

# Friends of Yellow Creek Timeline

1997-Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) establishes the Yellow Creek Watershed Protection and Restoration Project.

1998-Bath Township's Comprehensive Plan recommends initiating a program for Yellow Creek.

2002-NEFCO publishes the Clean Water Plan: 208 Lake Erie Basin Water Quality Management Plan.

2004-March-NEFCO published its Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan.

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2005

-Bath Township's spring Quarterly requested those interested in serving on a residents oversight committee as members of the Yellow Creek Watershed Committee submit their credentials to Mr. Jenkins.

-June- Yellow Creek Watershed Committee holds first meeting.

-Mission statement adopted: *To preserve, protect and enhance the aesthetic, physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Yellow Creek Watershed. This mission shall be accomplished through actions such as monitoring, education, conservation, and restoration.*

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2006

-Requested the Sun Pipeline be buried because it was exposed in the North Fork tributary on the Bath Nature Preserve

-February-Twenty-nine people were appointed as members of the Yellow Creek Watershed Committee which was to serve the following purposes:

1. To oversee the implementation of the Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan which defines strategies that communities within the watershed could adopt to improve water quality and storm water management and establishes the following goals:
  - Increase the understanding, awareness, participation, and cooperation among all stakeholders regarding watershed and water quality
  - Educate watershed stakeholders about best management practices to protect water quality
  - Maintain and protect potential groundwater recharge areas
  - Recognize and address areas that have highly erodible soils
  - Protect current forested areas and promote additional tree planting
  - Adopt conservation development practices
  - Restore riparian corridors
  - Reduce imperviousness
2. To serve as the stewardship committee for the protection and preservation of the watershed which may involve:
  - Pollution prevention
  - Preservation of the stability of the creek's natural channel
  - Supporting legislative measures contributing to the protection and preservation of the watershed
  - Setting goals, priorities, and timetables for the implementation of plan elements, and
  - Encouraging intergovernmental agreements between or among the governmental units within the watershed.

2006-2009-March-Oxbow River and Stream Restoration Company was hired to restore Bath Creek in the Bath Nature Preserve with funding thru the EPA.

-April-Planted willows and white oaks along North Fork Creek.

-Summer-Crystal Lake Dam improved for drainage by working with homeowners and businesses.

-Summer-Participated in Bath Community Day and Univ. of Akron Field Station Open House.

-July- Established YellowCreekWatershed.org as the group's website.

-Fall-Published two articles concerning home sewage treatment systems.

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2007

- Changed name to Friends of Yellow Creek.
- Spring-Helped construct two rain gardens on the Bath Community Activity Center.
- Developed a set of Power Points titled "Clean and Healthy Waters".
- Used data from a GIS study to construct a targeted mailing list of riparian landowners. With grant support, mailed "Life at the Water's Edge" to over 1000 residents using the mailing list.
- April-Presented an Earth Day program involving a tree planting program, presentations on watershed friendly practices, and a keynote talk by Twelve Eagles.
- Spring-Hosted a community speaker series, "Clean Water is the Basis of Life."
- Summer-Participated in Bath Community Day with a *streamulator* provided by Summit County Sewer and Water District.

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2008

- April-Presented an Earth Day program involving a tree planting program with trees from the Bath Grange.
- Summer-Participated in Bath Community Day providing information about rain gardens.
- Spring through Fall-Organized a "win-a-raingarden" contest. Publicized the program, and recruited sponsors, who installed a raingarden in the winner's yard.

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2009

- Summer-Participated in Bath Community Day with clean water tips.
- Submitted input to the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.
- October- Hosted an information table at the Bath Creek Stream Restoration Celebration.

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2010

- Started monitoring water quality of the streams in the watershed using invertebrate counts.
- Supported installation of pervious pavement and raingarden next to the parking lot at the BathTownship Center.
- Created a Stream Naming Committee to discover and verify names of streams in the watershed.
- Participated in Bath Community Day and Fall into Nature at Bath Parks.

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2011

- Continued water quality monitoring, adding chemical and physical testing data to the invertebrate count information.
- May-Hosted community presentations on Water Quality Testing and E. coli Testing by representatives of the Northeastern Ohio Regional Sewer District.
- Presented programs to help residents deal with storm water and erosion.
- Spring-Described accomplishments at the State of the River 2011 Comeback of the Cuyahoga meeting.
- Summer- Began Moore's Chapel wetland restoration.
- Summer-Provided feedback to Summit County Engineer on the Summit County Surface Water Improvement and Management Program
- Summer-Participated in Bath Community Day and Fall into Nature at Bath Parks with maps of the streams and proposed names.

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2012

- Spring-Provided feedback to Summit County Council regarding their resolution on oil drilling and hydraulic fracturing.
- Continued water quality monitoring.
- Began wetland restoration of the Garden Bowl.
- Participated in Bath Community Day and Fall into Nature at Bath Parks with a huge raindrop indicating the water cycle.

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2013

- Completed the Stream-Naming and presented to Bath Township Board of Trustees on July 1 and gave to Zoning Inspector for input into US Board of Geographic Names for approval and inclusion on US geographic maps. The Board also requested that the Summit County Engineer add signage at stream crossings and bridges to increase awareness of the streams.
- Continued water quality monitoring. Verified accuracy of test results using Ohio EPA data.
- Presented an overview of the wetland restoration and stream naturalization projects at the 2013 State of the River Symposium in Cleveland.
- Continued public outreach through displays at Community Day and Fall Into Nature and presentations to local senior and gardening groups.
- Toured the bogs in Kent, Ravenna, and BNP and learned about progress of wetland restoration at Moore’s Chapel and the Garden Bowl.
- Purchased additional equipment for stream monitoring, items for public outreach and a display banner.
- Established Friends of Yellow Creek Facebook page.

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2014

- Evaluated and wrote response to proposed Summit County Stormwater Utility.
- Wrote a letter to NEFCO in support of a “brownfield” grant request.
- Attended meetings and wrote letter in support of putting 8 acres in Granger Township into a land conservancy.
- Stream Naming – USGS approved all stream names submitted except four that are pending awaiting additional background information
- Sent letter to Army Corp of Engineers outlining concerns that runoff from I-77 right-of-way and bridge above Yellow Creek Rd. created serious problems and damage to residents below.
- Offered program on forming a Yellow Creek Watershed Conservancy and approached the township Trustees and Administrator for support.
- Continued physical/chemical testing and macroinvertebrate counts and displayed at Community Day and Fall Into Nature
- Upgraded and launched new Website.

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2015

- Recruited college students to help with water testing. Dr. John Beck, PhD, has Master’s Student who will do his master’s thesis study of the Yellow Creek Watershed Drainage Basins. The data will serve as baseline describing the morphology of the stream bed.
- Worked with NEFCO, Cuyahoga Falls, and Summit County to perform a feasibility study to assess approaches to improve stormwater management in YC watershed.
- began studying the possibility of creating a conservancy district for the Yellow Creek Watershed.
- Requested a liaison from Summit County Engineer’s Office be appointed to the FOYC.
- Welcomed Dr. Lara Roketenetz as the new UA Field Station manager.
- Approved the Wayside Exhibit display panel “A Stream of Prosperity.”
- Had exhibits at the Community Day and Fall Into Nature.

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2016

- Held first native plant sale at Crown Point May 13 – May 15. This generated \$778 in revenue. Unsold plugs were donated to Bath Parks and the Heritage Corridors Wayside Exhibit.
- Held public presentation “Community Forestry, People, Trees, and Watersheds” by Chad Clink, Community Forester for Holden Arboretum.
- Discussed and weighed-in on the plans for a rehabilitation center to be built west of Akron General Wellness Center. Wrote letters, attended zoning meetings, etc.
- Brenda McShaffrey and Jim Stender developed the Yellow Creek Foundation (501c3) to establish a watershed conservancy district for Yellow Creek. They began their drive to obtain more than the required 500 signatures.

-Held a State of the Watershed program in September at the UA Field Station. Adam Delany presented his MS Thesis findings: "Effects of Climate and Development in the Hydrology and Geomorphology of the Yellow Creek Watershed. Marty Murphy presented water quality testing results. Elaina talked about the history of the FOYC. McShaffry talked about the Yellow Creek Foundation and its push for a conservancy.

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2017

-Held 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Native Plant Sale at the Wayside Exhibit using plants and help from Native Roots of Richfield. This was held during the same time as the township-wide garage sales. The proceeds of this sale were used to purchase an Enviroscene watershed model for use at the Field Station.

-Hosted a public program about the Summit County Engineer's Surface Water Management District presented by Alan Brubaker, SC Engineer.

-The Fall Into Nature exhibit was very successful.

-The Township Trustees decide not to endorse the Yellow Creek Conservancy, opting instead to support the Summit County Engineer's Surface Water Management District. Bath is the first township in the county to do so.

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2018

-Addressed the Zoning Commission with concerns over the Medina Road re-zoning.

-Held a 3<sup>rd</sup> successful Native Plant Sale with Native Roots on June 9 at the same time as the township garage sales. Proceeds were used for equipment needed by John Anand, a home-schooled resident, for his water quality study science project. The equipment was then give to the UA Field Station for educational use.

-Participated in Fall Into Nature again. Worked alongside the Isaac Walton League for added attraction. Also, had an information table at the Bath Bicentennial Preserving the Future of the Environment Day at the Field Station. This was not well attended due to the weather.

-Produced a one-page survey on stormwater damage included in the Fall issue of the Bath Quarterly. Responses were scanned and forwarded to the SC Stormwater Management District and Summit Soil and Water.

-Wrote letter of support to the Trust for Public Land for the Lemmon Property (Everett Rd to Cleve-Mass Rd.)

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2019

-Held a 4<sup>th</sup> annual Native Plant Sale with Native Roots on June 8 at the same time as the township garage sales. Proceeds were donated to Summit Soil and Water for use in their NPSIS plan.

-Participated in Fall Into Nature again.

-Held a public presentation by Sustainable Streams, LLC highlighting their findings of their months-long study of the Yellow Creek Watershed.

- Tom Doran and Marty Murphy were appointed to the SWMD Bath Surface Water Advisory Committee (SWAC).