

Found something while fishing Mill Creek on May 3, 2010. When I first headed up stream from the Route 31 bridge, something seemed odd, but I wasn't paying that close attention.

The building and the property along the creek has been having work done to it. I came across a spot where the steep bluff was filled to create a ramp. It was made with construction debris from the work being done. Concrete chunks, roofing material and just junk. It looked like the work was getting done with something the size of a bobcat.





In this shot you can make out the 5 gallon buckets they threw in along with the rest of it. This hill used to be so steep that it was next to impossible to walk up to get to the top.

Though it's small, I always thought the bottom of this hill was the flood plain of the creek.



They carved a trail to the creek and it was obvious they drove it into the creek.



Part of it had been scraped and pushed into a small pile. This I know is illegal without a permit. On the opposite shore a tree had been cut down. I've been through here enough times and know enough about flowing water to know that is not a natural rock formation. The water was stained from the rain the night before, but when you were right up on it you could see how the bottom had been scraped.



It looked like they were cutting everything down off a very small island and had wood cut and stacked on pallets.



It just seemed odd that someone would be going through all this trouble for a little island.



I followed the tracks through the woods, which I always thought was part of the creek flood plain.





Over the past few years the woods here got so thick that you couldn't walk through them anymore. Not a problem now. The creeks not far too the right of this shot.



Found things that were either being dumped or staged for taking out. I couldn't tell.



I had seen this on the way up the creek, it's right near the bridge, but I assumed it was just junk that had washed down at a high water event. After I found the pallets with logs wrapped in plastic, I knew otherwise.



They entered the creek again just up from the 31 bridge. There's a very small island right there and you can see how they were pushing things around.





They pushed a bunch of rock up on the little island.



It looks like they made 4 or 5 trip across the creek pushing rock to the opposite shore. This is right before the creek goes under the 31 bridge.



The make shift road then headed back up a shallower part of the hill toward the house.





At the top of the hill were stacks of wood on pallets wrapped in plastic. Just like the few I was finding in the woods. Can't tell if the pallets are coming out or going in. I'm assuming going out, but why are they bothering.

I didn't go any further up the hill than this. Had a big blowout with the Odeum many years ago along Salt Creek when they caught me photographing all their garbage. All kinds of lawsuit threats were recieved. People tend to shut up though when you make photographs public. Don't feel like dealing with that any more.

With the exploring I do on Fox River creeks, I run into things like this once or twice a year. I usually just take some pictures than do nothing with them. My once knee jerk need to get involved died with the rebuilding of the Yorkville dam. Now I just document things.



My favorite is the land owner near the mouth of Little Rock Creek that uses the shore line as a dump. Have pictures dating back many years, but a year or two ago he dumped construction material practically right down to the water, including a couple of almost full sheets of drywall. I'm sure high water and rain has made that go away. I believe I even have an older shot of a kitchen sink, but it could be a bathroom sink.

Then there's the guy near Saw Wee Kee that uses the shore as a dump and others along there that seem to do whatever they feel like. Even further down from the canoe launch on the opposite shore.

But these are different stories.