

### STREAM SIGNAGE PROJECT

A stream boundary and crossing signage project is underway for the Big Creek watershed. Big Creek Connects received funding through the GM Foundation to design and develop signage and will be working with the watershed communities to assist on their installation. Thirty-nine proposed boundary marker sign locations have been identified along major streets entering the watershed, along with 54 locations for 27 stream crossings. (one sign from each direction) The location and design choices



are being shared with representatives from each community, and with county, state, Cleveland Metroparks, and other stakeholders before making any final decisions.

The proposed wording for the boundary signs will simply read Entering Big Creek Watershed. The stream crossing signs will identify Big Creek's main stem and its tributaries, including the East or Main Branch that runs through the Metroaprk's Big Creek Reservation, and the West, Stickney, and Chevy Branches. The project is anticipated for completion by fall 2018.

### BROOKLYN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENTS "GET WET" IN BIG CREEK

Project partners Big Creek Connects, General Motors - Parma Plant are coordinating a 4th Annual Stream Monitoring Workshop with Brooklyn Intermediate School's 7th grade students and teachers. School Principal Mark Tanski noted that the program is "a wonderful, hands-on experience for our students". During this year's September 29th field trip, GM's environmental "E-team" and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District staff will join BCC to assist students in assessing stream habitat, gathering water samples and analyzing chemical and biological data from Stickney Creek, a tributary of Big Creek. Big Creek Connect's Executive Director Bob Gardin visits the student classrooms before and after the workshops to give greater depth to the experience, bringing with him GM staff or water resource professionals from NEORS and other agencies. Next spring, a tree sapling planting will be undertaken with the students to improve habitat and help prevent erosion along the stream's banks. Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Museum of Natural History staff joined BCC and GM employees working with students during the first planting in April.



Students collect samples with NEORS's Dr. Eric Soehnen

### WATERSHED BASED STRATEGIC POLLUTION PLAN APPROVED

Big Creek Connects and project partners developed a **Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic (NPS-IS) Plan** for the Big Creek watershed. Nonpoint source pollution, unlike a single, identifiable waste discharge, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, picking up pollutants that end up in our rivers, wetlands, ground water, and lakes. The plan identifies nonpoint source pollution projects that local entities will be able to effectively propose and implement utilizing funding made available through the U.S. Clean Water Act Section 319 program and the Great Lakes.

Funding for the plan was provided by the U.S. and Ohio EPAs, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland Metroparks, and from the Big Creek watershed communities of Cleveland, Brooklyn, Brook Park, Parma, and Parma Heights. Big Creek Connects partnered with West Creek Conservancy who coordinated the funding of the NPS-IS plans for the adjacent Big Creek and West Creek

watersheds. Tetra Tech consultants were hired to assist in the development and completion of the plans. In April, both the plans were approved by both the Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA.

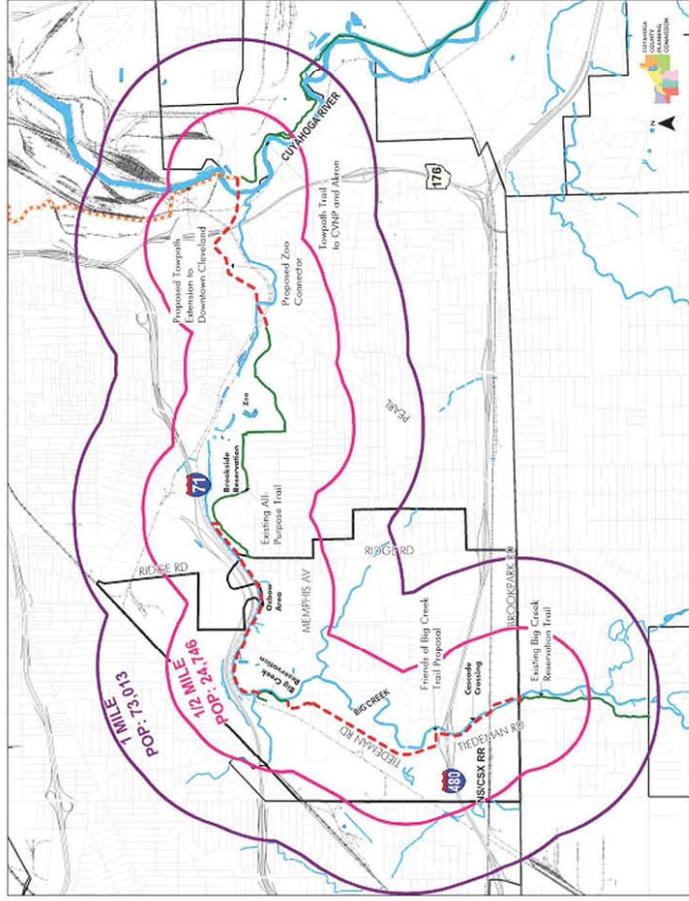
One of the projects identified in the Big Creek NPS-IS Plan is a stream restoration and floodplain connectivity project along Big Creek in Cleveland Metroparks' Snow Road Picnic Area. Big Creek Connects was awarded funding through the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative to have a concept plan and cost estimates developed for a project and partnered with Cleveland Metroparks for this high ranking site. Envirosience, RiverReach Construction and GDP Group were hired to work with the project partners to create a restoration plan for the site that includes pavement removal, bank stabilization, floodplain expansion, in-stream grade control riffles, and an off-line storage basin. Big Creek Connects and Cleveland Metroparks will use the plan to seek funding for construction of all or parts of the project's \$1.5 million estimated total costs.

# BIG CREEK CONNECTS

We invite you to share our vision:

Build a continuous 6-1/2 mile greenway and trail network to link the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Brookside Reservation and the Big Creek Reservation through the cities of Cleveland, Brooklyn and Parma.

Find details at [bigcreekconnects.org](http://bigcreekconnects.org)



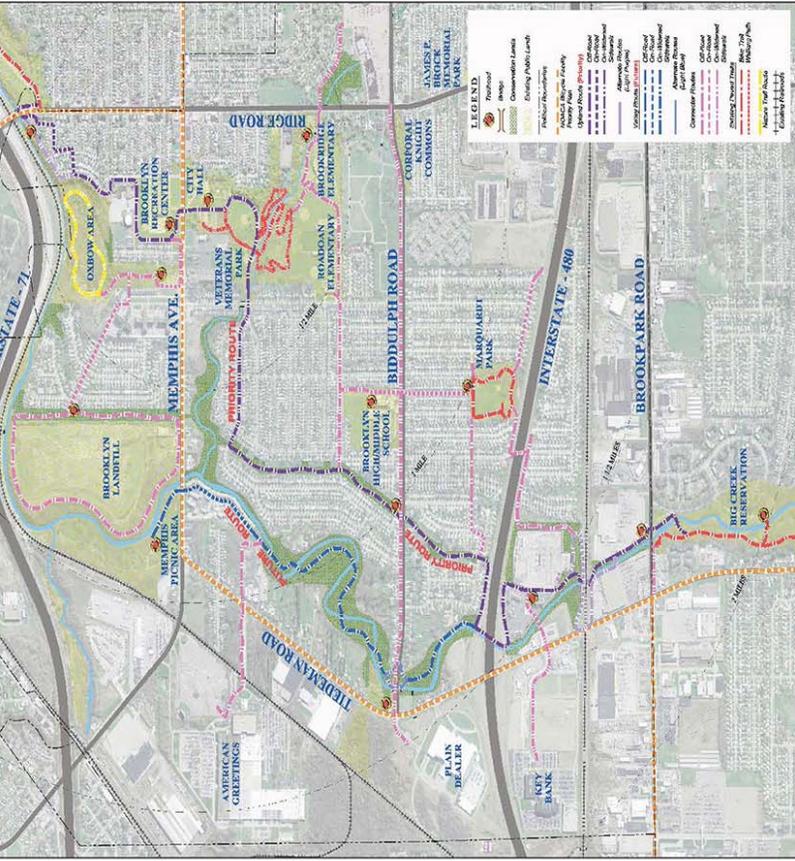
Big Creek channel along I-71



Big Creek confluence with Cuyahoga River



Fern Hill Picnic Area – Big Creek Reservation



### Big Creek Greenway Trail Alignment & Neighborhood Connector Plan

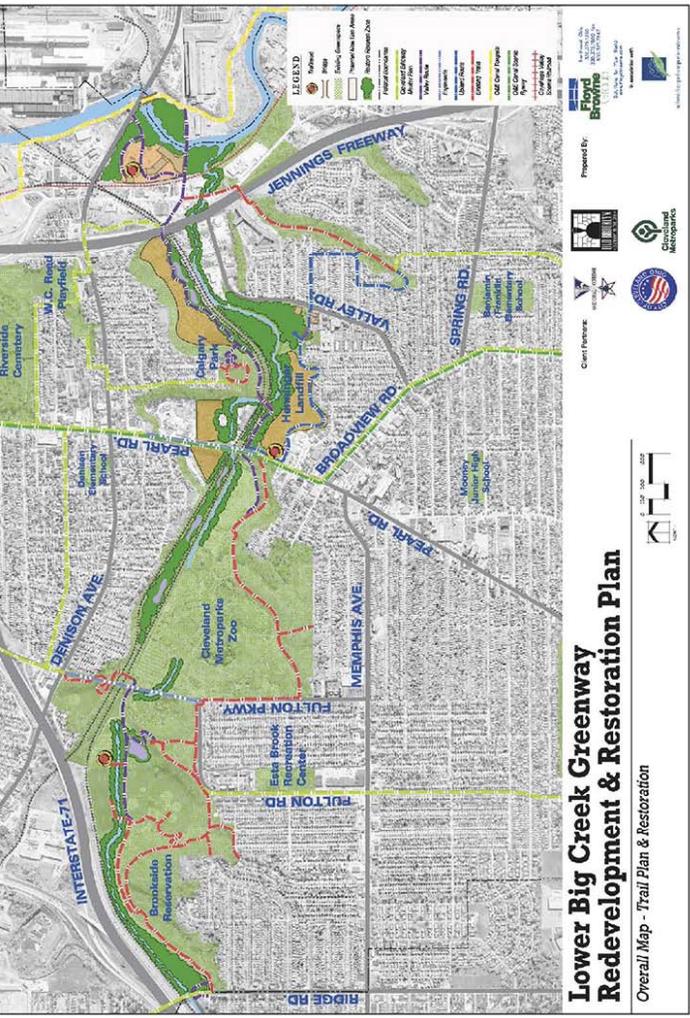
Overall Master Plan

Client Partners:  
 Friends of Big Creek  
 NOACA  
 Cleveland Metroparks

Prepared By:  
 FLOYD BROWN  
 CONSULTANTS

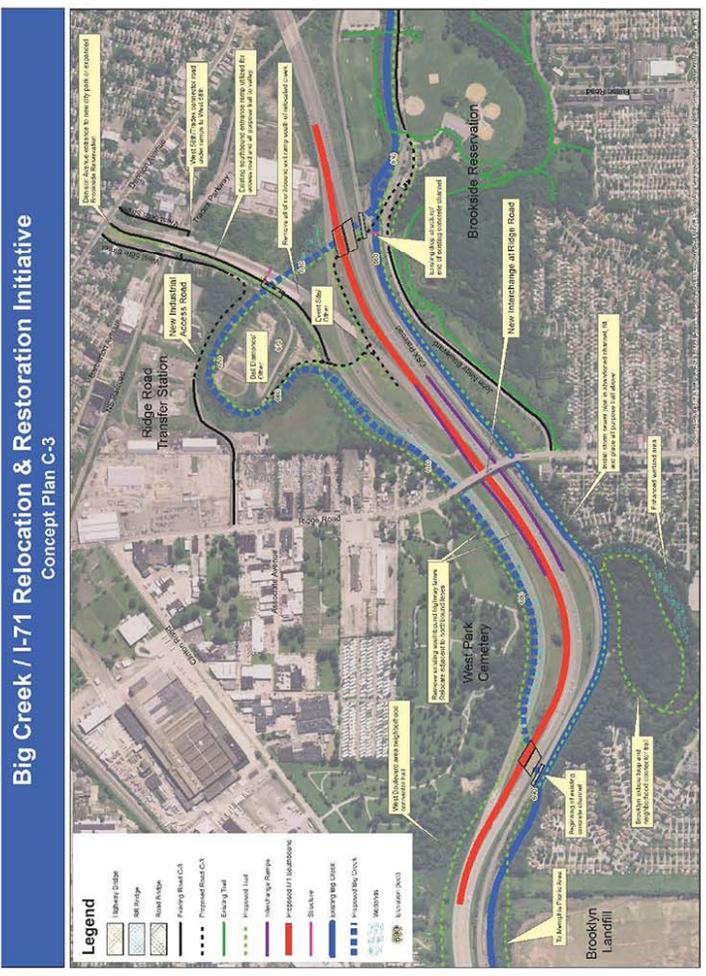


Big Creek in Cleveland Metroparks Brookside Reservation: existing drop structure (left) and proposed realignment (right)



### Lower Big Creek Greenway Redevelopment & Restoration Plan

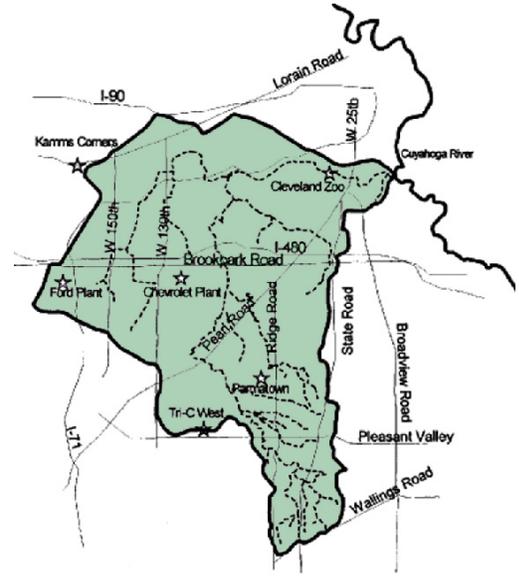
Overall Map - Trail Plan & Restoration



### Big Creek / I-71 Relocation & Restoration Initiative Concept Plan C-3

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Where you'll find us – Details online**

- Sat., Sept. 16** Open House – Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
9 am–4 pm 4747 E 49th St., Cleveland 44125  
Treatment plant & lab tours; hands-on exhibits; free stuff & fun for the whole family; food trucks & free snacks.
- Sat., Sept. 30** Brooklyn Fall Festival – Brooklyn Memorial Park  
Noon–6 pm 7619 Memphis Ave., Brooklyn 44144.  
Family fun day: Kids' games, hayride, food trucks, craft show.
- Wed., Oct. 18** Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting  
4:30–6 pm Dunham Tavern Museum, 6709 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44103  
Featured Speaker: Justin Husher, Horticulture Specialist "The Blueprint for Urban Agriculture."
- TBA, Nov.** Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation Neighborhood Summit Celebration
- Thu., May 31 2018** **SAVE THE DATE!**  
Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways – 5th Biennial Conference  
Lago East Bank, 1091 Main Avenue, Cleveland 44113  
More information at [gctrails.org](http://gctrails.org),



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- Sean Brennan, President, Parma City Council
- George Cantor, Chief City Planner, Cleveland City Planning Commission
- Brian J. Cummins, Cleveland City Council—Ward 14
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- Jane Goodman, Director, Cuyahoga River Restoration / Area of Concern
- Kevin Kelley, President, Cleveland City Council—Ward 13
- James McCall, Parma Heights City Council
- Melissa Miller, Planning and Safety Coordinator, Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation
- Kathleen Pucci, Brooklyn City Council
- Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance, National Park Service
- Jim Rokakis, Vice President, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Director, Thriving Communities Institute
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- Laura Travers, Sanitarian, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- Jeffrey T. Verespej, Executive Director, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
- Rachid Zoghaib, Commissioner, City of Cleveland Water Pollution Control

**Big Creek** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River. Its watershed contains over 130 miles of streams and culverts. Together they drain nearly 39 square miles from 8 municipalities - Cleveland, Brooklyn, Linndale, Parma, Parma Heights, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and North Royalton. Over 90% of the watershed's area has been developed and 39% of the land surface has been made impervious, making Big Creek the most heavily urbanized watershed of any major tributary in the Cuyahoga River Watershed. This degree of urbanization provides tremendous challenge ... and opportunity.

**Big Creek Connects (formerly Friends of Big Creek)** is a greenway advocacy and watershed stewardship 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Supported in part by financial assistance from:



*To conserve, enhance, and bring recognition to the natural and historic resources of the Big Creek Watershed and develop a recreational trail network that connects these resources to each other and the community.*

**SUPPORT BIG CREEK CONNECTS WITH YOUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**

- ✓ \$250.00 Partner
- ✓ \$ 50.00 Supporting
- ✓ \$ 20.00 Individual
- ✓ \$100.00 Steward
- ✓ \$ 35.00 Sustaining
- ✓ Corporate Sponsorships available

Send your contribution with your name, address, phone and email. Make checks payable and mail to:  
Big Creek Connects, P.O. Box 609272, Cleveland, OH 44109.

Secure credit card payment is available online at [bigcreekconnects.org](http://bigcreekconnects.org). Your contribution is tax-deductible.

**Thank you for your interest and support!**