

2013 Nonpoint Source Monitoring Conference & Workshop
Euclid Creek Field Trip Abstract

Euclid Creek Watershed Program – The Successes and Challenges of Restoring Urban Streams

Join the Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners as we visit three restoration projects in our Watershed Council communities. The field trip will begin at the mouth of Euclid Creek and Lake Erie to see a 2.3-acre restored wetland in an estuarine zone within a federal flood control channel. We will move upstream to visit a low head dam removal project – the site topography and infrastructure made for complex engineering and solutions. The tour ends in a neighboring watershed to see a detention basin that was retrofit into a series of wetland step pools at the headwaters of the Nine Mile Watershed. Both watersheds are fully developed urban/suburban watersheds, highly impacted by flashy flows and storm water runoff. Each stop has a unique story of collaboration, funding, implementation, monitoring and lessons learned.

Contact Information

Name: Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Organization/Company/Agency: Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
Phone Number: 216-524-6580 x16
Email: cposius@cuyahogawcd.org

Stop #1: Wetland and Stream Restoration Project, Cleveland

The Wetland and Stream Restoration Project in Cleveland Metropark's Euclid Creek Reservation - Wildwood Park is a collaboration between the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, US Army Corps of Engineers and multiple agency, neighborhood and watershed partners advising throughout the project.

This 2012 project created a 2.3-acre wetland and restored 1,100 linear feet of stream within an Army Corps flood control channel. This project balanced complying with federal flood control standards while meeting ecological stream and lacustrine wetland restoration goals. The primary goal of the project is to provide a nursery and spawning area for great lakes fish. Thousands of native wetland plants were installed and nuphar/spadderdock can be seen emerging in the main backwater wetland. Many species of birds, fish and mammals have already been seen at the wetland from Baltimore Orioles, Great Blue Herons and Kingfisher to Steelhead to beaver, muskrat and coyote.



Lacustrine Wetland, once an island covered with invasive Japanese knotweed, restored to a 2.3-acre wetland.

We will walk the perimeter of the project site, which is a modest hike (less than 1 mile) along the park's multipurpose walking trail, stopping at a large rain garden in the marina parking lot median, continuing to view smaller pocket wetlands created downstream toward the Lake, ending at the diversion channel, installed to route Euclid Creek back into its historic alignment. This project was funded through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.

Stop #2: Euclid Creek East Branch Dam Removal Project, Euclid

Participants will continue upstream 3 miles to the Cleveland Metropark's Euclid Creek Reservation to see a dam removal project that allows for fish passage into the East Branch of Euclid Creek. This project also involved multiple partners and agencies providing input from design and implementation to monitoring.

In the project area, Euclid Creek is located in a steep ravine underneath a County roadway which made for complex modeling and engineering in removing the dam and installing structures to handle the stream grade change and to stabilize the overhead bridge footers. There is a short walk from the parking lot to the overlook area to see the project and sediment

deposition that has occurred since the dam was removed in late 2010. This project was funded through multiple funding sources from Ohio EPA, ODNR, and USFWS.



Euclid Creek East Branch Dam, prior to removal in 2010.

Stop #3: Nine Mile Wetland Project, South Euclid

This project is located in a small urban watershed called Nine Mile in the City of South Euclid, a shared community with the Euclid Creek Watershed. In 2008, a concrete detention basin was retrofit into a naturally vegetated wetland with step pools and increased storage area for storm water. 13,000 native plants were installed and participants will see how the vegetation and wetland system have developed over the past five years. Neighborhood naturalists have sighted red foxes, coyotes, and Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Thrush and 17 species of Warblers during their migratory season to name a few species seen in the wetland.



Nine Mile Wetland – wetland step pools installed in 2008.

Economic development spin-off, birding, and collaborations with nearby Notre Dame College on water monitoring in the wetland are a few of the community benefits of the project. This project was funded through an Ohio Public Works Commission grant and the City of South Euclid.

Tour Schedule:

10:15-10:30am	Depart Wyndham at Playhouse Square on bus to Stop #1
10:45am – Noon	Arrive Cleveland Metropark's Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park, Cleveland, Ohio - Tour of Wetland Project on foot (less than 1 mile walk)
Noon – 1:00pm	Lunch at Wildwood Park (pavilion/picnic area)
1:00-1:30	Load bus and Travel to Stop #2
1:30-2:15	Arrive at Euclid Creek Reservation – Upper Highland Reserved Picnic Area, Euclid, Ohio - Tour of East Branch Dam Removal Site (short walk to overlook)
2:15-2:45	Load bus and Travel to Stop #3
2:45-3:30	Arrive at Nine Mile Wetland (use parking lot for 1980 S. Green Road) - Discussion about Wetland retrofit project at overlook (very short walk to overlook from parking lot)
3:30-4:15pm	Travel back to Wyndham at Playhouse Square