



## MILL CREEK YACHT CLUB IS DOING ANOTHER CLEANUP BY CANOE.

Starting in April 1995, this community service has been done in concert with Reading Litter Cleanup Day and The Great American Cleanup. The **Eighteenth Annual Mill Creek Cleanup by Canoe** will concentrate on the Mill Creek Valley communities of Reading and Lockland. We might also reach Evendale upstream.

The pay is zero, the weather is iffy and the working conditions are worse than what chain gangs endure. But the camaraderie is great and the feeling of accomplishment is real. If you want to accept the risks and lend a hand, call Bruce Koehler at 619-7675 (office), or 769-4924 (home) or 739-1969 (cell). Here are the details:

Gathering Time: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Gathering Place: Koenig Park in Reading; at the southwest corner of Columbia Avenue and Koenig Street. We will gather at the park's main shelter on Koenig and walk or carpool to the starting places.

Starting Place: Columbia Avenue/Smalley Road Bridge in Reading. (We might also launch canoes in Evendale.)

Ending Place: We will at least go as far downstream as the Benson Street/Wyoming Avenue Bridge, hope for the Koehler Avenue/Davis Street Bridge, and try for the Clark Street Bridge.

Distance: No more than two miles, but it will feel like more.

Elapsed Time: Two to six hours, depending on whether you want to join us for part of the cleanup or hang around for the cold beers and victory toasts at a Reading bar afterward.

Dress: Waterproof waders or boots are highly recommended to minimize your contact with the Mill Creek. Extra boots will be available for about six early birds without their own. Waterproof gloves and life jackets will be provided.

Warning: Ohio EPA recommends no contact with waters of the Mill Creek because it can have high levels of fecal coliform bacteria and other pathogens from time to time, especially within 72 hours of a rainstorm heavy enough to cause combined sewer overflows.

The Mill Creek Yacht Club is a running gag, not an official group. No organization is sponsoring this cleanup. This invitation is from one individual to another individual. It is your personal choice on whether to participate, based largely on the strength of your immune system and your willingness to take a calculated risk. If you have an open cut or weakened immunities, you should not go. You must be 18 or older to board a canoe or wade the creek with us. Spectators of all ages and health conditions are welcome.

You will need to be sure-footed in some places. Be ready to climb out of the canoe to get past shallow spots and low-head dams. Potential safety hazards include sudden drop-offs, hidden holes, slippery algae, submerged obstacles and jagged objects. Germicidal gel and a simple first-aid kit will be available.

Waiver: If you volunteer for the Mill Creek Cleanup by Canoe, print and sign your name on the hold harmless agreement found on the back of this flyer and hand it to Bruce Koehler on April 21<sup>th</sup>.

Tools: The following have proven handy for Mill Creek cleanups: big shovels, little shovels, spud bars, crowbars, bolt cutters, ratchet pullers, ropes, chains, Peavey poles, sledge hammers, pruning saws, hacksaws, mattocks, grubbing hoes, axes, hatchets and knives.

Drivers: We need to set up shuttle vehicles at the expected ending place(s). If you can help, contact Commodore Koehler at [bkoehler@oki.org](mailto:bkoehler@oki.org), (513) 619-7675 (office), or 769-4924 (home).

T-Shirts: We have the highly coveted Mill Creek Yacht Club T-shirts for cleanup volunteers.

# Hold Harmless Agreement for the Mill Creek Cleanup by Canoe

To the fullest extent by law, \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to defend, pay in behalf of, and hold harmless the City of Reading against any and all claims, demands, suits, losses including all costs connected therewith, for any damage which may be asserted, claimed or recovered against or from the City of Reading, its elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers or all others working in behalf of the City of Reading, by reason of personal injury, including bodily injury and death; and/or property damage, including loss of use thereof, which arises out of alleged negligence of the City of Reading and/or in any way connected or associated with this contract.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

User Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this agreement and agree to its contents: \_\_\_\_\_

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For City of Reading use only:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Safety/Service Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk