

News for the Neighbors of Dusty Goldenrod Preserve October 2021



Preserve the Preserve

The preserve says thanks as the dumping of grass clippings has been reduced. Unfortunately, there are still some spots where dumping occurs, but the good news is - grass clippings are good for your lawn. Even Scott's, the people that want to sell you chemicals, say: "Don't throw those grass clippings away! They're cheap and nourishing mulch for your lawn. It's a question we all face when mowing the grass: should I bag my clippings or leave them on the lawn? In most cases, the answer is easy: recycle the grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn. Doing so will not only save you time and energy, but will also return valuable nutrients to the lawn." Tip: you may want to use a mulching blade when you mow to make finer, more attractive, clippings.

Fall is upon us and big piles of leaves are harmful to the streams and the preserve. What can you do? Take Scott's advice again: "A study done at Michigan State University shows that you can forget about raking, blowing, and bagging leaves. Instead, just mulch them. Take the grass catcher off your mower and mow over the leaves on your lawn. You want to reduce your leaf clutter to dime-size pieces. You can mulch up to 18 inches of leaf clutter." Please help us preserve the preserve.

Mar - Aug 2021 Preserve activities since the last newsletter

- Volunteers have put in a number of hours removing invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, narrow leaf bittercress, and Canada thistle. They have also mapped where these and other invasives can be found so that work crews can attack them next year.
- The live stakes planted last fall along the streams have about a 30% success rate, and this rate may increase as time goes on. These live stakes are intended to stabilize the stream banks in the preserve. Good stream banks slow the movement of water and help prevent flooding downstream. Woods along the stream also stop erosion, which if unchecked increases the speed of the water flowing downstream.

These live stakes are dormant cuttings, a few feet long, of tree species that love wet environments. Species include Red Osier Dogwood, Black Willow, and Pussy Willow. Over time the live stakes sprout roots and leaves, and eventually grow into mature riparian trees. Even though we may not see leaves now, roots are growing and next year will tell the real success story.

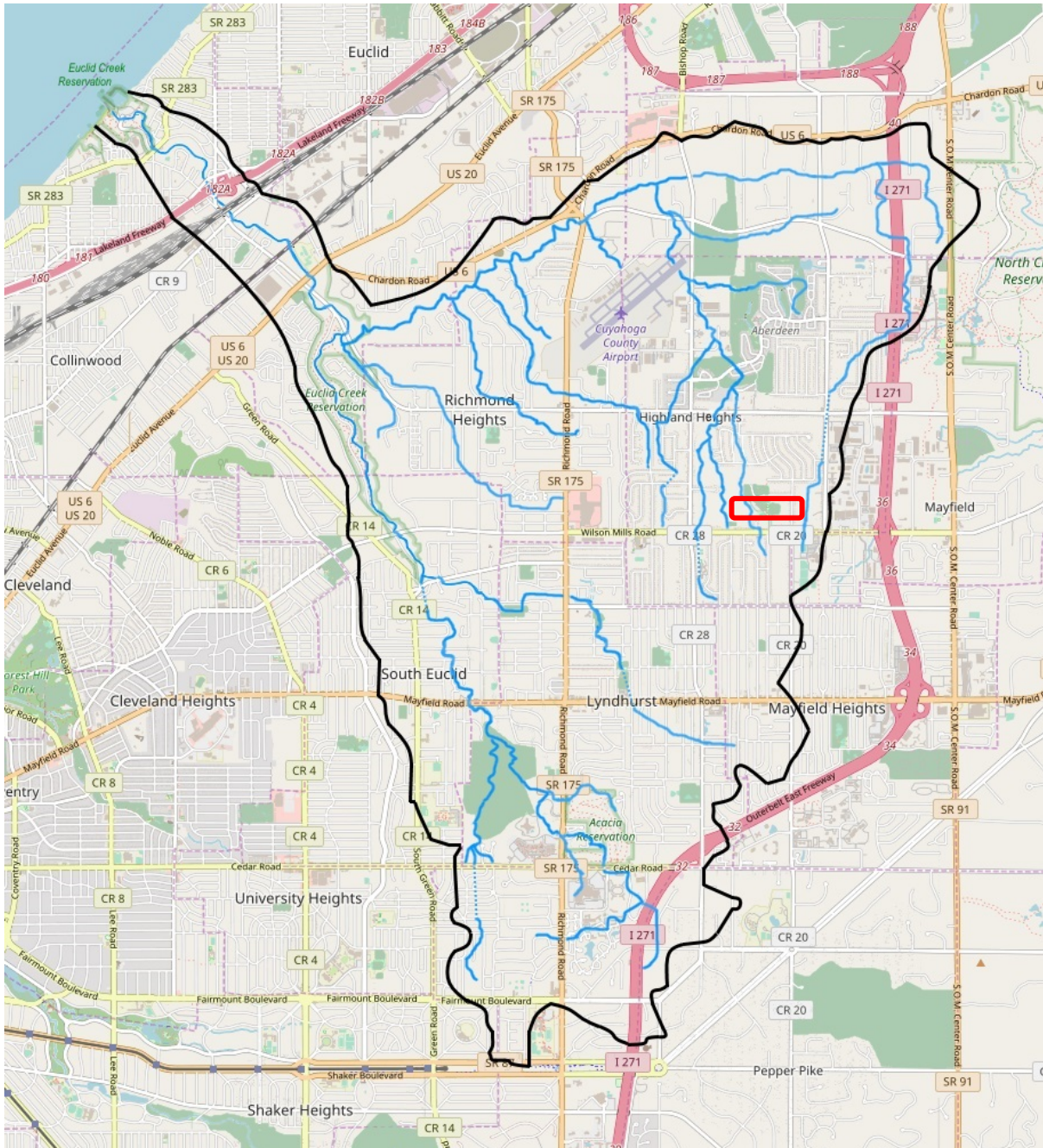


- We had some success with our bluebird houses, and here is a picture of the happy bluebird family. Chickadees nested in one of the other bird houses.
- Tests were conducted to investigate ways to deal with a very nasty invasive plant, Lesser Celandine. Three test plots were set up with each plot using a different removal method: Hand digging / pulling, burning, and a vinegar solution applied.
- An agreement was reached with Holden Arboretum to allow them to collect seed specimens from the preserve. Holden is interested due to the unique and diverse plants found in the preserve.

What is planned to date for 2021 - 2022

- Boundary markers will be installed to clearly delineate the preserve's boundaries.
- We will continue monitoring plants in and around the deer exclosures.
- Continued water quality monitoring of 5 streams that flow through the preserve.
- Continued removal of invasive Austrian Pines.

How Dusty Goldenrod fits into the Euclid Creek Watershed



 Dusty Goldenrod Preserve

Dusty Goldenrod Preserve streams flow into the east branch of Euclid Creek. The two branches, Main and East, join near the north end of Euclid Creek Reservation Metropark. While the preserve is small in size it provides one of the only natural environments in the watershed. The DGP is a forested wetland, which means the ground can absorb considerable amounts of stormwater during high rainfall events. Containing five headwater tributaries to Euclid Creek, the abundant streamside vegetation helps filter out pollutants before they reach the main stem of Euclid Creek. Wetlands are also the type of habitats with the highest diversity in wildlife, plant, and aquatic species. In a landscape matrix dominated by human presences like northeast Ohio these preserves are islands of refuge amongst a sea of suburbs.

Hopefully you find this letter informative, and it helps you feel connected to the great natural asset located right here in Highland Heights. For more information visit our website: <https://www.friendsofEuclidcreek.com>

Sincerely- Friends of Euclid Creek