



ON THE LAND

FALL 2023

NWF Sacred Grounds comes to Cuyahoga County

In November 2020, Cuyahoga SWCD, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Greater Cleveland Interfaith Alliance and Journey on Yonder, started working together to bring the NWF Sacred Grounds program to Cuyahoga County. Because of covid restrictions, it was a slow start but now, three years later, it is a blooming program with native gardens popping up at houses of worship across the region.

Sacred Grounds™ is a National Wildlife Federation program that recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities who both create wildlife habitat and actively link faith practices and caring for the environment. The mission of the program is to promote the installation of native plant gardens that connect people to nature and provide access to nature for all. Particularly in urban communities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have less access to nature and safe green spaces than others in the same cities. Through this program, participants both learn to plant and install their own native plant garden, while educating and engaging the community and contributing to a network of accessible natural spaces and habitat.

Funded by The Cleveland Foundation, NWF Sacred Grounds in Cuyahoga County has 16 sites



Warrensville Road Community Baptist Church at their designation ceremony 2022 - Photo by NWF Staff

currently participating in the program, all at various stages. Eight houses of worship have been certified as NWF Sacred Grounds. Sites have planted native plant gardens, native trees, monarch way stations, and other habitat to enhance their grounds.

Several NWF Sacred Grounds sites will be featured on a bus tour during the Healing Our Waters conference in October 2023. Find more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx83c2k>

In Spring 2024, seven more sites will come into the program. NWF Sacred Grounds is already thriving in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Northern Michigan and Toledo, OH.

Visit www.nwf.org/sacredgrounds or contact Amy Roskilly at aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org



Some who never had a garden before, are now very excited to be part of the team and to learn about gardening. My heart was filled with joy in the way they have embraced this project.

-Ronnie Owens, Warrensville Road Community Baptist Church



Masjid Bilal 2023 - Photo by NWF Staff



New Life Cathedral 2023 - Photo by Kim Woodford Smith



First Baptist Church 2023 - Photo by Cuyahoga SWCD

Board of Supervisors Election - Meet the Candidates



Rebecca Fuller

Rebecca Fuller is a research assistant and grad student at Case Western Reserve University. She had been attending monthly Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District meetings regularly as a member of the public since January 2023. As a longtime resident of Northeastern Ohio, Rebecca is passionate about preserving and protecting our water and green spaces. Since moving up to Cleveland in 2020 she's become an active member of the Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Program, participating in beach clean ups, invasive plant pulls, tree and native plantings, and monitoring water quality in the Euclid Creek watershed.



Jon-Michael Lemon

Jon-Michael Lemon is the Director of Civil Engineering at Osborn Engineering in Cleveland, Ohio. In this role, he oversees the design and construction of both public and private infrastructure projects throughout Cuyahoga County and in the other regions that Osborn serves. As a licensed Professional Engineer, his areas of technical expertise include green infrastructure, low-impact development (LID), utility and roadway design, hydrology, hydraulics and stormwater management. Having worked with the stormwater team at CSWCD in a professional setting, Jon-Michael appreciates the work that the team does and looks forward to having the opportunity to brainstorm ideas to help continue to grow the successful implementation of OEPA Permit OHC000006, while still maintaining Cuyahoga County as a desirable area for redevelopment and growth. Achieving this balance is a challenge but is one that he is eager to get to work on. Outside of work, Jon-Michael has served on the Board of Directors of Front Steps Housing and Services since 2018 and is passionate about providing opportunities to improve all facets of our community.



Djuan McCarthy

Djuan McCarthy is a Lead Continuous Improvement Manager for RPM International. In this role he strives to build organic and sustainable cultures of continuous improvement by developing informed management, leveraging expertise, and creating title - less leaders amongst the organization and subsidiaries. Included in the duties of this role is a focus on ESG principles, mainly that of addressing environmental issues by significantly reducing the stream of waste by using more sustainable practices and partnering with outside organizations. Prior to joining RPM International, he worked for 17 years at Sherwin Williams where he was involved in their Bio - Renewable and Sustainable Community of Practice as the Knowledge Manager of the initiative. He is also a board member for the Elyria based youth focused non - profit SOC (Save Our Children). As a father of two, he is passionate about creating and leaving an environment that his and all children of NEO can safely call home.

SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING

Each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Ohio is administered by a five-member board of supervisors, each serving a three year term. These supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in their respective counties.

Supervisor elections are special elections, independent of a general election, conducted annually by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) pursuant to rules adopted under Chapter 119 and 940 of Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Department of Agriculture staff, as

official designated agents, oversee local SWCD supervisor elections, on behalf of the OSWCC. Eligible voters must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of the official election and be a resident or own land in Cuyahoga County.



CUYAHOGA SWCD ANNUAL MEETING & SUPERVISOR ELECTION

Learn more about who we are and what we do! The event is an open house with interactive displays from our staff and board! Please register!

OCT
12
2023

3:30pm
6:00pm



Dunham Tavern
Museum & Gardens
6709 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44103



<http://tinyurl.com/ye26tncr>



216-503-0719



thaendiges@cuyahogaswcd.org

HOW TO VOTE

▲ In person at the CSWCD office:

Available 8:30am-3:00pm from September 13th - October 12th, 2023
3311 Perkins Avenue, Suite 100 - Cleveland, OH 44114
(Free parking is available on Perkins Ave. & East 36th St.)

▲ Absentee/Mail-In Voting:

Eligible voters can request a mail-in ballot from
September 13th-October 5th, 2023.

To request a mail-in ballot, contact us:
phone: 216-503-0719 | email: thaendiges@cuyahogaswcd.org
web: www.cuyahogaswcd.org/contact

▲ At the CSWCD Annual Meeting:

Thursday, October 12th, 2023 - 3:30pm-6pm
Dunham Tavern Museum & Gardens
6709 Euclid Avenue - Cleveland, OH 44103



For more information,
visit our website
www.cuyahogaswcd.org



Spotted Lanternfly spotted in Cuyahoga County

Normally we wouldn't tell you to squish bugs but this time, we are encouraging you to do just that. The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive planthopper that poses a serious threat to our region's fruit plants and trees. It can weaken other plants and make them vulnerable to insects, pests and diseases. They also produce 'honeydew' and a type of fungus called "sooty mold" grows on honeydew which forms a black/gray layer of mold on the surface of the plant. That layer blocks the sunlight and starves the plant.

While Spotted Lanternfly will hang out on almost anything, the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a host plant for them. Removing these trees can greatly reduce the number of these pests.

We need you to learn how to identify these invasive pests and scrape off the egg masses and/or squish the bugs. They can and should be eradicated at any point of their life cycle. For more information, check out our blog at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9d2p99>.

