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## **The Rouge runs clear - but cold**

by Susan Steinmueller

STAFF WRITER

The water at Birmingham's Booth Park is healthy and clear, but cold.

That was one discovery of Roeper Upper School students who tested a branch of the Rouge River at the park for World Water Monitoring Day.

"It's a very secluded part of the Rouge, maybe that has something to do with it," said Lynette Mitan of the water's temperature, which was 27 degrees Celsius. She coordinated the project for global event sponsor H2bid.com, which connects water buyers and providers. H2bid.com's president, Glenn Oliver, was co-coordinator.

World Water Monitoring Day is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world.

"Water is our next oil," said Mitan. "You can live without oil, you can't live without water."

The students from the upper school in Birmingham went on-site to take samples that were then tested using a kit provided by the World Water Monitoring Day program.

Participating were members of an environmental science class called The Roeper Green Crew, dedicated to resolving issues which threaten the environment. They are Aparna Ananthasubramanian, Brittany Davies, Brad George, Thomas Hickey, Elyssa Juni, Chris Pool and instructor Quy Thai.

Among other things they tested the water for turbidity, pH balance, oxygenation and temperature, all important water health indicators.

"Of course, many more trials will have to be performed before conclusive findings may be generated," said Thai.

The data will be reported to an online database tracking the findings of different groups from all across the world. The Green Crew is now planning on regular water testing at sites all around the state.

Educating children through such programs is important to stopping water pollution and other issues associated with protecting water resources, said Mitan. "These children are our future. They are the future policy makers and voters."

Lynette Mitan It's clean Tom Hickey reaches for a water sample at the Rouge River branch in Booth Park. The water is clear, but cold, as a group of students from the Roeper School learned. For their story, see page Axx.



Tom Hickey examines a test tube.



photos by Lynette Mitan

Roeper instructor Quy Thai looks at data being written down by Aparna Ananthasubramanian while other Green Crew members look on.

