

Parma, Brooklyn volunteers help clean up Big Creek watershed



The Parma Snow Road Picnic Area was one of the sites of the Big Creek Clean Up June 3. (Mark Holan/special to cleveland.com)

By Mark Holan/special to cleveland.com, June 4, 2017

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PARMA, Ohio - On a beautiful sunny Saturday morning June 3, a committed group of volunteers and city officials from Parma, Parma Heights and Brooklyn got dirty cleaning up the Big Creek watershed.

Sponsored by Big Creek Connects and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, the 19th annual Clean Up concentrated on the Snow Road Picnic Area, the "Kingdom" area north of the Brooklyn Fire Department and Brookfield Park in Cleveland.

In Brooklyn, Mayor Katie Gallagher and Councilwoman Kathleen Pucci were on hand to help the volunteers, including members of Boy Scout Troop 319. The troop is sponsored by the Local Firefighters Union 1145, with Lt. Jeff Lee as their chartered organization representative. Scoutmaster Carl Senal drove an ATV up and down the path to the creek and brought back the larger pieces of garbage.

A group of ten students from Adjunct Professor Justin Glanville's "Natural History of Cleveland" class at Cleveland State University helped out.

In Parma, Council President Sean Brennan led a group of volunteers north to Brookpark Road, while Parma Heights Councilman-at-large Jim McCall went south with a group.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 221 from St. Charles Borromeo participated in the clean-up efforts and got a lesson in stormwater runoff from Big Creek Connects Executive Director Bob Gardin.

Jeff DeLuca, the manager of the Metroparks Brookside and Big Creek Reservations, was on hand to help out in the collection of garbage and debris picked up by the 40 volunteers.

Members of the CLE Peach Photography Environmental Action Clean Up Hiking Group were also part of the effort.

Marco's Pizza in Brooklyn and Guys Pizza Company in Parma donated sheets of pizza for lunch.

"I want to thank all of the volunteers who made this year's Big Creek Clean Up another successful event," Gardin said. "It was great to see participants of all ages getting involved.

"I want to give special thanks to Brooklyn Mayor Gallagher, Councilwoman Pucci, Parma Council President Brennan and Parma Heights Councilman McCall," Gardin said.