

# G.R.E.A.T.



## Grand River Environmental Action Team

P.O. Box 223, Jackson, Michigan 49204

[www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org)

Fall 2006

## G.R.E.A.T. Annual River Cleanup Moves to Lime Lake - Volunteers Needed

### What to Expect

Unless you have participated in one of GREAT's previous river clean-ups, you may be reluctant to jump right in. So, as one who has taken part in seven or eight clean-up efforts, let me try to provide a preview of what to expect.

First, consider that this will be vigorous and dirty work. Plan on dirty hands, and muddy feet. However, GREAT can provide you with gloves and waders. Wear old, rugged shoes and clothing that can be discarded if necessary.

Since this clean-up will take place at Lime Lake, which is deep, everyone who enters a canoe or kayak must wear a life vest. GREAT will happily provide one. If you prefer not to paddle across the lake, the new Falling Waters Trail will be open so you can walk around the lake to the fen location.

The main location of trash to pick up will be on the east shore of the main lake. This because prevailing winds blow much of it there. Some of this trash will be retrieved from the water, but much will have washed ashore. The rest of the trash will be on land in the fen. Either way, you will be asked to put trash into plastic bags that GREAT provides.

Part of the enjoyment I have had during both river and highway clean-ups is gabbing with other participants. You will feel a bond with them because you share a value in improving our environment. When you feel that you have picked up enough trash, tell someone you are ready to leave. Although the clean-up effort runs from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., you may come and leave when it suits you.

### Change in Venue This Year

A combination of circumstances has lead the board of GREAT to move the annual Grand River clean-up to Lime Lake County Park this fall. One happy condition that led the board to consider moving the clean-up was lower yields of trash from the the Grand River in Jackson during the last few clean-ups.

Todd Zeller, a leader in both GREAT and Falling Water Trail orgranazations, points out that the flow from Lime Lake supplies one of the Upper Grand River's purist tributaries, Sandstone Creek. Along with the fact that Lime Lake flows into the Grand, it also supports a fen, a rare natural feature, that is unfortunately becoming increasingly degraded.

It is GREAT's hope that by moving the clean-up to Lime Lake for one year, we can improve the condition of the lake and fen, and perhaps draw county-wide attention to this very special feature of our environment.

[SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE.](#)