

Park in Reading gets needed attention

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Reading Eagle

READING, PA

A group of volunteers worked to beautify Mineral Spring Park on Saturday morning.

Armed with chain saws, trimmers and hand tools, the group focused on cleaning up the area near the East End Athletic Club, just north of Pandora Park

In an effort organized by the Reading Recreation Commission and staffed by volunteers from that group along with members of the Berks Area Mountain Biking Association and the United

Way of Berks County Emerging

Leaders program, they directed their energy at the pavilion, roadside, Gravity Trail and creek areas.



Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey | Mountain biker Nick Stine of Reading pulls branches out of the creek bed as volunteers spruce up Mineral Spring Park in Reading on Saturday.



Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey | United Way volunteer Michael Mancias of Wyomissing uses a weed whacker to cut back brush Saturday at Mineral Spring Park in Reading.



Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey | United Way participant Michael Mancias of Wyomissing uses a weed whacker Saturday at Mineral Springs Park in Reading.

They cleaned out mud and trash, redirected water runoff, removed branches, fallen trees and debris, cut and stacked wood for the city wood chipper crew and trimmed overgrown vegetation.

About two-dozen volunteers turned out, and Camille Stock, chief development officer for recreation commission, praised their spirit.

"We had one person who works for the city, who just showed up because he loves this park," she said. "Tim Evans opened up the East End Athletic Club for us so we could use the bathrooms, hang out and warm up if we got cold, get some water, and even put on coffee for us."

Fred Moreadith, director of the biking association, said the volunteers accomplished everything they set out to do.

Before the crew got started about 9 a.m., trees, fallen branches and debris were clogging the creek and other areas, he said, and rainwater was washing more debris and mud into the gazebo area.

"We've stopped that, at least for now," he said.



Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey | Mountain biker Greg Auchter of Mount Penn pulls vines out of the creek wall Saturday at Mineral Spring Park in Reading.

The project is part of a larger effort by the association to clean up the area and trails connecting Mineral Spring and Egelman parks.

Jean Morrow, senior vice president of resource development at United Way, said most of her organization's volunteers Saturday came from Penske Corp. and UGI Energy Services