



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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News release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County aids, encourages community participation in Pike River Cleanup

KENOSHA – The Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association, in conjunction with Kenosha County Parks and other partners, will host the annual Pike River Cleanup from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help remove log jams and pick up trash and debris along the river, said organizer Jim Zondlak. Since the event's inception six years ago, volunteers have removed 125 tires and 100 yards of trash from the river, from Lake Michigan to Petrifying Springs, Zondlak said.

"We've pulled out computers and lawnmowers, trash barrels, steel barrels, rugs," Zondlak said.

Kenosha County Parks has been a supporter of the event since its inception, donating labor and equipment for the hauling of debris that's collected, as well as the shelter in Petrifying Springs Park that serves as a home base for the volunteers.

County Executive Jim Kreuser said the cleanup is a worthwhile effort that helps to further beautify the community.

"Our waterways are one of our greatest assets," Kreuser said. "This volunteer effort to keep the Pike clean and healthy is one of the many things that contribute to enhancing our community."

This year's Pike River Cleanup is sponsored by the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association in conjunction with Kenosha County Parks, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network and American Rivers.

"The Pike River is a very slow river, but when you have a high-rising river and you have impediments of logs falling into the river, what happens is the flow of resistance cuts into the banks of the river," Zondlak said. "Therefore, trees fall into the Pike River, and the riverbanks start getting collapsed into the river."

When banks weaken, trees fall in, creating further problems for canoeists and kayakers, Zondlak said. Meanwhile, debris and trash in the river impedes salmon and other fish that spawn in the river, affecting sport fishing and the river's ecology.

“As of right now, it's healthy,” Zondlak said, of the state of the Pike. “But could be even better than it is today.”

Those interested in volunteering for the cleanup or donating food or water for volunteers are asked to contact Zondlak at ssjz00@yahoo.com or 262-620-1680, or to reach out to the Sportfishing and Conservation Association at <https://www.facebook.com/kenoshasportfishing/>.

Volunteers are urged, if possible, to bring work shoes or boots, work gloves, coveralls, hip boots or waders, reacher sticks or long steel rakes, canoes, kayaks or flat-bottom boats.

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