



Program Highlights 2017

Mission: To advocate and implement best management practices for conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through education, stewardship and technical assistance.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's (SWCD) main program areas are:

- Conservation Education
- Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Programs
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program & Long Term Operations and Maintenance Program
- Urban Agriculture & Landowner Technical Assistance

Annual Theme: *Lake Erie, Don't Waste It*



NACD Poster Contest Winner- Lorah, Age 9

Cuyahoga SWCD now provides comprehensive programs for 83% of the communities in the County, reaching 96% of the population! Staff works in 49 communities and assists Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works.

Thanks to the first ever urban agriculture grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) the *Blueprint to Urban Agriculture* was completed and can be accessed on the web at www.BlueprintToUrbanAgriculture.com. As part of this effort, ten urban agriculturists received on-site assistance regarding soils, planting and irrigation to help them be more productive through a grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The Program Year ~By the Numbers

The current Strategic Plan established 7 Strategic Goals related to the mission of the Cuyahoga SWCD. Thirty-three (33) objectives were identified under the strategic goals and the 2017 board-approved Work Plan includes numerous projects and initiatives that the staff is responsible for implementing. Some of those projects and initiatives follow:

- Staff received multiple grants ~ \$506,202 with \$237,040 in match dollars for conservation projects, primarily related to stormwater pollution prevention and water quality
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Reviews ~ 222; 43 ~ Recommendations of Approval
- Comprehensive field reviews and reports of active construction sites ~ 1592 to date for about 200 active sites per month
- Long Term Operations and Maintenance reviews and reporting of water quality and water quantity basins in the county ~ 649 sites in 18 communities (an 11% increase since last year. Reviews included Cuyahoga County Library and Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works sites; with follow up assistance to 100 sites (20% increase in 2017)
- Tool Box Talks- short programs that focus on local environmentally-oriented business
- Educational programs included Rain Barrel Workshops (19); Rain Garden Workshop (1); Composting Workshops (2), Green Cleaning Workshops (2); Earth Day Events; Career Days; Backyard Stewardship; Invasive Plant Pulls; School Programs, including Water Festivals and poster contest ~ 17; Community Organization presentations-Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners ~ 9
- Stream cleanups ~29
- Latino Earth Partnership for Schools~18 teachers over 5 days
- Urban Agriculture Programs (soil health) ~ 3
- National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Steward Training~15
- Trees planted-200 with more to be planted soon!
- Topical blog posts by staff on the cuyahogawcd.org website ~ 42
- Stream assessments for water quality, erosion and habitat in West Creek, Chagrin and Rocky River watersheds
- Staff presentations- 2 national webinars, 4 statewide conferences, 3 regional workshops
- Weekly water sample collection on the Cuyahoga River for Heidelberg University WQ Lab
- Professional workshops/trainings for community service staff, homeowners associations

Changing Behavior through Public Involvement

- The ***BlueprinttoUrbanAgriculture.com*** goes live!
- Active *Stream Teams* in Rocky River's Abram Creek, Baldwin Creek and Plum Creek sub-watersheds that are engaged in local watershed protection and restoration activities
- Stream monitoring efforts at 24 sites in the Rocky River Watershed; Five volunteers do stream monitoring monthly at five sites in the Euclid Creek watershed
- Stream clean ups, bioswale stewardship, storm drain stenciling, monarch way stations
- On-site assistance was provided to ten urban agriculturists
- Staff provided 84 hours of technical assistance to area landowners on topics related to erosion, soils, drainage and conservation. On-site assistance was provided to 35 of those landowners

Local and Regional Initiatives

Staff actively participates and contributes to countywide initiatives, including the Cleveland Climate Action Plan Advisory Group, Cleveland Tree Coalition, Cuyahoga Area of Concern Advisory Committees, Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP), Central Lake Erie Collaborative, Northeast Ohio Public Involvement/Public Education Work Group, Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Water Quality Committees, Ohio Farm Bureau Environmental Committee, OSU Extension Advisory Committee, and Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council, in addition to the Friends of Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Council.

Special Projects and Special Grants

- A Link in the Chain – Restoring the Upper East Branch at Royalton Farms; Funded by Ohio EPA Section 319
- Stopping Sediment to Save Mirror Valley’s Brook Trout; Funded by National Fish Wildlife Federation-Sustain Our Great Lakes
- Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation Stream Restoration project; Funded by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency-Section 319
- Tillage Radishes in Cleveland; Funded by Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Soil Health Doesn’t Happen Overnight – Making the Case for More Organic Matter; Funded by ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources
- Tree Canopy for Conservation; Funded by Dupont Clear into the Future®
- Regional environmental education outreach; Funded by NEORSD
- Native Plant & Pollinator Garden; Funded by Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio
- Community Relations Sponsorship for Project WET; Funded by NEORSD
- Healthy Watershed Tree Planting; Funded by Dominion/Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC)
- Community Christian Church Riparian Tree Planting, Euclid and Plum Creek Good Neighbor Program*; Funded by Dominion/WRLC

Funding

Cuyahoga SWCD works primarily to assist local governments with their Clean Water Act mandates. Funding is provided through memoranda of understanding and special project grant funding. Cuyahoga SWCD is thankful to receive funds from Cuyahoga County, the State of Ohio and local communities.

The Board

The Cuyahoga Board of Supervisors are five elected officials who voluntarily serve three year terms. Board members help guide the mission of the organization, set policy and oversee fiscal integrity. They, in addition to four Associate Supervisors also help promote the SWCD’s mission and are serve in leadership roles with the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council, Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Board of Supervisors

Ruth Skuly.....Chair
Rachel WebbVice Chair
Ted Esborn.....Secretary
Jeremiah Swetel.....Fiscal Agent/Treasurer
Whitnye Long Jones.....Nominating Committee Chair

Associate Supervisors

Kathleen Bradley - Patricia Carey - Dorothy Hazel – Howard Maier

Cuyahoga SWCD Staff

Janine Rybka.....*District Administrator*
Ellen Brown-Armstrong..... *Programs Assistant*
Jared Bartley.....*Rocky River Watershed Coordinator*
Brent Eysenbach, CPESC, CESSWI....*Stormwater Program Coordinator*
Elizabeth Hiser, CPSWQ.....*Natural Resources Coordinator*
Justin Husher.....*Horticulture Specialist*
Kelly Parker, CESSWI.....*Urban Conservationist*
Claire Posius.....*Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator*
Carla Regener, CPESC, CESSWI*Stormwater Specialist*
Amy Roskilly.....*Conservation Education Specialist*
Megan Smith.....*Urban Technician*
Jacki Zevenbergen.....*Stormwater Educator*
Lynette Harmon.....*District Conservationist, NRCS*
Arthur Hawkins.....*Urban Conservationist, NRCS*

Program Interns 2017

The board and staff appreciate the 2017 program assistants who helped with research, stream monitoring and conservation education.

Francesca Bodnar

Kristen Hebebrand

Daniel Kloos

Kirk Kallenborn



**Leading Conservation in the Urban Landscape
Since 1949**

