

SCHOOL STREAM MONITORING PROGRAM

During 2024, program partners hosted two stream monitoring events with three high schools that saw nearly 200 students participating. The events took place in Cleveland Metroparks' Memphis Picnic Area where the two main branches of Big Creek converge. The site is ideal for comparing how differences in land uses for the East Branch and West Branches of Big Creek affect water quality.

In September we hosted Lakewood and Berea High School students. In October we hosted Cleveland's John Marshall High School students. Follow-up classroom sessions by BCC and GM staff will be held in February and March 2025.

The program introduces students to watershed stewardship and the application of science, technology, and engineering with professionals in the field. It combines monitoring of the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of the two branches of the creek with site tours

examining the natural and man-made environments within the park.

The program is funded by a General Motors Community Impact Grant, awarded annually to Big Creek Connects. The GM Parma Plant's environmental "E-Team" assists the students with studying chemical parameters of water samples, while Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District staff assists with their assessing stream habitat, and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District staff guides their identification of Macro-invertebrates.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and West Creek Conservancy staff lead the students on the site tours. Big Creek Connects staff and board members coordinate the program and help fill in any gaps. Program partners are looking forward to another full set of outings beginning in May of 2025.



Lakewood High School students at chemical stations



John Marshall High School students on site tour