



# Kent Environmental Council

July 2009

## KEC Marks 'Year of the River' with Focus on Middle Cuyahoga Watershed

It's 2009 and the Year of the River. There is a lot to celebrate. The Cuyahoga River has come a long way, and much progress has been made since it caught fire in Cleveland 40 years ago. Gone are the black goo and other signs of pollution and water-quality degradation.

The low-hanging fruit has been picked, though, and continuing improvements are harder to come by. Attention is now being turned to other sources of pollution, such as agricultural and storm-water runoff.

The Northeast Ohio Four County

Regional Planning & Development Organization (NEFCO) has received a grant to fund a full-time watershed coordinator to work with communities in the Middle Cuyahoga Watershed (Kent, Ravenna, Brimfield, Rootstown, Randolph, Cuyahoga Falls, Munroe Falls, Stow, Tallmadge, Silver Lake and Hartville).

If you belong to an organization within any of these communities, Maia Peck, the new watershed coordinator, is available to give presentations on the planning process. You can contact her at [mpeck@nefcoplanning.org](mailto:mpeck@nefcoplanning.org).

## Young Families for the Environment Seeks Participants

The KEC focus group, Young Families for the Environment, is looking for participants. The group consists of families with young children who are interested in exploring the possibilities of community gardening in Kent, learning more about food policy within the Kent school system and encouraging the use of locally produced vegetables and fruits.

Because an agenda for action is still in the initial stages, additional families would be welcome. For more information, contact Rosi Peruyero-Noden at [peruyerosi@yahoo.com](mailto:peruyerosi@yahoo.com).

## Portage County Storm Water Task Force Sets Public Hearings for July 16, 23

Portage County's Storm Water Task Force, which has been meeting since 2003 to develop a storm-water management plan that would improve water quality in unincorporated areas, will be holding two public meetings in July to discuss the project.

The first meeting is set for Thursday, July 16, at 5 p.m. and Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m. in the county engineer's office, 5000 Newton Falls Road, Ravenna.

By law, the county must adopt the Environmental Protection Agency's six minimum-control measures, which are designed to reduce sediment, salt, oil and grease, and other pollutants in storm-water runoff from

roads, parking areas, buildings and construction sites.

The commissioners are proposing the creation of a Storm Water District that will be financed through a storm-water fee based on the amount of impervious surface contained on each parcel (the proposed fee is \$3 per month). Cities may develop their own plan, as Kent has done, or they can partner with the county. The six minimum-control measures are public education, public involvement, illicit discharge and elimination, construction storm-water management, post-construction storm-water management, and good housekeeping.

For more information on the plan, go to [www.portagecounty.com](http://www.portagecounty.com).

## Save the Date

The Kent Environmental Council is planning now for its Fall Forum on Monday, October 5 at 7 p.m. The forum topic is recycling—what's new at the Portage County recycling center, available new technologies and how external forces (such as the economy) affect the marketability of recycled resources.

A short KEC business meeting will be held before the forum to consider some bylaws changes. For updates on the forum and other KEC news, go to [www.kentenvironment.org](http://www.kentenvironment.org).

Happy



July 4!

Special Kent Heritage Festival Edition

## KEC Issues Request for Proposals

The Kent Environmental Council is soliciting proposals to fund small grants (\$500-\$1,000) for projects/programs that contribute to the council's focus areas.

Funds accumulated from bequests and donations to KEC as part of its Legacy of Learning initiative are to be used to further the goal of a livable, sustainable environment

through education, conservation, advocacy of environmentally sound public policies and networking with like-minded groups.

After July 15, more detailed information and requests for proposals will be available at the KEC Web site. Submission deadline is October 1. The funding recipients will be announced on October 30, 2009.

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## Take the Wild Hikes Challenge

Regardless of whether you walk, hike, skip, jog or run, the Portage Park District's 2009 Wild Hikes Challenge is for you.

All you have to do is complete eight of 11 designated trails before November 1. When you are done, turn in your completed official hiking form and receive a hiking staff and a 2009 Wild Hikes tag. The suggested donation for the hiking staff is \$10; for the tag, \$5.

Some of the trails included in the Wild Hikes Challenge are the Fox Loop in Dix Park, the Butterfly Loop in Towner's Woods Park, the Swan

Loop in Seneca Ponds Park and the Breakneck Creek Preserve.

You may choose to hike on your own or on one of the Park District's scheduled hikes led by Park District staff and volunteers. Registration is required for the guided hikes. To register, call 330-297-7728 or send an e-mail to [sblair@portageparkdistrict.org](mailto:sblair@portageparkdistrict.org).

The Wild Hike Challenge is a program designed to encourage healthy recreation in county parks and trails and nurture a personal connection to Portage County's rich natural and cultural heritage.

### **Attention: Environmental Advocates!**

KEC invites you to **visit our Web site** at [www.kentenvironment.org](http://www.kentenvironment.org). Be sure to click on these tabs:

- Calendar - for information on local environmental events
- What's New - for KEC focus group activities
- Legacy of Learning - for reports on 2008 grant projects
- Eco-Tips - for ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and more

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Consider **becoming a member** of KEC at one of the following levels:

- Sustaining - \$45
- Family - \$35
- Individual - \$25
- Golden Buckeye - \$15
- Student - \$10

Send your check made payable to Kent Environmental Council to KEC, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240.

**Together, we can  
make a difference!**