POUNTS OF INTEREST
A: Beaver Run confluence with Mill Creek
B: Access spot for canoes and kayaks at Twin Creek Preserve
C: East Fork Mill Creek confluence with Mill Creek
D: Rugged riffle that usually must be walked, not paddled
E: 1-275 bridge over the Mill Creek
F: Low-head dam, just upstream of Kemper Road bridge
G: Un-named tributary confluence with Mill Creek
H: Potential location for logjam at center pier of railroad bridge
I: Confluence of un-named tributary that drains Ford Motor Co. and Shemin Nursery
J: Confluence of Town Run, which drains much of Glendale and part of Sharonville
K: Sharon Road bridge over Mill Creek; Sharonville ends and Evendale begins
L: Low-head dam, just below Sharon Road bridge
M: Potential location for logjam at railroad spur bridge
N: Medallion Drive bridge over Mill Creek
O: Three railroad bridges to the Sharonville Rail Yard; logjams may occur here
P: Confluence of Sharon Creek, which drains West Chester Township, Sharonville and Blue Ash
Q: Glendale Milford Road bridge over Mill Creek
R: Low-head dam, between Glendale-Milford Road and entrance road to Wal-Mart and Menard’s
S: Confluence of an un-named tributary that drains Evendale’s residential neighborhoods
T: Cunningham Drive and Maketewa bridge to Wal-Mart and Menard’s; canoe access opposite Menard’s
U: Bridge that leads to Formica Corp. along the west (right) bank of the Mill Creek
V: Confluence of Cooper Creek, which drains parts of Blue Ash, Sycamore Twp., Evendale, Reading
W: 19th century railroad bridge over the Mill Creek; logjams occur here
X: Confluence of GE (General Electric) Tributary
Y: Northern end of Reading’s paved walking trail along the east bank of the Mill Creek
Z: Low-head dam composed of concrete and metal sheet pilings, which give the dam a hard edge
AA: Access point for canoes and kayaks, along the walking trail, next to Koenig Park’s baseball outfield

Watercraft Put-In: Twin Creek Preserve, 2072 Best Place, Sharonville, 45241, a short distance south of Crescentville Road, off the end of Best Place, south of soccer fields

Watercraft Take-Out: Koenig Park in Reading, 45215, about 90 yards downstream (south) of the Columbia Avenue bridge, east bank of Mill Creek, next to creekside walking trail and baseball outfield

Paddling Distance: about 4½ miles
Time on Water: about 4 hours
Challenges:
- possible logjams, low-head dams, and rugged riffle that usually must be walked (marked by )
- strainers - branches & fallen trees amid the stream current
- combined sewer overflows, which sometimes occur at the Columbia Avenue bridge in Reading

River Mile (from the Ohio River) marked (环节)

The pink-shaded corridors (marked by ) are stream segments with multiple manmade riffles that can be difficult to paddle or portage.
Paddling is a dangerous activity and the information provided here is not a substitute for actual knowledge and skill. Conditions on the Mill Creek can change rapidly. The Mill Creek Yacht Club, the Mill Creek Alliance, and their members, officers, employees, agents, and trustees are not liable for any injuries or damages related in any way to your use of this Access Map or the Mill Creek. You are responsible for your own actions on or around the Mill Creek, and assume total responsibility for yourself and any others with you.

**Safety Tips**

**WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!** Most boating fatalities occur because a person wasn’t wearing a life vest. A properly fitted life jacket or personal flotation device (“PFD”) can save your life, but it only works if you put it on. All Mill Creek boats are equipped with automatic inflation life jackets. Always keep your feet up, stay within the current, and swim to calm water before standing. The current can push the boater’s body under the water and hold it there. Always keep your feet up, pointed downstream, and swim to calm water before standing. Also, be aware of sudden changes in blood pressure and heart or respiratory rate, which may occur if you approach quickly. A fast can be dangerous because of the circulating turbulence often created at the base of the dam. Boats as well as people can become entrapped in this turbulence. Circulating currents at the base of a dam or waterfall can be powerful; backwash currents can suck you in if you approach too closely from downstream. Portage around the hazard and launch at a safe distance downstream.

**HEAD DAMS:** Know the locations of all low head dams on the creek. Most accidents occur while getting in and out of a canoe. Use three points of contact, step downstream of Sharon Road at map

**STRAINERS:** River obstructions that allow water to flow through them, but which block or “strain” entities such as glass, sharp objects, fishing lines and hooks, and dam releases, including those upstream of your use. Conditions on the Mill Creek can change rapidly. Explode your boundaries and develop a strong sense of self-preservation. Expect the unexpected. Be prepared for weather and water conditions. Consider the location of any expected dangers. Do not enter the water if you are uncertain. Wear footwear that protect you from sharp objects. Be prepared to swim if the water looks too hazardous to swim, don’t boat on it. Check creek conditions. Stream gauge information is available on the United States Geological Survey’s web site at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/oh/nwis/wat. Assess the risk of flash flooding. Consider the impact of current or predicted rainfall, snowmelt, and dam releases, including those upstream of your use. Conditions on the Mill Creek can change rapidly.

**Hazards Found on the Mill Creek**

In order to have a safe canoe or kayak trip, a boater must be aware of possible hazards on the Mill Creek. Scout the creek before you use it, and plan your trip to avoid any hazards. Use caution when wading or portaging. Potential hazards include sudden drop-offs, hidden holes, slippery algae, submerged obstacles and jagged objects. Be prepared to portage (carry around) hazards. If in doubt, get out and scout!

**Dress appropriately.** Be prepared for weather and water conditions. Consider the temperature of the water as well as the air temperature. Dress for the colder of the two. Wear footwear that protect you from sharp objects.

**POLLUTION:** The 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 rainfall event or other sources such as construction. Individuals with open cuts or wounds should not use the Mill Creek. Many Hamilton County streams, including the Mill Creek, do not meet Ohio state standards for recreational activities such as wading or swimming. For more information about CSOs visit www.projectecosynergy.org, which is a website offered by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD).

**COLD WATER IMMERSION & HYPOTHERMIA:** Sudden immersion in cold water can be deadly. The initial shock can induce varying degrees of panic and vertigo – all of which lead to drowning. It can also cause sudden changes in blood pressure, heart rate and heart rhythm that may result in death. The longer you are immersed in colder water, the harder it is to control your body. Most accidents occur while getting in and out of a canoe. Use three points of contact, step downstream of Sharon Road at map

**EMBARK AND DISEMBARK:** Portage around the hazard and launch at a safe distance downstream.

**FOOT ENTRAPMENTS:** If your boat capsizes, do not try to stand or walk if you are in swift-moving water. You may slip and pin a foot between submerged rocks. Once pinned, the force of the current can pull the boat’s body underwater and hold it there. Always keep your feet up, pointed downstream, and swim to calm water before standing.

**DON’T PADDLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL!** It’s illegal and un-safe.

**PADDLE SAFELY!** Know your skill and fitness levels. Stay within them.

**BE PREPARED!** Plan your trip with skill and avoid hazards and have more fun. Know the area and its hazards. Actual conditions may be different from those you are uncertain. Be prepared to portage (carry around) hazards. If in doubt, get out and scout!

**PRECAUTIONS FOR PADDLING:**

**1. ENSURE YOU HAVE THE APPROPRIATE GEAR:** Always wear a properly fitted life jacket or personal flotation device (“PFD”). A properly fitted life jacket or personal flotation device (“PFD”) can save your life, but it only works if you put it on. All Mill Creek boats are equipped with automatic inflation life jackets.

**2. LEARN THE MILL CREEK:** The Mill Creek Yacht Club, the Mill Creek Alliance, and their members, officers, employees, agents, and trustees are not liable for any injuries or damages related in any way to your use of this Access Map or the Mill Creek. You are responsible for your own actions on or around the Mill Creek, and assume total responsibility for yourself and any others with you.

**3. DO NOT BOAT IN FLOODWATERS:** The Mill Creek is especially prone to flash floods. Water levels can rise rapidly in response to even small amounts of rainfall. Never try to boat over a dam or waterfall. Small dams can look harmless, particularly in swollen streams, but are very dangerous. CSOs are a main source of bacteria in local water. If you swallow water with high levels of E. coli, you become ill.

**4. WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS:** Individuals with open cuts or wounds should not use the Mill Creek. Many Hamilton County streams, including the Mill Creek, do not meet Ohio state standards for recreational activities such as wading or swimming. For more information about CSOs visit www.projectecosynergy.org, which is a website offered by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD).

**5. DONT PADDLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL!** It’s illegal and un-safe.

**6. WEAR FOOTWEAR THAT PROTECT YOU FROM SHARP OBJECTS:** Be prepared for weather and water conditions. Consider the temperature of the water as well as the air temperature. Dress for the colder of the two. Wear footwear that protect you from sharp objects.

**7. USE PERVIOUS PAVEMENT:** Use pervious pavement in parking and driveways. Roots can enter cracks and travel between the pavers, causing problems with trees and plants.

**8. DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY:** Always pack out your trash. Many landowners enjoy the stream’s peace and solitude. Be peaceful and respectful of local property owners.

**9. STAY AWAY FROM厳格:** Be prepared for weather and water conditions. Consider the location of any expected dangers. Do not enter the water if you are uncertain. Wear footwear that protect you from sharp objects.

**10. REVIEW PARTICULAR CONCERNS FOR “TODAY’S” OUTING:** During cleanups, do not get hurt or put yourself in dangerous situations trying to pull stuff out. Junk removal is sadistic, but not worth an injury.

**11. NOTE THE ROUTE TAKEN BY EXPERIENCED PADDLERS:** Many landowners enjoy the stream’s peace and solitude. Be peaceful and respectful of local property owners.

**12. USE A PADDLE TRIP AND CAMPING GUIDE:** Many landowners enjoy the stream’s peace and solitude. Be peaceful and respectful of local property owners.

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