

## West Creek Watershed Stewardship in Action – Projects, People & Places

Cleveland Metroparks and West Creek Conservancy will host this fieldtrip, highlighting stream restoration and stormwater retrofit projects in progress and recently completed that exemplify implementation of the West Creek Watershed Action Plan. The tour begins on a residential street where right-of-way rain gardens and rain barrels and associated monitoring has been installed to reduce peak storm flows and measure these results. A walk through West Creek Reservation will take participants to the newly opened Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek, which includes over 30 stormwater control measures outside and numerous watershed-based exhibits inside. The final stop is at the confluence of West Creek and the Cuyahoga River where a large stream and wetland restoration project is underway.

This fieldtrip will track the raindrop through the urban water cycle. The fieldtrip will begin in West Creek headwaters to view a variety of recently installed residential, stormwater control measures and continue downstream, eventually ending at a stream restoration project at the confluence of West Creek and Cuyahoga River.

1. **Klusner Ave Neighborhood Stormwater Stewardship Initiative:** Participants will observe recently completed residential stormwater retrofits – right-of-way rain gardens and rain barrels – and associated monitoring installed to measure pre- v. post-construction stormwater flow, as well as control v. treatment flow.
2. **Watershed Stewardship Center:** Participants will continue downstream via a one-mile walk into West Creek Reservation to show first-hand the impacts of stormwater from the neighboring community. Participants will view the primary headwater receiving stormwater off Klusner and walk the mainstem of West Creek, ending at the Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek. The Center features over 30 stormwater control measures (i.e. permeable pavers, cistern, green roof, rain chains). Indoor interpretive elements include a 3-D watershed model, lifesize storm sewer, interactive exhibits and stream table. We will pause for lunch at the Center.
3. **West Creek Confluence Project:** This 10-acre wetland and stream restoration project includes stabilization of 1000ft. of streambank, installation of 10,000 streamside plants, and hydrologic connection of 6 acres of wetland.

Overall, this fieldtrip will demonstrate how a coordinated approach to watershed restoration can result in a variety of projects that benefit residents and communities in addition to local ecology.



Klusner during construction



Watershed Stewardship Center @  
West Creek



Confluence Project during  
construction