



Omaha/Council Bluffs Missouri River Clean-up

SEPT. 22ND, 2012

208 VOLUNTEERS § 58 TIRES § 8 RIVER MILES § 5.2 TONS OF TRASH § 2.5 TONS RECYCLED

On Saturday Sept. 22, **over 200 volunteers** showed up on a beautiful fall Equinox to help clean up the banks of the Missouri River at NP Dodge Park.

Together with our community clean-up partners and volunteers like you, we were able to remove **5.2 tons of trash** from the banks of the river!

Much of the junk recovered was due to “**Great Flood of 2011**”, and the evidence of so many destroyed lives was heartbreaking. But the efforts of all these amazing partners and volunteers was inspiring. It felt especially good to remove several jugs & containers of hazardous waste from a river that we all share and get our drinking water from. And about 2 tons of the trash came from 3 extra days of “mini-cleanups” with the MRR Crew & **Mutual of Omaha** Volunteers. Way to work it Omaha!

As the volunteers happily finished their pizza, donated by **Sam & Louie’s Pizza**, Jennifer Morrel from the **National Park Service** gave a great talk about the animals of the Missouri River, and showed some beautiful otter & beaver pelts.

Then it was time to show off our trash treasures from the day at the “Git that Garbage” Trash Contest! We were so happy to see the excitement in the kids eyes as they proudly showed off their animal finds from the morning, and other odd trash treasures. Check out the entire **trash tally!** (on the back side) All of the trash was then collected and piled on a barge provided by the **Army Corps of Engineers**, who were a huge help with the disposal process.

It takes a big leap of faith to get down & dirty on the Mighty MO and we can’t thank Omaha and Council Bluffs sponsors, partners and volunteers enough for all the support they showed us while we were in town! **Thank You Omaha!!!**

To read more about the Omaha Missouri River clean-up and see more photos from the event, check out our webpage at <http://www.riverrelief.org/>

Event Snapshot

- Total Volunteers:** 208
- MRR Crew:** 15
- Boats:** 8 (5 MRR boats, 2 NE Game & Parks, 1 Army Corps of Engineers)
- River Miles Cleaned:** 8 Missouri River miles (624-632)
- Landfill:** 2.7 tons
- Scrap Metal Recycled:** 1.5 tons
- Tires Recycled:** 58 (1 ton)
- Total Tonnage:** 5.2 Tons!

Groups & Agencies Involved: the Missouri River Relief Crew, Mayor Suttle’s Office (Craig Howell), Americorps VISTA, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Big Muddy Urban Farm, G4S Secure Solutions, Boy Scout Troop 510, Papio South Titan’s Leo Club, LDS Mormon Church, Gallup, Creighton University, Mutual of Omaha, UNLIEP, Northern Natural Gas, Verizon Wireless, Harrah’s Casino, Rainbow Girls, National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Names of River Teams: River Rats, Griffindoor, King Cobra, Stormin’ Mormons, Big Brown, Asian Carp, Tigers, Slimeballs, Kick Butt, Mudders, Rip Rap, The Saber



photo copyright 2012 by Steve Schnarr



Above: Young volunteers proudly show off their trash contest prizes.

Right: The River Relief Crew poses with a major boat load of trash collected in one afternoon by 11 Mutual of Omaha volunteers.

Bottom: This year's event t-shirts design for Omaha, St. Joe & Kansas City.

Photos by Steve Schnarr, Heron Design by Dory Colbert



Partial List of Trash Collected

185 Bags of Trash • 58 Tires • 18 Chunks O' Styrofoam • 3 Coolers • 6 - 5 gallon Plastic Buckets • 18 - 55 gallon Plastic Barrels • 3 - 55 gallon Metal Drums • 1 - 25 gallon Metal Drum • 3 Refrigerators • 1 Refrigerator Door • 1 Ice Dispenser • 5 Propane Tanks • 1 Car Seat • 1 ½ Bed Springs • 3 ½ Bed Frames • 2 Couch Cushions • 6 Chairs • 1 Picnic Table • 4 Counter Tops • 2 Chaise Lounge Chairs • 1 Car Door • 2 Car Mats • 5 pieces of Carpet • 1 set of Cabinet Doors • 20 ft. of plastic Corrugated Roofing • 20 ft. of 1 ½ inch Plastic Pipe • 2 ½ Doors 30 ft. of Wiring Conduit • 1 plastic Step Ladder • 1 - 4'x8' wooden Lattice • 1 - 10'x20' Dock • 1 glass Window • 2 ft. piece of an I-beam • 400 lbs of assorted Metal • 120 ft. of 1-inch Cable • 100 lbs of Rebar • 1 - 5 ft. Pipe • 1 - 4ft. Metal Cable • 1 BBQ Grill • 4 TVs • 1 Fishing Pole • 1 Tarp • 3 - 250 gallon square Plastic Tanks with cage & spout (2 with purple ink type liquid) • 1 - 30 gallon Trash Can • 1 - 500 gallon Metal Diesel Tank • 1 Buoy • 1 - 5 gallon Metal Kerosine Can • 1 bright blue Chunk O' Styrofoam • 1 part of a Bed Frame • 1 fiberglass corrugated Roof • 1 small silver Christmas Ornament • 1 tiny glittery Styrofoam Ball • 1 Bike Spoke decorated with Plastic Bags • 1 Metal Hubcap • 1 weird blond Plush Doll • 1 Spongebob Wind-up Doll • 1 Elmo Doll • 1 Blow-up Can of Pork & Beans • 1 grey Tank Top • 1 pair of dirty Socks • 1 white lacey Bra • 1 size-11 High Heel Shoe • 1 car window crank Metal Gear • 1 large Light Bulb • 1 Exercise Sign • 1 "No Parking" in Picnic Area Sign • 1 Goose Head Decoy • 1 Duck Butt Decoy • 1 Full Duck Decoy • 1 pink Flamingo • 1 wooden Pig-shaped Cuttingboard • 1 Feather • 1 Gar Skin • a 2-headed Dragon



Partners

Americorps Vista • Bridgestone "One Team One Planet" City of Council Bluffs, IA • City of Omaha, NE • Country Inn & Suites • Green Omaha Coalition • Harrah's Casino - Council Bluffs • Hyvee - Council Bluffs • Izaak Walton League • Keep Iowa Beautiful • Mutual of Omaha • National Park Service • Nebraska Game & Parks Commission • Pottawattamie County Conservation Remelt Industries • Sam & Louie's Pizza • Walmart - Council Bluffs • Waste Management

For more about the Omaha/Council Bluffs Clean-up and a link to photos of the event, see:

<http://www.riverrelief.org/event/omaha-council-bluffs-clean-up-2012/>

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