

DEFINITION

## What is a Watershed?

A simple and complex system existing within boundaries

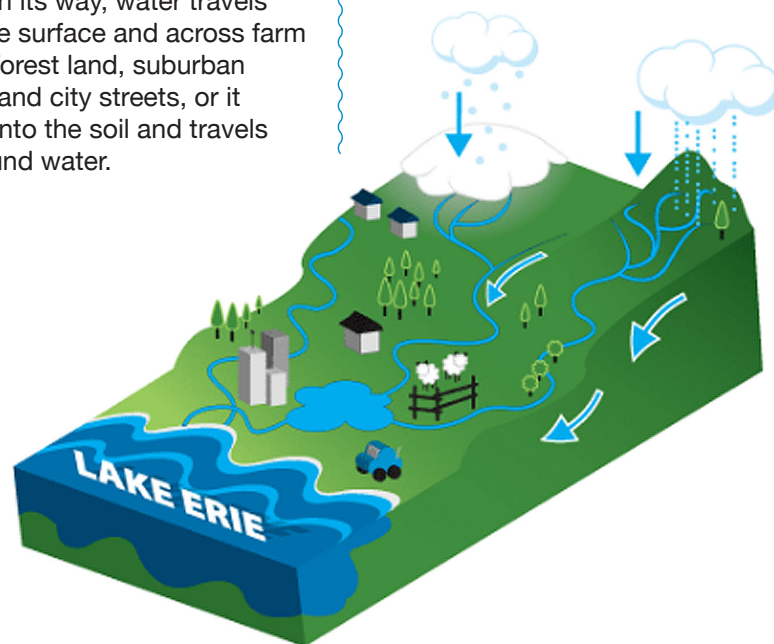
**1** A watershed is simply the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake.

Our landscape is made up of many interconnected basins or watersheds. Within each watershed, all water runs to the lowest point – a stream, river, or lake. On its way, water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns, and city streets, or it seeps into the soil and travels as ground water.

**2**

### A Watershed is Also a System

It is a complex system of interactions between the land, water, plants, animals, and man-made elements that exist within its boundaries. Those interactions clean the water and support the habitat that, in turn, supports life.



## Watershed at a Glance

Land Use Acreage Distribution in Euclid Creek

Land Use	Acres	Percent of Watershed
Commercial Office/Retail	649.90	4%
Residential Single Family	7,114.60	47.6%
Residential Multi-Family	441.11	2%
Industrial	539.30	3%
Institutional	635.822	4%
Undeveloped Land	2,199.034	14%
Protected Open Space	1403.08	9.3%
Utilities/Highways/Roads/ROW	1,904.84	12.7%

Source: Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, 2005

### Causes of watershed impairment:

- Flow regime modification
- Cause unknown
- Habitat alterations
- Pollutants in urban stormwater

OUTREACH

## Learn More

If you would like to learn more about your watershed or how to improve it, visit the following websites:

- <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/>
- <http://cuyahogawcd.org/>
- <https://www.neorsd.org/>
- [www.westcreek.org](http://www.westcreek.org)

## Get Involved

We could use your help to improve our watershed. If you're interested in adopting conservation practices or volunteering, contact:

**Elizabeth Hiser, Watershed Program Manager**  
 Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District  
 216.524.6580 ext. 1002 or  
 ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org



This publication was prepared by the West Creek Conservancy in partnership with watershed stakeholders and available up to date applicable data.

The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and are to be utilized for both educational and planning needs.

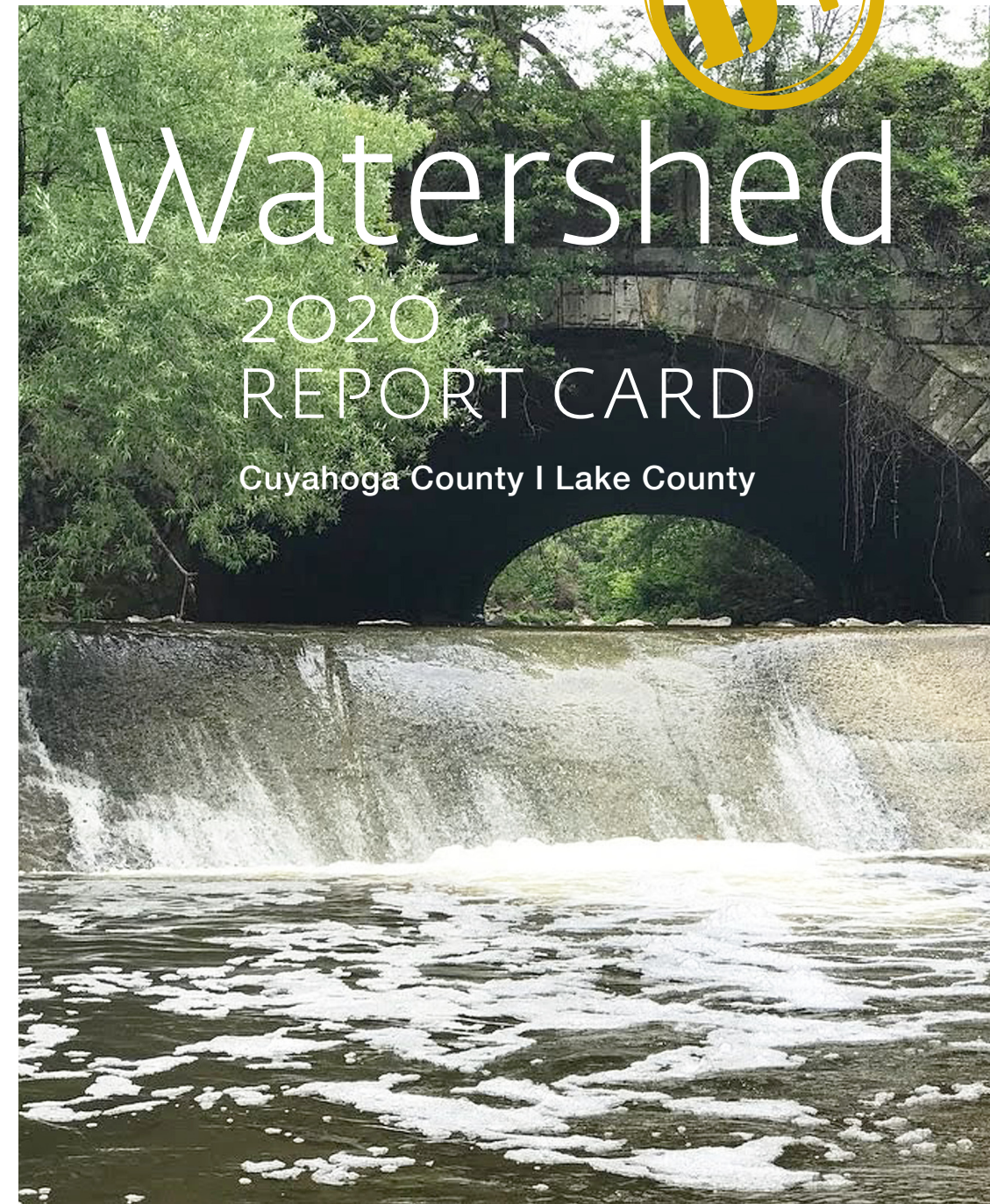
It is not a formal Water Quality Report though the data used is the most up to date information available for the most accurate scoring.



Friends of Euclid Creek

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# EUCLID CREEK







REPORT CARD

# Euclid Creek Watershed

## Location and Details

**Location**

The Euclid Creek Watershed encompasses 23.3 square miles in northeastern Cuyahoga County and a part of Lake County.

**2 Counties**

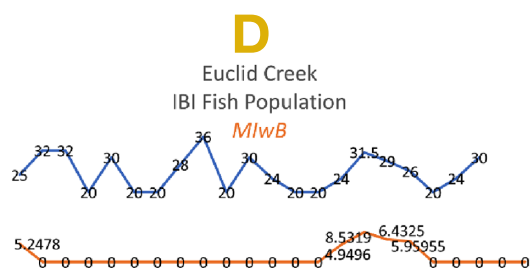
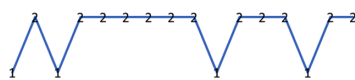
The Watershed covers portions of 12 communities, 11 of which are Cuyahoga County communities.

**Length**

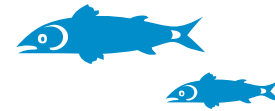
The Creek includes 40+ miles of stream, 30 miles of which is open channel and 10 miles of which is culverted or buried, as far as 8 miles away from the Creek's confluence with Lake Erie, our source of drinking water, at Wildwood Park in Cleveland.

**Overall Grade: D+**

Euclid Creek Scores:



## Grading Criteria Aquatic Life Use Metrics



Based on the mechanism designed for the Water Quality Criteria Ranges in our region used by the EPA. Below is a scoring for applicable "Bioindicators" of healthy streams. Also included: Land Use Types.

**Habitat:**

- QHEI: **A** 70+, **B** 55-69, **C** 43-54, **D** 30-42, **F** 30-

**Fish Population:**

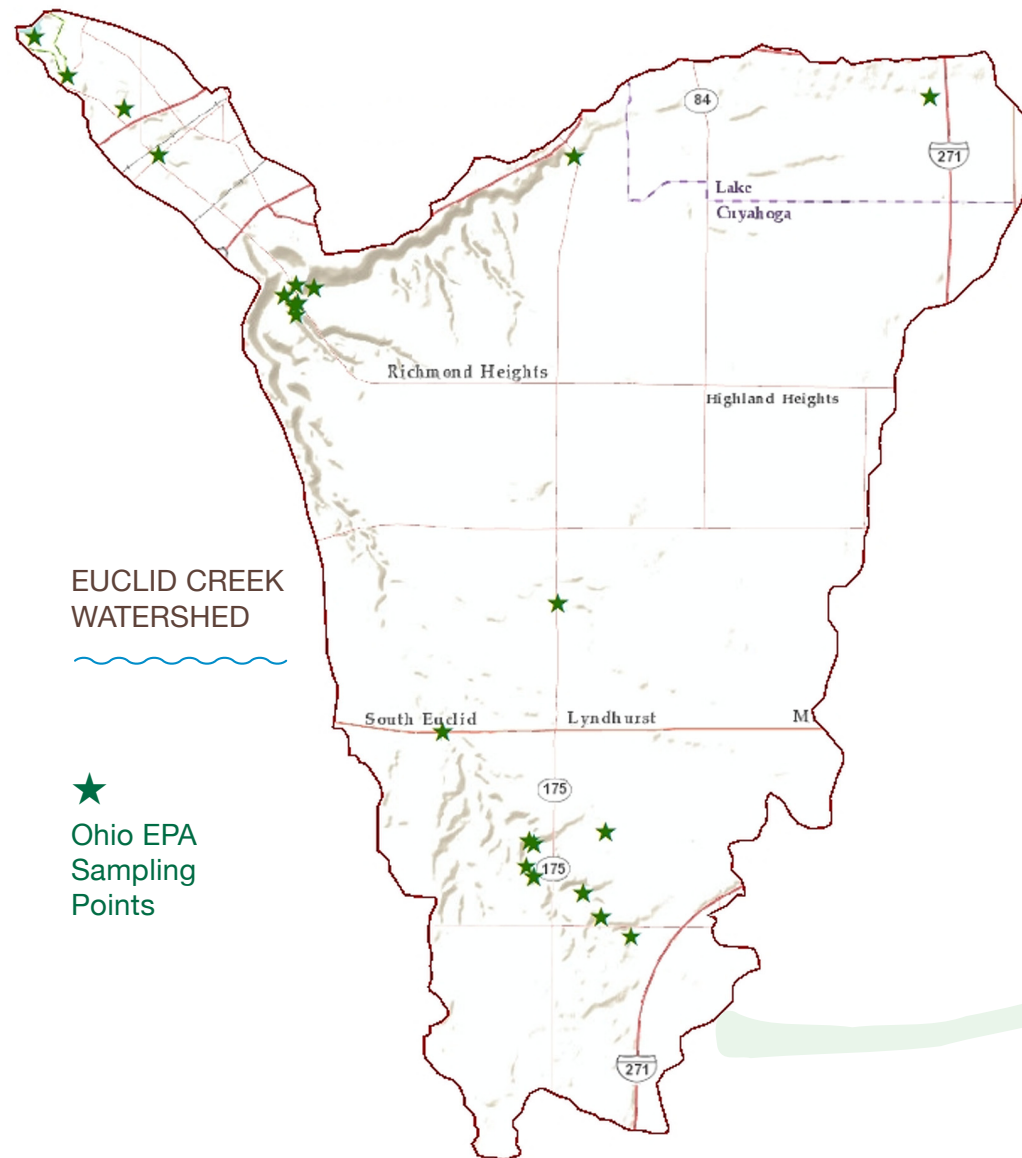
- IBI: **A** 46-50, **B** 38-45, **C** 28-37, **D** 18-27, **F** 17-
- MIWb: **A** 9.4+, **B** 8.9-9.3, **C** 7.4-8.8, **D** 5.9-7.3, **F** 5.8-

**Macroinvertebrates:**

- ICI: **A** 46-60, **B** 39-44, **C** 30-38, **D** 14-29, **F** 13-
- ICI (Narrative Score): **A** (1) Yes **C-** (2) No

**Land Use:**

- Percent Developed: **A** 20%- **B** 40% **C** 60% **D** 80% **F** 90%+
- Forest Cover: **A** 50%+ **B** 40% **C** 30% **D** 20% **F** 10%



COMMUNITY IMPACT

## How this Impacts You

Keeping our sources of water clean and healthy

We often don't think about the water flowing through our communities. Our daily interaction with water typically comes from our faucets. Clean, clear water for drinking, watering, or washing, we usually take for granted.

Lake Erie provides yours and 11 million other homes with running water. When our streams become "dirty" with an overabundance of sediment, nutrients, or bacteria, those pollutants make it to our lake and our drinking source.

Water treatment plants become overwhelmed with the amount of pollutants entering the system. Yes, we can remove these pollutants, but the dirtier the

water the more treatment that needs to be done to make our water safe for drinking. This can cost a lot of money. The upgrades to our plants and additional cost of treatment is something we all pay for. We can reduce these costs by preventing pollutants from entering our waters in the first place.

In the Euclid Creek Watershed, the water flowing into the creek is heavily loaded with nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants from yards, homes, and parking areas. This only exponentially increases when it rains. Bottom line, we need to improve how we take of our land and streams.



## What You Can Do!

- Plant more native and pollinator plants in your yard
- Install a rain garden or rain barrel at home
- Pick up pet waste
- Use natural cleaners in your home
- Try making your own backyard compost bin
- Follow the "4Rs" of fertilizer use: Right source, Right amount, Right place, and Right time
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood or nearby stream
- Leave living woody vegetation along a stream or ditch