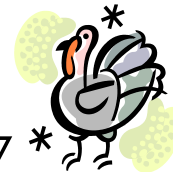


# Cuyahoga River RAP-Up

To the Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee members

From Kelvin Rogers, OEPA RAP Coordinator  
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November 2007 \*



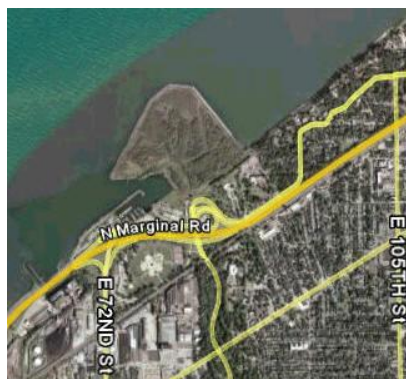
## PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR DIKE 14 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Environmental testing results from Dike 14 are in. Two neighborhood meetings, planned in early December will present the results to the public and will discuss the use of the Dike as a nature preserve. Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) Director Janine Rybka announced that the meetings will be held at 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 5** at the Cleveland State Park Headquarters 8701 Lakeshore Blvd. and at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **Thursday, December 6**, St. Philip Neri Church Community Center, 799 East 82nd Street (just off of St. Claire Avenue). Two meetings are scheduled to afford the public greater opportunity to attend and hear the study results.

The environmental testing conducted at Dike 14 supports using it for public walks and nature observation. In addition to testing results, the proposed

cleanup activities and use limitations will be discussed as well as other enhancements planned to improve the wildlife habitat on Dike 14. Future use of Dike 14 is being evaluated by the Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative, Port Authority and the City of Cleveland. These December meetings will offer the public time to ask questions and get answers about the Dike's safety. The environmental study was paid for by a United States Environmental Protection Agency brownfield grant and a grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.

For further information, contact Susan Watkins, Ohio EPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, 330-963-1201 or Jan Rybka, Cuyahoga SWCD at 216-524-6580 ext 13.



**Dike 14**

## Maumee RAP Celebrates 20th Anniversary - Supporters, Achievements Highlighted as Group Becomes Independent

Residents in the Maumee River watershed have seen great improvements in the water quality of local streams and Lake Erie over the past 20 years. They have the Maumee RAP to thank for many of those improvements.

The Maumee Remedial Action Plan, better known as Maumee RAP, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a gala on November 15, in Toledo. A number of long-time RAP volunteers and supporters were recognized.

The evening included a look at the group's accomplishments since 1987, when it was created to take on projects that would lead to water quality improvements in the region known as the Maumee Area of Concern. The region includes the lower Maumee River, Ottawa

River, Swan Creek, Duck Creek, Otter Creek and other Lake Erie tributaries east to the Toussaint River.

Maumee RAP has existed under the umbrella of the Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments (TMACOG). However, the group has become self-sufficient and in March 2007, merged with Partners for Clean Streams to become an independent, charitable organization. Ohio EPA, which is responsible for bringing Ohio's waters into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act, will continue to provide guidance to the group to ensure the remedial action plan is carried out. In addition to numerous public outreach and education programs, the group has spurred improvements to several old landfills located along the Ottawa River that have significantly reduced the amount of PCBs getting into the river. Sediment cleanup also has removed more than 26 tons of PCBs.

The next stage of the remedial plan is under development. A \$588,000 Joyce Foundation grant has let the group take on three new projects:

- an ecological and human health risk assessment for Duck and Otter Creeks;
- Highland Park Dam decommissioning and riparian enhancement project for Swan Creek; and
- wetland and riparian inventory and restoration plans for Swan Creek and the Ottawa River.



## Ohio Companies Accept Ohio EPA's Toxics Reduction Challenge

Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski is congratulating companies who have stepped up to his emissions reduction challenge by notifying the Agency of their intent to participate in the voluntary Tox-Minus program. The first 42 commitments from industry include several major emitters.

"Reducing toxics is a win-win for everyone." said Korleski, "Having 42 facilities come to us at the start of the initiative expressing their interest in reducing emissions is exciting because it demonstrates that companies are willing to make a voluntary commitment to improve their operations and the quality of life in Ohio."

Tox-Minus is a voluntary chemical reduction program for industry that focuses on 100 of the top toxic chemical reporters based on 2005 Toxic Release Inventory data. It is open to any company that wants to participate.

Facilities volunteering to participate include some of Ohio's largest manufacturers and a broad range of industries, including auto manufacturers, steel plants and utilities. Ohio EPA has spoken with a number of trade associations and industry groups about the Tox-Minus initiative, and has received positive feedback, particularly on the flexible and voluntary nature of the initiative.

Companies are being asked to submit voluntary reduction goals

in a commitment letter by March 3, 2008. Reduction goals can cover up to a five-year time frame and participants will be asked to submit a brief annual report on their accomplishments.

To recognize participants, Ohio EPA will summarize success stories and accomplishments through an annual Tox-Minus progress report, media releases and a Web site.

The program is overseen by the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP). OCAPP is available to provide technical assistance and help participants identify pollution prevention and reduction opportunities. OCAPP is a non-regulatory office within Ohio EPA with of goal of helping businesses achieve compliance and identify pollution prevention strategies. The office won't share information it receives with Agency inspection or enforcement programs.

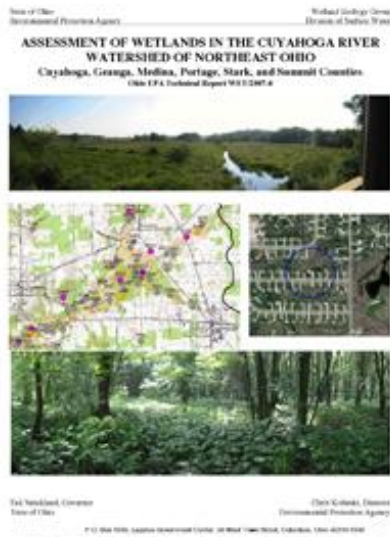
To visit the Tox-Minus Web site, and access a list of the facilities committing to participate, go to: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/tox-minus.html>.

## Cuyahoga Watershed Wetlands Assessment Report Completed

The Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan, Kenyon College and the Ohio EPA recently completed an evaluation of the ecological condition of wetlands in the 800 square mile Cuyahoga River watershed.

The goal was to assess wetlands using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) to determine their ecological condition and report on how ecological condition changes as surrounding land-use changes (urban, agricultural, natural). Sample sites were randomly selected using wetlands mapped by the Ohio Wetland Inventory.

Of the 366 sites visited, it was determined that 243 points (66.4 %) were wetlands while the remainder (16.4 %) were either non-wetlands (n = 60) or duplicate points (n = 18). For the remaining 12.3% of the cases (n = 45), field crews were unable to access to the site.



Across the watershed, 9.1% of wetlands were in poor condition, 13.2% in fair condition, 51.0% in good condition, and 26.7% in very good condition. There was dramatic decline in the numbers of Superior condition (Category 3) wetlands from the upper parts of the watershed in Geauga county (where 49.3% of all wetlands sampled were Category 3), to the middle parts of the watershed in Portage (18.5% and Summit (19.6%) counties, and the near

disappearance of Category 3 wetlands in Cuyahoga county (8.3%). This is related to increasing urban development in the lower portion of the watershed.

Using a measure of land use intensity called the Landscape Development Index (LDI), researchers measured the relationship between land-use and ORAM scores over different buffer distances. ORAM scores tend to decrease as the intensity of land use (high LDI scores) increases for depression, riverine, and slope, particularly when buffer distances are small (i.e., 100 m). This implies that protecting a buffer around a wetland is crucial to maintaining its' ecological health, even in urban environments.

Overall, watershed-wide land use intensity can be characterized as in "low" to "moderately-low". Wetlands in Geauga County had significantly lower LDI scores across most buffer distances than wetlands in Cuyahoga, Summit, and Portage Counties. It was found that wetland size is also a strong predictor of wetland condition, as wetlands decrease in size, ecological condition tends to deteriorate. This is probably a by-product of landscape fragmentation.

A secondary objective of this project was to explore key wetland functions through soil analysis. Soil samples were collected at 202 of the wetland sites. Although soil data showed no consistent trends with condition category researchers did find that depressions contained significantly higher nutrient concentrations (total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total carbon) than riverine sites.

These are important sites for water quality improvement since they act to store nutrients in the watershed, reducing nutrient runoff.

The full report is available at the Ohio EPA website at: [http://www.crcpo.org/Wetlands/CuyReportFinal\\_08Sept2007.pdf](http://www.crcpo.org/Wetlands/CuyReportFinal_08Sept2007.pdf)

## HOT OFF THE PRESS.....

Be sure to visit the RAP website at [www.crcpo.org](http://www.crcpo.org) for the latest information on what's going on in our Area of Concern.



You can download the first issue of **RIVERNEWS**, the CRCPO/RAP/CAHR newsletter to learn about current programs, tributary watershed group activities and upcoming milestones.

Also available is the **GREEN BULKHEADS ON THE CUYAHOGA** Update, the October 2007 update on the RAP project to restore fish habitat to the Shipping Channel.

## Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity From Marinas

Ohio EPA has issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit that authorizes storm water discharges associated with industrial activity from marinas. This permit covers the entire State of Ohio. Marinas (standard industrial classification (SIC) code 4493) involved in boat maintenance activities (including boat rehabilitation, mechanical repairs, painting, fueling and lubrication) or equipment cleaning operations are defined in the federal storm water regulations (40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)) as engaged in "industrial activity" and are subject to this permit.

Marinas requiring coverage will need to submit a permit application by January 13, 2008 to Ohio EPA. The permit application consists of a Notice of Intent (NOI) form and \$350.00 application fee.

The Marina Storm Water General Permit requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be developed and implemented within 12 months after coverage under the general permit is granted by Ohio EPA (this is the date of the coverage letter an applicant will receive from Ohio EPA).

More information is available at the Ohio EPA website at: [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/GP\\_Marinas.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/GP_Marinas.html)

## Upcoming Meetings

Several meetings and events that may be of interest include:

- **Mill Creek Watershed Partners – November 30 at 9:30am** at Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall. Contact Chuck Hambly at 216-241-2414 ext 253 for details.
- **Green Roofs Design 101 Introductory Course – December 4 from 8:30am to 5:00pm** at Cleveland State University. Space is limited...register online at [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org)
- **Friends of Euclid Creek Annual Holiday Fundraiser – December 4 at 7:00pm** at Mayfield Community Center. Contact Friends of Euclid Creek for details.
- **Brandywine Creek Watershed Partners – December 11 at 4:00pm** at Hudson Community Center. Contact Jane Goodman at 216-241-2414 ext 610 for details.
- **Non-Structural Post-Construction BMPs from Planning and Zoning Perspectives – Storm Water Education Workshop – December 12** at Ohio EPA Twinsburg Office. Check out the OEPA website at [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oc/app/storm\\_workshop.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oc/app/storm_workshop.html) for details.
- **CRCPO Board of Directors/RAP Steering Committee – December 13 at 9:00am** at NOACA. Contact Jim White at 216-241-2414 ext 307 for details.
- **Yellow Creek Watershed Committee – December 17 at 7:00pm** at Bath Township Hall. Check out their website at <http://www.yellowcreekwatershed.org/index.htm>
- **Implementing Effective Public Education & Public Involvement Programs – Storm Water Education Workshop – January 9** at Ohio EPA Twinsburg Office. Check out the OEPA website at [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oc/app/storm\\_workshop.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oc/app/storm_workshop.html) for details.
- **Euclid Creek Public Involvement & Education Committee – January 18 at 9:00am** at Richmond Heights City Hall.
- **2008 Ohio Lake Erie Beach Conference – January 18 from 8:30am to 4:00pm** at NEORSD. Contact Eva Hatvani at 216-641-6000 for details.
- **Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee – January 24.** Time and place TBA. Contact Jim White at 216-241-2414 ext 307 for details.
- **Euclid Creek Watershed Council – January 31 at 7:30am** at Euclid Community Center.

**Happy  
Holidays!!!**