

# ≈ Friends of Big Creek ≈

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## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Bob Gardin  
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### Big Creek Communities Undertake Watershed Management Plan

Cleveland, Ohio August 24, 2007 - The Big Creek watershed communities of Brooklyn, Parma, Parma Heights, Brook Park, and the southwest wards of Cleveland partner with Friends of Big Creek and the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to develop a comprehensive community plan for the Big Creek Watershed. Community based watershed management helps reduce flood damage, decreases the loss of greenspace, reduces soil erosion and improves water quality.

The water quality of Big Creek, a Cuyahoga River tributary, is the most severely impacted of the tributaries within the lower Cuyahoga River Watershed. And, as recent storms have shown, flooding can be a major problem. In 2005 the organization Friends of Big Creek (FOBC) was formed to act as the Big Creek Watershed stewardship organization. The Cuyahoga River RAP was chosen as the organization's fiscal agent and the entity to prepare the comprehensive watershed plan for Big Creek.

The first phase of the Watershed Management Plan will enable data collection and analysis of information that will be used to identify and create a Watershed Inventory of the Big Creek Watershed and an Assessment and Problem Definition. Phase I costs are estimated at \$40,000.

In May of 2007 the RAP was awarded \$20,000 from an Ohio Coastal Management Assistance Grant that required a 50% local match. The local match was met after FOBC gained minimum commitments from the five watershed communities making up 95% of the watershed area: Cleveland (\$6,000), Parma (\$5,000), Brooklyn (\$2,500), Parma Heights (\$2,500) and Brook Park (\$2,500). Other project partners include Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Cleveland Metroparks.

Phase II of the plan is designed to develop a comprehensive State Endorsed Watershed Action Plan that would incorporate data and analysis developed in Phase I and also include a detailed implementation plan for improving the Big Creek Watershed. Phase II costs are estimated at \$80,000.

For more information also contact:

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