



# Omaha/Council Bluffs Missouri River Clean-up

## SEPT. 7th, 2013

248 VOLUNTEERS § 14 TIRES § 11 RIVER MILES § 3 TONS OF TRASH § 5 YEARS

This was Missouri River Relief's **5th clean-up** in the Omaha area. Together with our community clean-up partners and volunteers like you, a great combination of first time river cleaners and old Omaha clean-up pros hit the river to remove litter, flood debris, fisherman trash and abandoned camps from the floodplain and river banks.

**248 volunteers** showed up on a super hot day and promptly helped remove nearly **3 tons of junk** from the banks of the river despite the forecast. 18 of those volunteers were from the Mutual of Omaha and Gallup, who came out a few days early to work an associates clean-up with us.

With help of the **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission** and the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** boats, we got everyone out on the river in about an hour and a half. Supplied with trash bags, shovels, plenty of water and their gloved hands, we cleaned up about **11 miles of the river**.

After the morning's clean-up, all of the volunteers enjoyed a great lunch donated and prepared by the crew at **Sam & Louie's Pizza** and Hyvee. Any local business that donates that many pizzas for the cause are heroes in our book! We then gathered for an educational presentation by **National Park Service** interpreter Jennifer Morrell and a hilarious trash contest with the treasures that many of the kids who came out found on the river.

We spent the afternoon hauling all the trash in, including 3 boat loads entirely full of styrofoam. All of the trash was hauled to a Corps of Engineers barge loaded up with dumpsters. After the last of it was hauled in, the River Relief crew was treated to a free buffet dinner at **Harrah's Casino** in Council Bluffs.

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!!!**

## Event Snapshot

- Total Volunteers:** 248
- MRR Crew:** 15
- Boats:** 8 (4 MRR boats, 3 NE Game & Parks, 1 Army Corps of Engineers)
- River Miles Cleaned:** 11 Missouri River miles (612-623)
- Landfill:** 2.5 tons
- Scrap Metal Recycled:** .13 tons
- Tires Recycled:** 14 (.3 tons)
- Total Tonnage:** 3 Tons!

**Groups & Agencies Involved:** the Missouri River Relief Crew, Nebraska Game & Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Back to the River, Constellation Energy, Gallup, Harrah's Casino, Northern Natural Gas, Mutual of Omaha, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Walmart, Bridgestone "One Team One Planet", Cabela's, Hyvee, Iowa Dept. of Transportation, Izaak Walton League, Country Inn & Suites, City of Council Bluffs, City of Omaha, Pottawattamie County Conservation, Remelt Industries, Sam & Louie's Pizza, Western Historic Trails Center, Waste Management, G4S, Doubletree Hotel, Creighton University Talent Search, LDS Church, Eagle Run Ward, Elkhorn Ward, Espanol, Cub Scout Pack 306, Alpha Phi Alpha

*photo by Melanie Cheney*

GALLUP

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BACK TO THE RIVER

To read more about the Omaha Missouri River clean-up and see more photos, check out our webpage at [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org)



**Above:** The River Relief Crew hauls bags of trash in the afternoon.

**Right:** Volunteers pose with one of their found trash treasures.

**Bottom:** Volunteers ready to hit the river in one of the big ol' Nebraska Game & Parks boats.

*Photos by Steve Schnarr and Paul Lepisto*



## Partners

Bridgestone "One Team One Planet" • Cabela's • City of Council Bluffs, IA • City of Omaha, NE • Country Inn & Suites • Creighton University • G.I. Mow Lawn Service • Harrah's Casino • Hyvee • Izaak Walton League • Iowa Dept. of Transportation • Mutual of Omaha • National Park Service • Nebraska Game & Parks Commission • Pottawattamie County Conservation • Remelt Industries • Sam & Louie's Pizza • Walmart - Council Bluffs • Waste Management • Western Historic Trails Center



- ### Partial List of Trash Collected
- 209 Bags of Trash • 14 Tires • 2 Bike Tires • 2 pieces of Tire
  - 50 chunks O' Styrofoam • 10 ft of Steel Pipe • 1 - 5/8"x18" Masonry Bit • 1 Pillow • 1 Chest Freezer • 2 Rolling Suitcases • 1 Ski • 1 - 100 gal. Chemical Sprayer Tank
  - 2 Orange Cones • 30 ft of Fire Hose • 2 Ford Grills • 2 IL License Plates • 2 sealed 5-gal. Buckets of Petroleum product
  - 2 pieces of Siding • 2 bags of plastic green Fencing • 1 - 10 gal. plastic Storage Container • 4 Balloons from the Pedestrian Bridge
  - 4 pieces of Carpet • 4 plastic Pipes • 1 Chain • 1 Exercise Machine • 12 ft. of Chain link Fence • 50 lbs. of Metal Cable • 13 pieces of Scrap Metal • 1 Railroad Spike
  - 8 Moldy Blankets • 2 Bed Springs • 1 Hose Reel w/ Hose • 1 Artificial Christmas Tree • 1 embroidered Christmas Pillow
  - 1 wet Sleeping Bag • 1 Camp Chair • 1/2 sheet of Plywood • 1 Life Jackets • 1 string of Owl Lights • 1 St. Christopher Charm
  - 1 Chair • 1 chunk of Obsidian • 1 Pepsi Label • 1 Fuse Box • 1 Ring • 1 Poker Chip • 1 G.I. Joe Doll • 1 Water Bottle
  - 1 Dog Tag "Charlie" • 1 Jump Rope • 1 Turkey Feather • 1 Shell • 1 dead Turtle • 1 Goose Head Decoy • 1 Duck Head Decoy • 1 Bird Wing • 1 Jaw Bone • 1 Golf Ball
  - 1 Soccer Ball • 1 Tennis Ball • 1 Green Rabbits Foot • 1 Red Flag with Flowers • 1 Quartz Crystal • 1 Dodge Ram Hood Orniment • 1 Notebook • 1 Flower Scrunchie • 1 Leather Belt • 1 Yugi-oh Sheet • 1 Huskers T-shirt • 1 Vest
  - 1 Blarney Pin • 1 Heart Necklace • 1 Frisbee • 1 King Size Sharpie • 1 Bumper, Cooler & Electric Box • 1 Sweat Band • 1 pair of Pliers • 1 Police Tape • 1 \$10 Bill • 1 Broken Crutch
  - 1 Gear Lube • 1 piece of a Lamp • 1 Inhaler • 1 can of Vegetable Stew • 1 Orange Cone • 1 Casino Business Card

**For more about the Omaha/Council Bluffs Clean-up and a link to photos of the event, see:**  
[www.riverrelief.org/event/omaha-council-bluffs-missouri-river-clean-up-2013/](http://www.riverrelief.org/event/omaha-council-bluffs-missouri-river-clean-up-2013/)

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