

RMSKC IS A GREEN CLUB

By Brian Hunter

For over a year now RMSKC has been GREEN. Being green simply means observing *Leave No Trace* principles. It's easy to be green, and it's not just politically correct, it's what we must do to protect all that we love about our planet. Having green events has worked out well for RMSKC and only requires small changes from each of us.

One key principle about being green is reuse or recycle vs. throw away. So, please remember that for all onshore and paddle events you will be asked to bring your own:

- Plates
- Bowls
- Eating and serving utensils
- Cups, glasses, or drink containers
- Beverages

Recyclable items will be collected at onshore events in bins for like types of items which will be recycled at the proper city waste disposal/recycle facility. To date every green event has produced much less garbage than previous events and every Club member has done their part to make it happen. Each of us as individuals and all of us as a Club have been excellent *Leave No Trace* ambassadors by our actions and accomplishments.

Some main components of *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly** that apply to us as paddlers are:

- Pack it out (including solid human waste). It's better not to burn garbage.
- Keep your kayak clean to avoid transporting aquatic plants and animals
- Leave natural and cultural resources intact
- Avoid sensitive areas and avoid harassing wildlife
- Respect the rights of others and comply with signage and buoys
- Leave a place better than you found it.

These are principles that will be observed at all RMSKC events and RMSKC encourages each of you to employ the same practices when on your own. Also note that the understanding and application of these principles is required by the ACA for paddler assessment levels.

**Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly* have the same goals but *Tread Lightly* specifically addresses the use of motorized vehicles in natural and wilderness areas. Both of these organizations have interesting websites which outline their basic principles, list helpful tips and provide resources for teaching others. Check them out: www.lnt.org and www.treadlightly.org