

RESOLUTION NO.: 85-2012
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor and All of Council

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S CLEAN OHIO FUND GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS ALONG EUCLID CREEK; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District has been working with the nine member communities of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council, including the City of Richmond Heights, to implement the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan to protect and restore the watershed to meet water quality standards set forth by the Clean Water Act.

Section 2: The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is applying for funds in partnership with West Creek Preservation Committee (WCPC) and Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) to protect two ecologically significant areas on two tributaries of the East Branch of Euclid Creek Watershed. The project will protect approximately 20 acres of land in the Cities of Highland Heights and Richmond Heights. A priority action of the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP) is to protect habitat along the sensitive headwater streams of the East Branch of Euclid Creek. The East Branch has some of the most natural riparian corridor remaining in the watershed and both properties are identified as critical areas to protect in order to maintain, enhance and improve water quality in the WAP. Protection of these last remaining natural resources are essential for Euclid Creek to maintain its functions for pollution filtration, habitat maintenance, and reduction of temperature to name a few important benefits.

Section 3: The subject property in Richmond Heights is 8 acres and is located at 25309 Highland Road (Permanent Parcel Numbers 662-08-006 and 662-08-005) in the City of Richmond Heights. This heavily wooded, mature forest is located on Redstone Run, a tributary to the East Branch of Euclid Creek. Protecting this property from development will not only maintain this high quality habitat for plants and animals, but will not increase flows already heavily impacting stream bank stability and water quality in the Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation, just ½ mile downstream of this site.

Section 4: The Euclid Creek Watershed currently does not meet the water quality standards established by the State and the Clean Water Act. This project will assist in meeting the goals and targets to improve the quality of Euclid Creek.

Section 5: This Council and the Mayor wholeheartedly support the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program Grant application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the conservation and preservation of these ecologically significant areas along Euclid Creek.

Section 6: The Clerk of Council is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Attention: Claire Posius, 6100 West Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125.

Section 7: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 8: This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary to preserve the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City and for the further reason that this that this measure is necessary due to the upcoming grant application deadline; wherefore this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche
President of Council