

## What's Inside

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- Rain barrel questions answered
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- The latest on the watershed's biggest restoration projects

With the winter months closing in, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership is finishing up another year of activities and initiatives celebrating the Doan Brook's enduring influence in our communities and in our imaginations.

Our two largest, annual festivals, Family Fishing Day and Take to the Lake, were as popular as ever and once more served to highlight the incredible sense of community that can be fostered by bringing people together around shared natural resources. Every fishing line that is cast and kayak that is launched holds the potential to transform someone's relationship to water and the environment, reinforcing the importance of protecting our watershed, Lake Erie, and beyond.

Additionally, our storm drain stenciling efforts continue to engage community members in spreading awareness about the adverse impacts of storm water runoff throughout our watershed communities.

Whether learning to identify tree species by characteristics of their

## Our Year in Outreach

Fall/Winter, 2017

By Andrew Klooster

bark, brushing up on the history and geology of the Doan Brook gorge, or acquiring new photography skills our hikes with local partners Dr. Roy Larick, Dr. Ted Auch, and photographer David Perelman-Hall are always invaluable opportunities to obtain new skills or knowledge and a new perspective on our region's natural treasures.

This year, for the first time, we established a weekly presence at the Shaker Square Farmer's Market selling rain barrel and rain garden kits to supplement another round of successful rain barrel workshops in the spring. We have also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of you at your homes in helping to assess best approaches to manage storm water runoff. Finally, throughout the year, we have engaged students of all ages from local schools and universities in



collection, to rain garden and bioswale maintenance, to hikes of the Doan Brook gorge, always with a focus on educating and preparing the next generation of watershed stewards.

It has been a busy year, but the sustained energy and passion of our community members and volunteers makes it all worth it. We were able to engage more people than ever in 2017 with our activities and programs, and we are looking forward to repeating this success in 2018.



## Barrels of Benefits

### How to get the most out of your rain barrel

**What is a rain barrel?** Simply put, rain barrels are systems that collect and store rainwater from a roof that would otherwise end up in storm sewers underground. This is important because in our watershed, the current storm sewer systems, also referred to as combined sewer overflows (CSO), are no longer able to manage the amounts of stormwater that they collect. As a result, our stormwater is mixing with raw sewage in these pipes underground and periodically discharged directly into our beloved waterways, including Doan Brook.

**How do they work?** Many varieties of rain barrel systems exist and they range from expensive & high end to DIY versions. Thankfully, regardless of the system that you choose, rain barrels pretty much all function the same way. A 55-gallon barrel, or other catchment device, connects to a downspout where water is diverted from the gutter into the barrel. Most rain barrels have an overflow valve so that when your rain barrel is full, water is redirected back into your downspout. That's it!

You may be aware that Doan Brook Watershed Partnership offers FREE Homeowner Property Assessments, where we provide guidance on the best stormwater management practices based on your individual property and goals and aspirations. The impetus for most site visits is the ever-desirable credit potential offered for a menu of stormwater control measures that can be added to any home property. However, just as many people are unaware of the 25% savings on the NEORSO stormwater bill after proper rainbarrel, rain-garden or vegetated filter strip installation. At these visits we get a lot of questions about rain barrels. Here are some answers to the most common questions:

**Do I really need to cut into my downspout?!** This is by far the most anxiety inducing step of rain barrel installation. Although this step appears to offer a small margin of error, with proper instruction and guidance it is possible (and easy)! Visit [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org) to see a step-by-step video tutorial of a

rain barrel installation using the barrels and diverter kits that we recommend.

**Can I leave my rain barrel hooked up all winter?** While you *can*, we do not recommend it. The cold weather can lead to hoses splitting, barrels cracking or bursting, and can even do damage to your gutters. To avoid this, drain your barrel, detach it from your downspout, remove any hoses, clean it out (optional), and be sure to store it either in a garage or shed, or at the very least upside-down & out of direct sunlight.

**Can I put my rain barrel wherever I want?** If you live in Shaker Heights or Cleveland, yes! Cleveland Heights residents, however need to obtain a permit from the Architectural Review Board if you'd like your barrel in the front yard (or side yard for corner lots).

#### Rain Barrel Resources

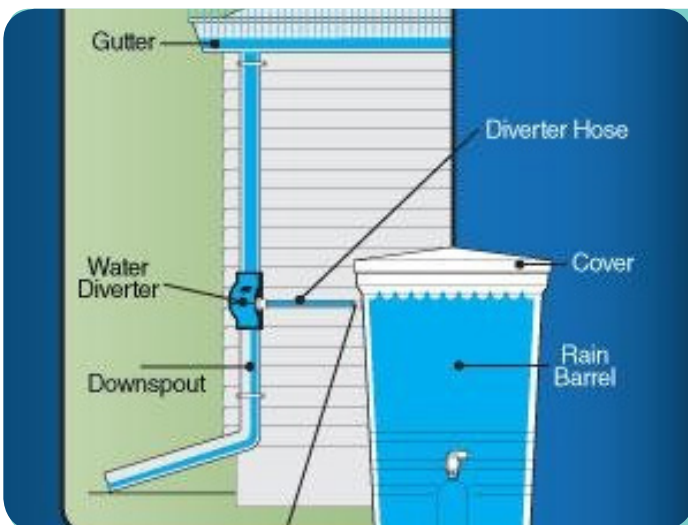
💧 We recommend contacting Container Compliance to purchase a food grade barrel that can be converted to a rain barrel. Prices range from \$20-\$25. (216) 961-0035. DBWP sells the diverter kits. Give us a call to place an order (216) 325-7781 (\$20).

💧 Looking for some of the tools you need to install your barrel? DBWP has you covered. We lend out the less common tools necessary for installation i.e. 3/4" pipe tap & 15/16" drill bit.

💧 If you are interested in painting your rain barrel, visit: <http://paintedrainbarrel.org> or [www.aquabarrel.com](http://www.aquabarrel.com) to learn these simple steps.

💧 Look for our DIY rain barrel workshop s in 2018.

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#### How Diverter Work

- 1) Water enters the diverter & diverter hose, where it then drains into the rain barrel.
- 2) If the barrel is full, water travels back through the diverter hose & diverter into the downspout.





Ellie Rial, Urban Watershed Coordinator- Ellie has a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a focus in Sustainable

Watersheds and Water Resources and a M.S. in Natural Resources both from the University of Montana. She brings 5+ years of experience working for watershed organizations where her focus has been on community outreach & watershed education for youth and adults. At DBWP, Ellie is excited to work on issues of water affordability, connecting people to local greenspace, and continuing to educate communities about water resources.



Andrew Klooster, Watershed Programs Assistant- Andrew has a B.A. in Anthropology and Sustainability

and a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environment with a focus on environmental justice, all from the University of Michigan. He has an extensive research background that has focused on examining rural social networks and perceptions of climate change as well as international research studying reforestation in Nicaragua. His passion resides in working with people and communities to promote access to, and awareness of, the environment.

## 2017 Watershed Hero

When you visualize of a Watershed Hero swooping in to save the day, you may assume he or she prevented a pollution spill, replanted trees or saved turtles. While those are always commendable acts, the Partnership was in need of a different kind of triage in 2017. Last year, shortly after our wonderful staff member, Graham Welling, moved on to a full-time job, the Partnership lost all of its computer files. I was at whit's end while also being short-handed. Thankfully, John Reebe, 2017 Watershed Hero, came to the rescue with one simple question, "how can I help"? In the months prior to our fantastic new staff arriving, this steadfast volunteer devoted at least a day a week to help in any, and every, way needed. In addition to his administrative assistance, John's background in IT came in very handy when resolving our computer woes. It wasn't until I witnessed John teaching kids—young and old—at community events, that I understood the dynamic depth of his skillset and his big heart. Many thanks to John Reebe for making me laugh while saving the day---okay many days! – Tori Mills



## Special Appreciation to Outgoing Board Member, David Beech

The Partnership bids David Beech a fond farewell from the Board. David was an unflinching advocate for sustainable cities, with a particular expertise on local watersheds. We will miss his quiet and stalwart conviction to set a high bar for our organization and sustainability across our region. The entire Board has tremendous gratitude for David's service and wishes him well as he concentrates on writing.

## Welcome A-Board

Introducing our newest Board members



Curt Witche: Curt is our newest citizen-at-large Trustee. He joins our board as a longtime financial

executive who consults with early stage and startup companies in Northeast Ohio. He is also the co-founder and CFO of the Foundry Project, a multi-purpose endeavor that involves reviving a neglected neighborhood in Mid-town.



Julia Swanson: Julia joins our Board of Directors as the Cleveland Museum of Natural History representative,

where she works as the Outdoor Education Coordinator. Her background is in outdoors and environmental education and her passion is connecting people to science and conservation through outdoors experiences. Julia will bring that same passion to her work as a DBWP Board member.





## Watershed Work Zones

### Doan Valley Storage

Construction of the Doan Valley Storage Tunnel as part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Project Clean Lake is underway. Upon completion, the Doan Valley Storage Tunnel will capture sewage overflow during storm events – allowing for it to be treated before it gets discharged into Lake Erie. Project Clean Lake will eventually include a total of seven storage tunnels as well as increased treatment capacity at all three treatment facilities in order to capture upwards of 98% of storm water overflow by 2036. During construction of the Doan Valley Storage Tunnel, the westernmost lane on Martin Luther King Boulevard between North Park Boulevard and the bridge north of Ambleside Drive will be closed. This lane will remain closed through November 2021.

### Rockefeller Park Projects

Work is currently underway on the Nord Family Greenway in University Circle which will eventually connect the CWRU University Center to the Maltz Performing Arts Center at the Temple-Tifereth Israel with new landscaping and pathways. The project will incorporate the Cleveland Art Museum's Fine Arts Garden and will eventually include bike and pedestrian paths extending west from East 105th Street to the CWRU-Cleveland Clinic Health Education Campus which is under construction and scheduled to be completed in 2019. Additionally, a nearly 1000-foot span of the Doan stretching north of the new Greenway will be revitalized by NEORS. The brook will be rerouted from eroding streambanks to provide space for new floodplains and the sides of the streambed will be stabilized with vegetative cover. The by the Cleveland Museum of Art will redesign the greenspace, west of the brook with new landscaping and pathways.

Like what you see in this edition of Brook Notes?

Help support Doan Brook and our activities by making a Doan-ation. Visit our website at [www.DoanBrookPartnership.org](http://www.DoanBrookPartnership.org) for more information and to contribute.

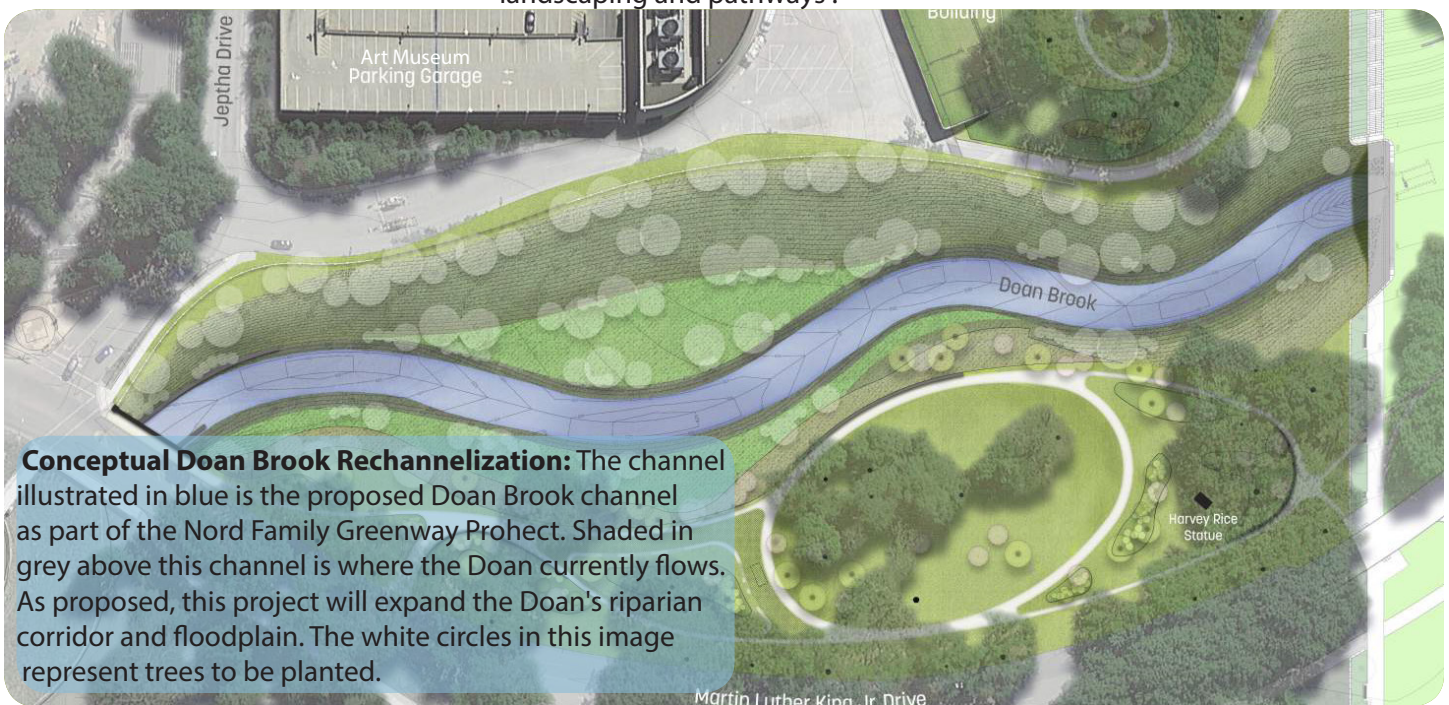


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**Conceptual Doan Brook Rechannelization:** The channel illustrated in blue is the proposed Doan Brook channel as part of the Nord Family Greenway Project. Shaded in grey above this channel is where the Doan currently flows. As proposed, this project will expand the Doan's riparian corridor and floodplain. The white circles in this image represent trees to be planted.