goals.
- Work with local communities and City Engineers in updating the ordinances to meet the 5-year Stormwater Management Plan goals.

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- Goal: [work with Mayfield Heights, Highland Heights and Lyndhurst on riparian setback ordinance consideration/passage in 2019](#). Meetings were held with Highland Heights and Lyndhurst in 2018.

### **Watershed Outreach & Program Partner Collaboration**

#### **1. Watershed Outreach**

- Continue to coordinate watershed outreach with the goal of reaching a diverse group of stakeholders from streamside property owners to large landlocked landowners.
  - Euclid Creek Newsletter - Continue the assembly and distribution of the Euclid Creek newsletter two times a year. Newsletter emailed to distribution list and mailed to ECWC Communities (public officials and city staff).
  - Broadcast emails/E-Newsletter – Send out monthly broadcast emails/E-Newsletter, so more frequent updates with more timely information.
  - Website – Continue updating website with new projects and news.
  - Social Media – Manage Friends of Euclid Creek Facebook page. Post 1-5 times a week. Manage Twitter account with Tweets weekly at most. Manage Instagram account with photo posts at least monthly.
    - [Tuesday Euclid Creek Trivia on Twitter and Facebook](#)
  - Targeted Streamside Property Owner Mailing – Mailing started in 2016 Continue annual mailing to streamside property owners in Euclid Creek focusing on watershed management and best practices on properties.
  - Targeted Mailing Property Owners with Large Lots and room to reduce grass or impervious - Letter to see if property owner wants to reduce impervious or grass for green infrastructure or native plant meadow or more watershed friendly practice and offer to provide technical assistance. No responses in 2017/2018.
  - [Euclid Creek Watershed Champion Pledges – Initiating program in 2019 to encourage watershed residents to take simple steps in their yard and community to help Euclid Creek. Participants will received a yard sign.](#)

#### **2. Euclid Creek Watershed Council Coordination**

- Watershed Coordinator serves as Secretary to Euclid Creek Watershed Council (non-voting member). Gives notice of meetings, prepares meeting agendas with ECWC Chair and content, keeps minutes, and records all votes.
- Continue coordinating the Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings and committees, including the Technical Committee and Volunteer Monitoring Program Committee.
- Continue to promote best land use practices in communities.
- Assist with and coordinate the NPDES Phase II Permit among the Council communities as requested by the Technical Committee.

#### **3. Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) Liaison**

- Assist FOEC with watershed resources and organizational support.
- Serve as liaison between Euclid Creek Watershed Council and FOEC.
- Provide watershed program updates at FOEC meetings and participate in FOEC board/committee meetings as time allows.
- Coordinate with FOEC members on volunteering at watershed events, tabling at community events.

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### Watershed Program Sustainability / Funding

- **Euclid Creek Watershed Council MOU for 2017-2020** – renew watershed program MOU with Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities removing PIPE from Watershed services to be included in new PIPE Program MOU (between Community, NEORS and CSWCD)
- **Central Lake Erie Basin (CLEB) Watershed Organization Collaboration - ‘Your CLE Watersheds’** – local watershed groups from Black River to Ashtabula/Conneaut River Watershed
  - Meets quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, funding challenges, watershed gaps in coverage, etc.
  - Table events collaboratively – share watershed volunteer time v. all groups at regional events at separate tables – central messaging key to avoiding public confusion of watersheds
  - CLEB applied for NEORS and other funding in 2018 to maintain support for 2 temporary positions to assist existing watershed groups with workload and to assist groups without watershed programs in special projects/programs.
- **NEORS-FOEC Watershed Organization Service Program 2018**
  - Proposal developed with FOEC for service oriented proposal. Submitted October 20. FOEC awarded [\\$40,000](#).

### Additional Watershed Efforts led by Partner Agencies

- Participate in partner agencies’ meetings and/or planning efforts as requested/needed.
  - **Cleveland Metroparks**
    - **Acacia Reservation** – participate in Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation and Outreach Process and assist with grants obtained
    - **Euclid Creek Reservation** – participate in capital planning for park with Metroparks planners
      - *Old Highland Road Connector Project* - City of Euclid-led discussions with Cleveland Metroparks – participate in meetings as scheduled
    - **Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park proposed bikeway, Cleveland & Euclid, from 2006 Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan effort**
      - Participate in meetings to discuss new trail alignment and reconstruction of pedestrian bridge over I-90 as meetings scheduled by City or Metroparks.
  - **Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Coordinating Committee**
    - Euclid Creek a part of the Cuyahoga AOC. Hiser is elected representative for Cuyahoga SWCD on Committee. Participate in quarterly meetings to have voice on Committee, AOC delisting criteria and project prioritization.
    - Hiser on Strategic Implementation Subcommittee in 2019
  - **NEORS Stormwater Program**
    - Billing to started back up in July 2016
    - Communities can access community cost share money now (through NEORS application)
    - Attend Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meetings – March & October Annually
  - **NOACA 208 Plan Update Process**
    - Provide assistance to NOACA through watershed collaboration on Chapter 9 update - Watershed Planning Approaches in NEO chapter (document last updated in 2000).
  - **Green Infrastructure Cost Share Study in Mayfield Village**
    - Participate in CRWP-led Green Infrastructure Champions grant to assess barriers to GI in Mayfield Village – pilot to see how program, subsidies, etc. could help promote GI, kickoff meeting 10/17.
    - [CRWP Completed pilot program](#)

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- ***Richmond Heights Hovnanian Ridge Property Conservation***
  - Cleveland Metroparks Board approved purchasing land, need to find ~\$550,000 to purchase 63 acre mostly-wooded site adjacent to Euclid Creek Reservation off of Highland Road.
  - Except for lakefront property, this will be the biggest single addition the history of the 473-acre park, cobbled together from smaller plots starting in 1920.
  - Support fundraising effort through grant writing support and/or letters of support.
  - [Clean Ohio Funds awarded](#)