

RESOLUTION NO. 75-2008

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING 2009 THE YEAR OF THE RIVER IN THE VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD.

*WHEREAS*, the Cuyahoga River is not merely at the center of the history, culture, commerce, industry, recreation and environment of Northeast Ohio, it is the very symbol of this region, and

*WHEREAS*, the settlement and growth of the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan area, and the prosperity that spread from this area throughout Ohio, came about because of the Cuyahoga River and its location on the Great Lakes, and

*WHEREAS*, the Cuyahoga River watershed and Lake Erie tributaries within the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan's Area of Concern comprise more than 800 square miles of land in 6 counties and nearly 100 cities, villages and townships, and

*WHEREAS*, the Village of Richfield lies in the Furnace Run and Yellow Creek watersheds, which drain to the Cuyahoga River, and

*WHEREAS*, the Village of Richfield has been a member and leader of the Cuyahoga Valley Regional Council of Governments, and therefore a partner in support of the region's environmental, economic and cultural heritage, and

*WHEREAS*, the Village works in partnership with the Friends of Yellow Creek, Metroparks Serving Summit County, the Summit SWCD and the Cuyahoga River RAP, among others, to safeguard our natural resources, and

*WHEREAS*, June 22, 1969 is the fortieth anniversary of the last and most famous fire that occurred on the Cuyahoga River, which focused the world's attention on the results of decades of pollution and on water quality, led to the creation of the Clean Water Act and the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and sparked an environmental movement that is more active today than ever, and

*WHEREAS*, although remarkable progress has been made in restoring our streams and improving water quality, much more work remains to be accomplished in order that we pass healthy watersheds to future generations, and

*WHEREAS*, the Cuyahoga River RAP, its partner organizations, and communities throughout the region will commemorate this anniversary throughout 2009,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Richfield, Summit County, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That this Council does hereby proclaim 2009 as YEAR OF THE RIVER and encourages our citizens and stakeholders to support stream stewardship throughout the year and across our village.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

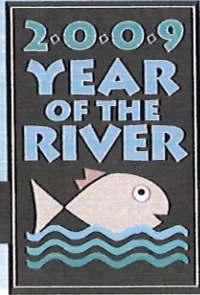
PASSED: 12/16/08

ATTEST:  
Carolyn E. Sullivan  
Clerk of Council

[Signature]  
President of Council

[Signature]  
Mayor

Dated: 12/16/08



# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CUYAHOGA RIVER RECOVERY

Fostering the rediscovery and revitalization of the Cuyahoga, its tributaries and watershed.

## 2009: YEAR OF THE RIVER • FAST FACTS

**WHAT is Year of the River?** It's a yearlong commemoration celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 1969 Cuyahoga River fire that changed the way Americans look at water quality and sparked today's environmental movement.

2009: Year of the River will include:

- major media outreach, telling the story of the rebirth of a river and the challenges we still face in protecting this natural resource;
- a wide range of events, activities and programs – some to celebrate, some to educate, some to commemorate, but all designed to connect the people who live, work and visit here to the streams and rivers that flow through our lives.

### Why do we need this?

It is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for our community to:

- rebrand our river and our community with a new image and change the way we and others think about "the place where the river caught on fire". **It's no longer a burning river. Now it's a living river.** We can get over the past, even laugh about it. It's forty years later, and time we give ourselves credit for how far we have come and how well we have done.
- commit to supporting ongoing stewardship of the streams that flow into the river, and the river that flows to the lake. This is also the time to recognize that we have a long way to go, work still to do.

### What are our goals?

- to develop a broad base of support to enable CRCPO and its partners to continue the work of restoring the river and its watershed, and to support the work of tributary communities and stewardship groups throughout the region.
- to engage people in watershed stewardship on the local level.
- to begin planning for the 50th anniversary and considering our region's role in the future of fresh water.

### What is your role?

We hope that *everyone* – every person, every business, institution, school, organization and government – will create, present or be involved in some activity, whether as a sponsor, a partner, a volunteer or a friend-of-the-fish.

### WHY should you be part of this initiative?

You can help change our region's image, show your own green commitment, and support the revitalization of our greatest natural resource.

We still suffer from the forty-year-old image of a polluted river in a dirty city. But the river is the reason this area was built here in the first place, and why it became the economic powerhouse it once was. It continues to serve as the center of an active maritime industry, the home of a national park that welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, the link that connects the cities of Cleveland and Akron, and the hub of Cleveland's urban revitalization.

Besides, it's going to be fun, and it's one theme that everyone can support.

**WHO ARE WE?** The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization is the 501(c)3 nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that manages the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), the Cuyahoga American Heritage River Initiative (AHR), and the Cuyahoga/Lake Erie Environmental Restoration Technology Center (CLEERTEC).

For twenty years we have worked with stakeholders and communities in four counties and twenty-three tributary watersheds to restore and protect the Cuyahoga River and the nearshore areas of Lake Erie.

Please contact us:

by phone: 216-241-2414 ext. 610 or by email: [goodmanj@cuyahogariverrap.org](mailto:goodmanj@cuyahogariverrap.org)  
by snailmail: 1299 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, and visit [www.riveryear.org](http://www.riveryear.org)

