













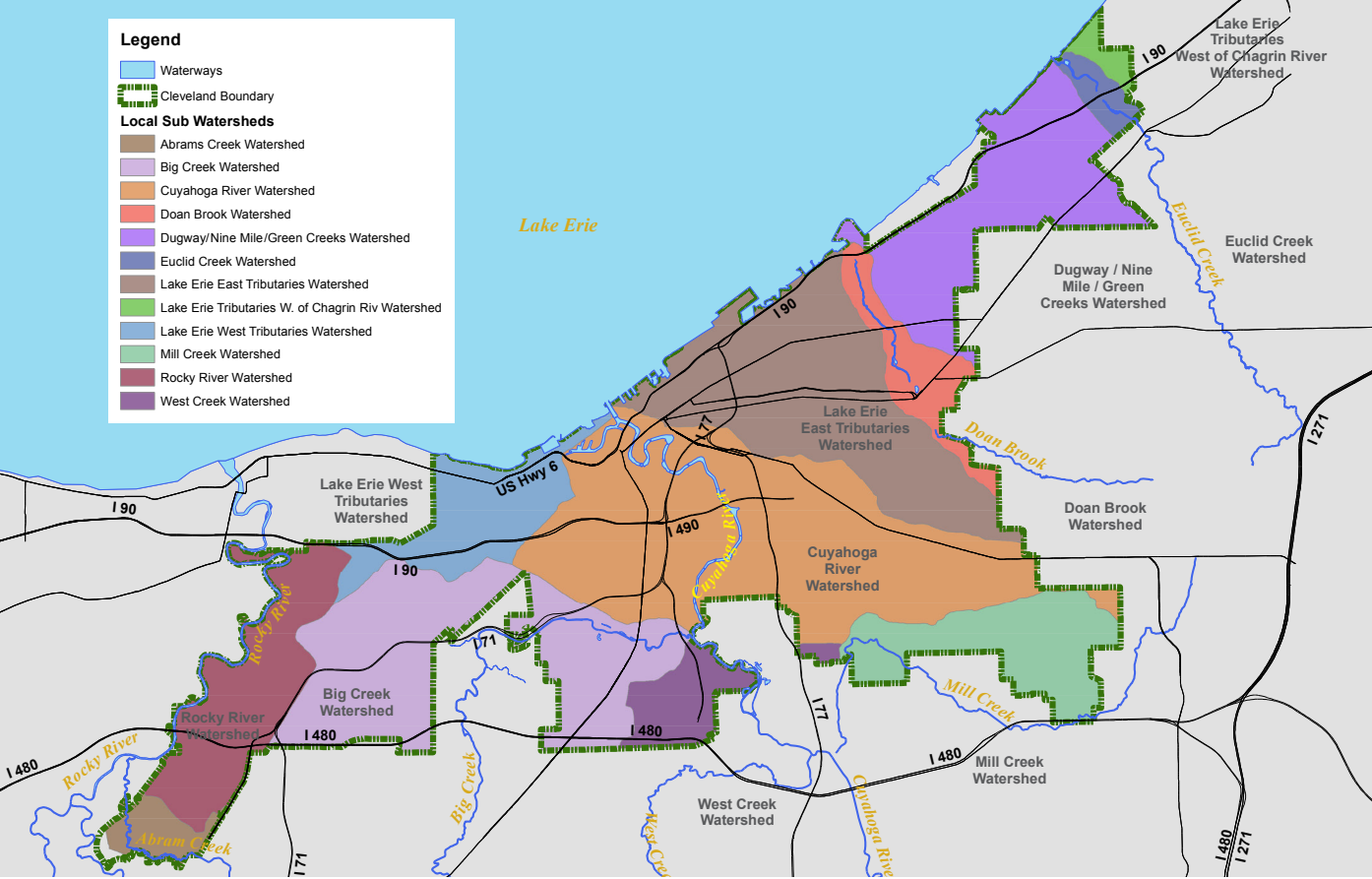


Legend

-  Waterways
-  Cleveland Boundary
- Local Sub Watersheds**
-  Abrams Creek Watershed
-  Big Creek Watershed
-  Cuyahoga River Watershed
-  Doan Brook Watershed
-  Dugway/Nine Mile/Green Creeks Watershed
-  Euclid Creek Watershed
-  Lake Erie East Tributaries Watershed
-  Lake Erie Tributaries W. of Chagrin Riv Watershed
-  Lake Erie West Tributaries Watershed
-  Mill Creek Watershed
-  Rocky River Watershed
-  West Creek Watershed



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

BIG CREEK WATERSHED



“We are the most urbanized tributary of the Cuyahoga River that is still an open creek. ... So we get a lot of runoff and brownfield contamination issues. Stormwater problems know no boundaries.”

– Bob Gardin, Big Creek Connects

To learn more about stormwater management, visit the Cleveland Water Pollution Control website at clevelandwpc.com



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

12302 Kirby Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44108
216.664.2513 | clevelandwpc.com



CLEVELANDWPC.COM

Cover photo courtesy of Cleveland Metroparks.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that drains, or sheds, rain and snowmelt into a specific larger waterway, such as a river or lake. Everyone lives in a watershed, and our actions on the land have a significant impact on water quality.

The largest watershed in Northeast Ohio is Lake Erie Watershed, which is made up of dozens of smaller watersheds. Protecting the Lake Erie watershed is important to the environment, public health and the economic well-being of Greater Cleveland. Lake Erie is Northeast Ohio's source of drinking water and major fishing and water recreation area.

Non-point source water pollution is the biggest threat to watersheds. When stormwater (rain or snow melt) flows over the ground it carries away natural and human pollutants from sidewalks, parking lots, yards and construction sites. That water flows to a nearby waterway and eventually makes its way to Lake Erie. Common non-point source pollutants are automobile fluids, paint, pet waste, cigarette butts, and even soil.

Stormwater runoff can result in flooded streets and properties, sewer overflows, land erosion, and polluted waterways.

ABOUT BIG CREEK WATERSHED

Big Creek, the third largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, enters the river about 7.4 miles above the mouth of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland at Lake Erie.

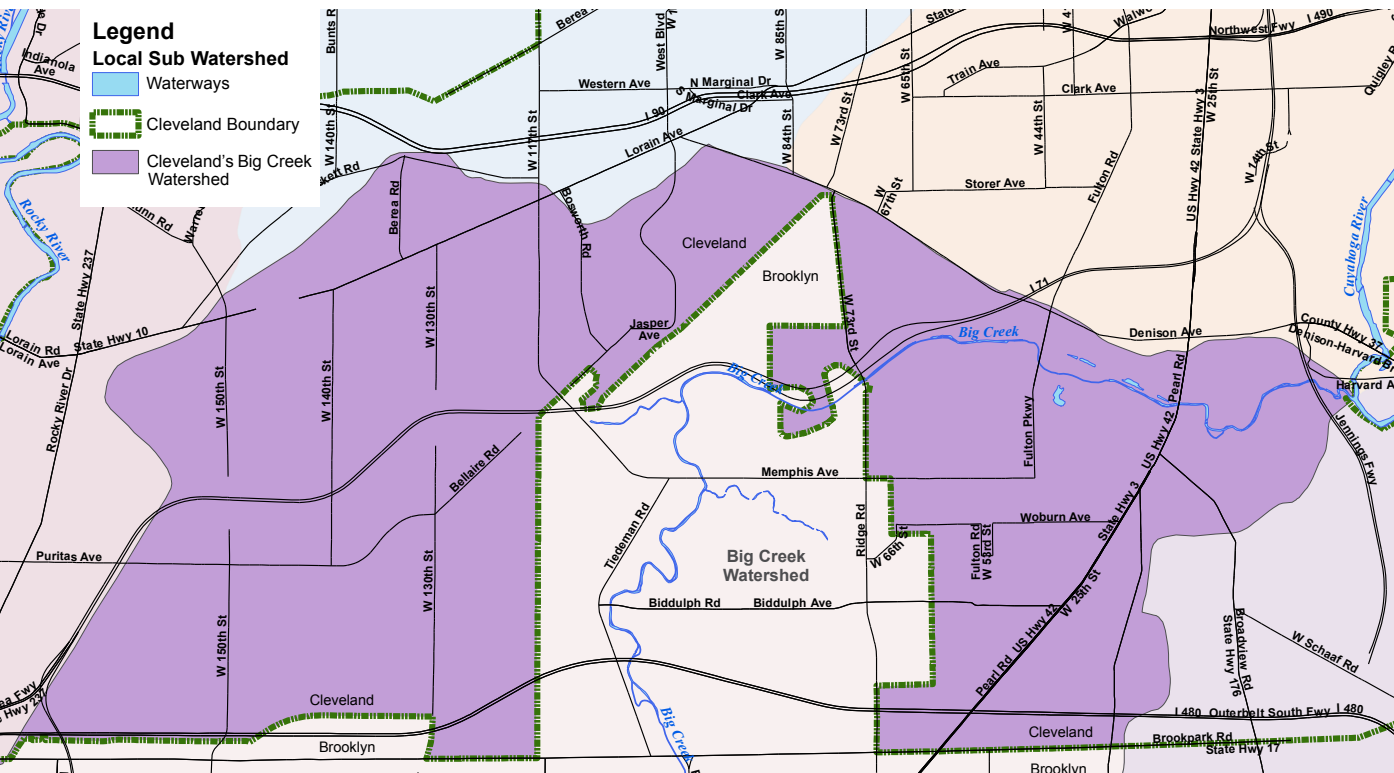
Big Creek is the most heavily urbanized watershed of any major tributary in the Cuyahoga River Watershed. More than 90% of the watershed's area has been developed and nearly 40% of the land surface is impervious, or hard surface, which increases stormwater runoff.

The 130-plus miles of streams and culverts that make up Big Creek watershed drain nearly 38 square miles from eight municipalities, including Cleveland. The other communities are Brooklyn, Brook Park, Linndale, Parma, Parma Heights, Middleburg Heights and North Royalton.

Explore *How's My Waterway?* at <https://mywaterway.epa.gov> to learn about the current water quality of Big Creek watershed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

- Treat waterways with respect—all life depends on it.
- Pick up trash, such as snack wrappers, Styrofoam and plastics.
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides, and anti-bacterial products—they end up in water and harm wildlife.
- Reduce pervious pavements and create more green spaces to let the rain soak into the ground so soil bacteria can break down pollutants.
- Remove invasive weeds without using pesticides.
- Use native plants in your garden.
- Pick up your dog and cat poop and dispose of it in the trash.
- Wash vehicles at a car wash so detergents and toxins can drain into a bay.
- Recycle used oil, paint and other hazardous materials properly. Do not pour them down house or street drains.
- Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater and gray water for landscaping and gardening.
- Plan and/or participate in water quality events, such as stream or neighborhood cleanups.
- Join a watershed group; learn more and help educate others.



BIG CREEK CONNECTS (Formerly Friends of Big Creek)

info@friendsofbigcreek.org

P.O. Box 609272
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
216.661.7706

www.friendsofbigcreek.org