

SCHOOL STREAM MONITORING PROGRAM

This year saw four stream monitoring events with four different high schools for a total of over 250 students participating in the program. All events took place in Cleveland Metroparks' Memphis Picnic Area where the East and West Branches of Big Creek converge and data can be compared. In May we hosted Maple Heights High School students on two different dates. In September we hosted Cleveland's Rhodes School of Environmental Studies. In October we hosted two schools together on one day – Brooklyn High School and, new to the program, Cleveland's John Marshall High School.

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.



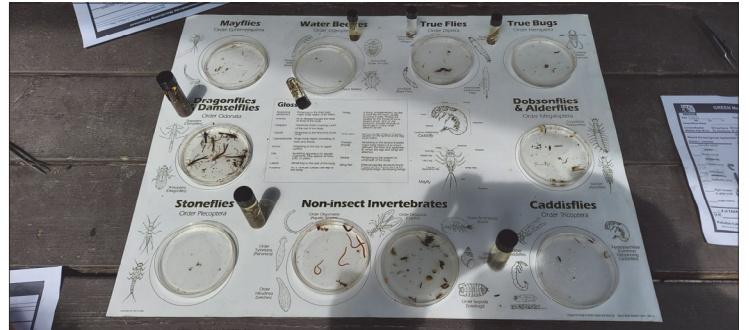
John Marshall students testing nitrate levels



Maple Heights students experimenting with watershed model



Brooklyn students studying macro-invertebrates



Macro-invertebrates sorted and ready for scoring

The popular program is funded by an annual General Motors Community Impact Grant awarded to Big Creek Connects. The GM Parma Plant's environmental "E-Team" assists the students with studying chemical parameters of water samples, while Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District staff guides their identification of Macro-invertebrates, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District with their assessing stream habitat, and Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Museum of Natural History staff with the site tours. Funding has been awarded for a similar, robust set of outings in 2023.



Maple Heights students assessing stream habitat



Maple Heights students on site tour