



Dedicated to protecting and enhancing Clark's Run as a community resource for Boyle County.

Clark's Run Environmental & Educational Corporation



CREEC NEWS—Fall 2008

Water Quality Update: Dix River Watershed Council forms Clark's Run Focus Group to fine tune water quality recommendations

The Dix River Watershed Council has been meeting for the past two years to assist with the development of a comprehensive watershed plan for the area. In 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the state of Kentucky funds to develop Clean Water Action Plans for five watersheds in the state—and the Dix River watershed was selected as one of them. Community members have been examining and discussing a year's worth of water sampling results collected between March 2006 and February 2007.



Clark's Run between 2nd and 3rd Streets

Of the 30 total sampling sites, nine were located in Clark's Run — from Corporate Drive off of Lebanon Road to the Goggin Lane crossing. The results showed that some areas of the creek have high nutrient levels that can cause algal blooms that make it difficult for aquatic life to survive as the algae dies off. The sampling also demonstrated that E coli inputs to the stream are unacceptably high in many areas. Sources of the E coli may include broken sewer lines, failing septic systems, straight sewer pipes or animals in and along the stream. A follow-up sampling effort at at Stanford Avenue suggests that human sources are largely responsible for the high E coli levels. Another site between the US 150 bypass and the railroad station had equal levels of E coli from humans and cattle.

In order to translate these findings to actions that will improve water quality, a focus group was formed for the Clark's Run watershed. During its initial meeting on August 12th, fourteen local citizens discussed water quality and began developing specific ideas for improving it—including public education about installing and maintaining septic systems and encouraging farmers to protect streams on their land through federal cost-share programs. The group is now being asked to answer the following questions about Clark's Run, the answers to which will be incorporated in an overall plan of action for improving Clark's Run and its watershed:

- What are the important uses of Clark's Run and its tributaries, and how is it important to the community?
- What do you see as the critical issues facing this watershed?
- What should be the water resource goals for the future?
- What strategies should be implemented to achieve these goals?

If you are interested in participating in this group's activities, please contact: Preston Miles (preston.miles@centre.edu) or Malissa McAlister (mmcalister@uky.edu). More information is also available at www.dixriverwatershed.org.

Centre College Students Hack Away at Invasive Honeysuckle



Centre freshman clearing honeysuckle from stream-bank.

On August 30th, about 30 first-year Centre College students and some of their orientation crew worked for 3 hours along the stream bank of Clark's Run. Using hand saws and pruners, the students cut out the smaller honeysuckle bushes while Preston Miles, Mike Barton and Jim Roessler used chain saws to cut the thick, larger tree-like trunks. The students then hauled the cut branches to Adam Johnson, who fed them into the chipper. The resulting wood chips were wheel-barrowed back to the stream bank and spread as mulch. So many branches were cut that there wasn't enough time to chip them all! The chipper/shredder was donated by Job Masters in Danville.

Honeysuckle is a non-native invasive shrub which has claimed most of the stream banks along a great portion of Clark's Run and many other

areas of disturbed habitat. Because of honeysuckle's fast growth and ability to grow in many soil types, it has outcompeted the slower growing, more habitat-specific native species.

The removal of honeysuckle along Clark's Run between 2nd St. and 3rd St. has been the focus of several work projects of CREEC. Three years ago, the first tree plantings occurred in this section. A year or so later, CREEC organized the first attack on honeysuckle. Last spring, student volunteers cleared about 100 feet of stream bank of this invasive plant. Later in the spring, about 20 redbud trees were planted along the bank. The result of all this hard work is a lovely open stream bank where native wildflowers and trees now grow. This area will continue to improve as more native plants reclaim the bank. Continued vigilance of the area is necessary to keep the honeysuckle at bay. Please try to visit this section of the stream to admire our work!

CREEC Exhibits at Centre College EXPO

The Centre College Expo was held on September 4th with the goal of introducing students to the businesses, civic groups and religious opportunities in Danville. CREEC participated in this event with a slideshow of CREEC activities and our display board featuring CREEC's goals of water quality improvement, continued trail development and water quality education. Almost 90 students signed up to participate in CREEC's water quality endeavors. "The current Centre students are truly interested in the environment and are willing to work towards improving it" stated Preston Miles, a CREEC board member, as he invited students to visit the CREEC booth. The booth was manned by Preston and Rose-Marie Roessler.

Water Education Update:

Kim Hall helped CREEC educate local students as Summer Intern

Through a grant from the Associated Colleges of the South, Kim Hall completed a summer of activities for CREEC and local schools. Kim had served as CREEC's intern during the 2007-08 school year at Centre College and, thankfully, decided to continue her involvement after her graduation in the spring.

Over the summer, Kim met weekly with local elementary student and provided lessons and activities on environmental topics ranging from recycling to energy conservation to tree identification. The final two classes were spent at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge, with transportation costs provided by the refuge.

Kim is now participating in an environmental mentoring program for children in New Mexico. Hopefully, her summer experience prepared her for this next adventure. Before leaving, Kim noted, "While the main focus of these projects was education, I have also worked diligently to make learning about the environment fun and exciting for the children involved, as well as encouraging outdoor physical activity. Doing so has required much planning, but has been extremely rewarding in the end."



Rain Garden Workshop will offer opportunity for local citizens to minimize their stormwater impacts

A Rain Garden Workshop is being scheduled for a Saturday in January at the Boyle County Extension Office. Presenters at this classroom workshop will provide information on the purpose and installation of rain gardens. A follow-up workshop is expected in the early spring, during which a demonstration rain garden will be installed and participants will see first-hand how to create their own gardens.

A rain garden is a garden with a shallow depression that captures runoff from impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, patios, driveways, and parking lots, before it enters the storm water system. Rain gardens can be customized and are limited only by the resources and time you want to put into them. They use natural processes to improve water quality by filtering pollutants and reducing the amount of stormwater runoff. The water easily infiltrates into the soil because of the deep roots of the native plants and recharges the groundwater supply.

The rain garden workshop is being co-sponsored by the [Bluegrass Rain Garden Alliance](#), the City of Danville, the Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office, and CREEC. *Please contact Malissa McAlister at mmcalister@uky.edu for further details if you are interested in attending the workshop.*

Trails & Greenway Update:
Boyle County Trails & Greenway Committee continues to make plans



The Boyle County Trails & Greenway Committee has met several times over the past six months. They continue to work on identifying the most ideal trail locations and routes to connect historical and commercial destinations, with a critical starting point being the existing 1-mile trail segment along Clark's Run in downtown Danville.

Important grant opportunities are approaching in the late winter and early spring through the Governor's Office of Local Development. The Recreational Trails Program grant application is due between December 1, 2008 and February 1, 2009 for grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It can be used to provide assistance for acquisition of easements, development and/or maintenance of recreational trails and trailhead facilities for both motorized and non-motorized use. The Recreational Trails Program is intended to benefit communities and enhance quality of life. Anyone interested in participating in this Committee or assisting with grant writing for the trails should contact Adam Johnson at 859-236-7794 or adamjohnson@danvillekentucky.com.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City/State/Zip Code _____</p> <p>Phone Number _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address _____</p> <p>Please check the related topics that most interest you:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Learning more about water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Constructing a recreational trail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Participating in educational outreach</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with stream improvement projects</p>	<p>Please select an annual membership dues category below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sucker - \$10/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minnow - \$20/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Catfish - \$35/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crappie - \$50/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bass - \$75/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trout - \$100/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sturgeon - \$1,000/year (Lifetime member)</p> <p>The following Corporate Sponsorship rates are also available:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Creek Supporter - \$100</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> River Supporter - \$500</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stream Supporter - \$250</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Supporter - \$1,000</p> <p><u>FREE CREEC TOTE BAG WITH DONATIONS OF \$20 OR MORE!</u></p>
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