

Kansas City Big Muddy River Cleanup

OCT. 20TH, 2012

303 VOLUNTEERS § 76 TIRES § 13 RIVER MILES § 12.9 TONS OF TRASH § 7.9 TONS RECYCLED

Our Kansas City clean-up is always one of our biggest events of the year. This major metropolitan area has been rediscovering the amazing river that runs through it, and we're proud of the role we've played in bringing people back to the Big Muddy here.

This year's clean-up was our first time working with **Healthy Rivers Partnership**, a new river organization formed by old friends from our **10 years of work in the Kansas City area**. Saturday's clean-up was the capstone event of a week of new projects in the KC area. You can read more about those educational efforts later in this report.

The Kansas City clean-up is a collaboration with a long list of partners, each one an important part of the machine that makes the difficult task of cleaning up the big river possible. With a gorgeous sunrise, the hard-working crew began to arrive, setting out tools, launching boats, placing dumpsters and preparing for the hundreds more volunteers soon to arrive.

After 2011's long-term flooding along the Missouri River followed by a year of drought, this was a different clean-up than we were used to. The high water had pushed a lot of debris downstream, and with little rain to flush out tributaries, we found much of the trash on the Kaw River. Other spots were dumps and general litter. Several other locations were old scrap metal dumps revealed by the lower water.

A fleet of **12 boats** hauled groups to locations along **13 miles** of river, carefully scouted and mapped for the most efficient clean-up impact. Volunteers of all ages spent their morning gathering garbage and hauling it to shore. The Arnold Stream Team 211 led a site at an old scrap metal dump, piling tons of heavy junk along the shore ready for pick up.

Everyone returned to beautiful Kaw Point Park for lunch and a hilarious Trash Contest, where the crowd voted on their favorite trash treasures. Then the Missouri River Relief crew hit the river again, hauling **12.9 tons of junk** back to shore all afternoon, finishing their long day just as the sun began to set.

**For more about the Kansas City Clean-up
and a link to photos of the event, see:**

<http://www.riverrelief.org/event/big-muddy-kc-river-clean-up-2012/>

Event Snapshot

Total Volunteers: 303

MRR Crew: 44

Boats: 12 (5 MRR boats, 4 Mo. Dept. of Conservation, 1 US EPA, 1 Burns & McDonnell, 1 Rivermiles)

River Miles Cleaned: 13 miles (11 miles Missouri River - 373-362; 2 miles Kansas River)

Landfill: 5 tons

Scrap Metal Recycled: 6.5 tons

Tires Recycled: 76 (1.4 tons)

Total Tonnage: 12.9 Tons!



Accomplishing the "impossible" through teamwork is what it's all about.

photo by Alicia Pigg



Top: Volunteers return after a morning cleaning up the river.

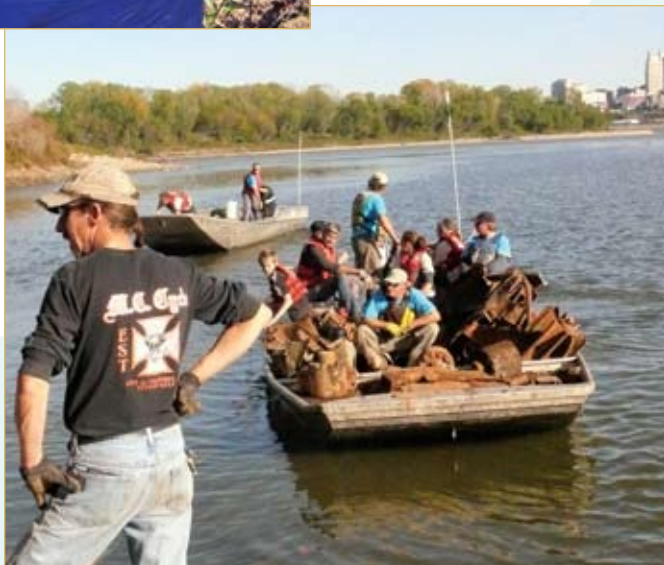


Middle: Large piles of trash accumulate along the Kaw River with a lot of hard work.

Bottom: Another load of junk hauled off the Missouri River by the Missouri River Relief crew fleet.

Right: A proud volunteer shows off their trash treasure: a security officer badge found on the river-bank.

photos by Alicia Pigg and Melanie Cheney



Partial List of trash collected

- 421 Bags of Trash • 76 Tires (5 huge ones)
- 3 Hunks O' Tire Tread • 1 Inner Tube • 7 Coolers
- 30 Chunks O' Styrofoam • 17 ½ - 5-gal. Plastic Buckets
- 1 - 5 gal. Plastic Bucket with Poison
- 3 - 55 gal. Metal Drums • 2 ½ - 55 gal. Plastic Barrels
- 1 - 10 gal. Water Jug • 1 - 40 gal. Metal Drum
- 1 - 5 gal. Jug of Insecticide • 1 - 7 gal. Metal Bucket
- 2 Refrigerators (1 mini fridge) • 2 Bicycles (1 red, 1 blue)
- 3 Bicycle Tires and 1 Wheel • 1 Garage Door Opener
- 1 Message in a Bottle from Fort Morgan, CO
- 2 Garden Hoses • 1 Lawn Mower • 4 Orange Traffic Cones
- 1 Shopping Cart • 2 Mattresses • 4 Bed Springs
- 6 Chairs • 1 Cushion • 1 Bathroom Sink
- 1 Set Venetian Blinds • 1 Folding Table • 1 Security Badge
- 2 Mylar Balloons • 1 - 30 gal. Plastic Tub
- Collection of Pornography • 1 Bag of Syringes - unused
- 3 Baseball Hats • 1 plastic Big Wheel Tricycle
- 20+ Balls (Soccer, Basket Ball, Tennis) • 1 Dress Jacket
- 1 Fire Hose • 1 naked Baby Doll
- 1 Gear Shift • 1 License Plate • 6 Hub Caps • 1 Truck Liner
- 1 Car Bumper • 2 Car Grills • 1 Wooden Heart
- 5 Exhaust Pipes • 1 Pump • 3 Gas Tanks
- 1 Steering Wheel • 2 Horse Shoes • 1 Metal Bird
- 1 Cooler • 1 steel Belt • 1 metal Gas Can
- 1 Shoe • Barbed Wire • 1 Computer Hard Drive Tower
- 9 Grills & Grates • 1 Fire Extinguisher
- 1 RR Bridge Catwalk • 1 Dollar Bill • 1 6x8 Metal Sheet
- 49 pieces of Rebar • 1 I.D. Card
- Refrigerator Coils • 3 Fence Posts • 1 Window Screen
- 59 pieces of Tow Boat remains • 2 TVs
- 1 Fire Extinguisher • 6' of Roofing Shingles
- 2 pieces of Vinyl Siding • 2 iPods • 1 Hub Cap
- A natural Terrarium growing in a Glass Bottle
- 1 Crossbow Pistol • 1 Solar Powered Light
- 1 6x6 piece of Plywood • 2 pieces of Carpet
- 1 cubicle Divider • 1 Maglight (works) • 1 Blanket • 2 Tarps
- 1 giant Man Purse (full) • 1 Bamboo Shade
- 2 Patio Umbrellas • 1 stuffed Penguin with a Santa Hat
- 1 Toy Airplane • 50' of Plastic Tubing
- 1 Golf Driver Club • 45 pieces of 8" Plastic Pipe
- 1 MO License Plate • 1 long Plastic Planter • 1 Library Card

Missouri River Relief Education

HANDS-ON, ON-THE-RIVER

Kansas City - 2012

This year, Missouri River Relief took its unique vision of combining hands-on river education and service learning to a new level. Directed by River Relief volunteers Fran and Dave Stous, this program combined intensive classroom watershed education with an opportunity to get out on the big river itself and clean it up.

The project, supported by grants from **Mid-America Regional Council**, the **Captain Planet Foundation** and the **Mo. Dept. of Natural Resources** had three phases:

Classroom Learning

The Stouses designed a four-lesson watershed curriculum covering water quality, stormwater issues, biology and recycling. Featuring a hands-on approach, the lessons were designed to show students the importance of our water resources as well as the impact that their decisions in their communities can have on our rivers.

Over the course of a month, they taught **189 students** (elementary and middle school), giving pre- and post-tests to assess learning.

“Day on the River” Service Learning

129 middle and high school students from **Benjamin Banneker Charter Academy of Technology** and **Staley High School** received a riverside education on river reptiles, water quality, river history and stormwater management from experts at **US. EPA, Mo. Dept. of Conservation, National Weather Service and US Geological Survey**. They then hopped on boats for a direct experience on the river, including a river clean-up of their own, piling up nearly a ton of trash.

River Clean-up

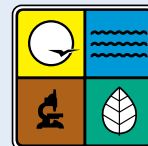
Students from **Oak Manor Elementary School** who had received the Stous’ watershed education were also invited to the big Saturday River Clean-up. Over 30 students, teachers and parents joined the effort.



***Top:** Students from Benjamin Banneker CAT show off a truck tire they dug out of the floodplain forest. **Middle:** Students assist National Weather Service hydrologist Kevin Low in showing how stormwater flow is affected by changes in a watershed model. **Bottom:** A ride on the river includes close encounters with sand dredges, bridges and wildlife.*

photos by Steve Schnarr

Sponsors



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources

Ecological Services
Field Office

Thomas & Anne Smith

MARC
Mid-America Regional Council

Pat Jones

**Briarcliff Development
Captain Planet Foundation
Dave & Fran Stous
DeBruce Foundation**

**EarthShare of Missouri
Jackson County
KC Port Authority**

**KC Power & Light
Kansas City Water Services
Saint James Winery
Rivermiles, LLC**

Partners

Advantage Metals Recycling
Arnold Stream Team 211
Allied Waste
Captaincatfish.net
Friends of the Kaw
Friends of Kaw Point Park
Healthy Rivers Partnership

Holcim, Inc.
Friends of Lakeside Nature
Center
KC Wildlands
Little Blue River Watershed
Coalition
Missouri Stream Team
National Weather Service

North Central Neighbors
Woodruff Sweitzer
Wyandotte County Parks
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
U.S. Geological Survey

Volunteer Groups

The Missouri River Relief Crew
Rockhurst University
University of Missouri Kansas City
Park University
Oakwood Manor Elementary
Crossroads Church
Missouri Stream Team
Kansas City Geocachers

Missouri Master Naturalists
SEA LIFE Kansas City
Captain Catfish
Student Environmental Coalition
Louis Berger Group
Cargill
Singles Available for Community
Service
Unilever

North Central Neighbors
Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club
Advantage Metals Recycling
Cub Scouts Pack 3385
Green Club
Briarcliff Chapel
Shawnee Mission Northwest High
School



A group shot at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers.

photo by Alicia Pigg