

MILL CREEK ALLIANCE

Bringing People Together for 25 Years

November 2019 Newsletter

Restoring the Mill Creek and Growing the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

As the soil warmed up last spring, the Mill Creek Alliance education programs sprang into action planting the seeds for the next generation of environmental stewards. Spring and Fall school programs engaged nearly 1,000 youth from dozens of schools in both in-school and after-school activities.

Our education programs are for young and old alike. We work both in classrooms and creek side with youth at the primary and secondary level. As well as with older students and adults. We are excited to grow this curriculum and these programs in 2020.

Planting Seeds for Students:

- Students from Western Hills University High School, DePaul Cristo Rey High School, Clark Montessori High School Government classes, Walnut Hill High School AP Environmental Studies classes, and Gamble Montessori Middle School participated in multi-day programs that included classroom learning and field experience including streambank surveys, macroinvertebrate identification, and water quality chemistry experiments.
- Youth from Ethel Taylor Elementary, Wyoming Middle School, Oyler School, Cincy Hebrew Day School, and the Winton Place Youth Center engaged in programs in conservation, gardening, water quality, and more.
- Blue Team Interns at Mill Creek Alliance boast affiliation with UC, NKU, and the College of Mt. St. Joseph. These interns received training and certification from the Ohio EPA in stream habitat assessment (cQHEI) on their way to becoming Level II Qualified Data Collectors (QDC).

Tending the Soil of Youth in Summer Time:

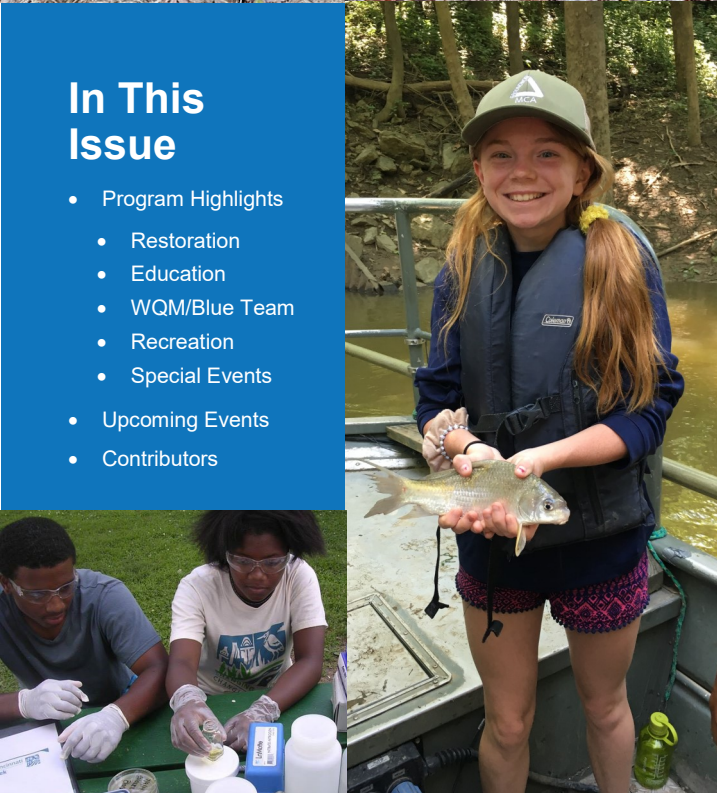
- Summer youth outdoor activities turn teens into movers and shakers. This summer, teens built birdhouses for the Freedom Trail at Salway Park, bridges at the Cuyahoga National Park, gardens at MoBo/Village Green in Northside, and bear boxes at Yellowstone National Park. They explored The Edge of Appalachia, the Thomas Moore Biology Field Station, the Oxbow Nature Conservancy, Fernald Preserve, the Mill Creek and the Ohio & Cuyahoga Rivers. They traveled by foot, bike, boat, car, van & air.
- Over 200 students attended River Works Discovery/Who Works the River, a free maritime career education event held on the Ohio River

Watching Adults Grow & Act as Environmental Champions:

- Adult volunteers from GE Young Professionals Group, Crossroads Church, Collective Visions, UC Sustainability Program, Xavier University, Green Umbrella Watershed Action Team, and Shomrei Olam-Jewish Environmental Advocates of Cincinnati used their time and talent to take action. They supported watershed restoration by engaging in hands-on creek-side activities (i.e. water quality monitoring, invasive species removal, rain garden installation, stream and trail restoration, forestry).

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THANK YOU for your support of the Mill Creek Alliance on behalf of the environment.

Restoration Projects



Restoration projects, like the Mill Creek Sharon Creek Confluence Project, repair the flood plain, restore native species to stabilize the banks, and install new rock riffles to re-establish fish ecology. We help communities solve water problems!

Educational Programs



Your support allows us to provide environmental education to people of all ages. Our curriculum includes streambank surveys, hands-on water chemistry, service learning, internships, and summer seminars. We work with schools, communities, volunteers, adults, and a diverse set of groups to encourage the care and keeping of our planet as well as watershed stewardship.

Blue Team & Water Quality Monitoring



The Blue Team, interns, and all the citizen scientist (volunteers) who work with the MCA Water Quality Program provide an invaluable resource to the community. Besides working each month to sample and study the Mill Creek waters, they are actively engaged in conversations with the community about our local watershed. Your contributions help fund this program!

Recreational Activities



A restored Mill Creek provides more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors right in our own backyard. Whether it is paddling down the Mill Creek with local elected official, camping with Girl Scouts at a nearby park, enjoying a guided nature hike along the creek, biking the Greenway Trail, or surveying the local wildlife, the Mill Creek Watershed provides great opportunities.



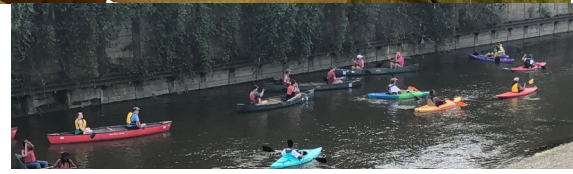
Special Events



BIOBLITZ! Salway Park

Saturday, June 1, 2019
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Team up with an expert naturalist to help identify as many species as possible to monitor the health of the Mill Creek



Upcoming Events

Contact us for more information!

December 7	Volunteer Corps Cleanup by Land at Evendale Commons
December 9	MCYC Monthly Meeting 5-8 pm @ Mill Creek Museum (every month on the second Monday)
Feb 15, 2020	Live Stake Harvesting Event, Heritage Park 10 am
Feb 29, 2020	WQM Citizen Science Training SAVE THE DATE
Mar 5, 2020	WQM Citizen Science Training SAVE THE DATE
Mar 12, 2020	State of the Mill Creek Celebration, details TBD
Mar 14, 2020	Water Quality Monitoring Sampling Saturdays begin for 2020
April 4, 2020	Live Staking Event on the Mill Creek, details TBD
April 18, 2020	26th Annual Mill Creek Valley Cleanup by Canoe, 9 am
May 16, 2020	Live Staking Event on the Little Miami River, details TBD
May 2020	First 2020 MCYC Urban Stream Adventure

Contact Us

Mill Creek Alliance

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View more details about our events:
on our website
www.themillcreekalliance.org

Be sure to like us on Facebook
at fb.me/MillCreekAlliance

Coming in 2020! Grand Opening of The Mill Creek Museum

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The last several months of 2019 brought significant staffing changes to MCA which offered both challenges and opportunities. The staff and board remain committed to the MCA mission and vision to champion the natural and human potential of the Mill Creek Watershed and be a part of assuring that the watershed will be a healthy ecosystem where people and communities can thrive. **Our programs for restoration, education, and recreation live strong!** Join us in our efforts by donating today! Our door is always open if you have any questions.

Many Thanks to Our 2019 Major Donors



Sierra Club ICO, William P. Anderson Foundation, Smale Foundation, Nellie Leaman Taft Foundation, Anonymous Donors