

2nd Annual Elk River Cleanup Summary
September 26th, 2009
9 am- 11 am
830 lbs trash removed

The Second Annual Elk River Cleanup was a ton of fun (more like 830 pounds of fun)! Thanks to the large group of volunteers from the Wapiti Park Campground, Elk River Knights of Columbus and several other committed individuals, approximately 830 pounds of litter was removed from the Elk River!

At 9 am on September 26th, 22 volunteers plus 4 staff team leaders reported to one of three staging areas to eat some delicious bakery, slurp up coffee and then head out to remove litter from the Elk River and its' surrounding banks.

Dave Hannula from the Citizen and West Sherburne Tribune was out to cover the event! We can expect to see coverage in next Saturdays paper; October 3rd Citizen.

As stated, volunteers met at one of three staging areas and consisted of the following crews:

Big Lake Crew (4): This crew met at the Big Lake Lions Park and covered the Elk River from Lions Park to the County Road 5 Bridge and Elk River bridge crossings: CSAH 43, CSAH 15 and the Canoe landing at 166th street. (totaling approximately 1.5 miles)

Odds and Ends Crew (2): Removed litter from the Elk River Bridge crossing at CSAH 73, the Snake River near 185th St. and the St. Francis River at CSAH 15. The crew also helped out fellow Becker Bridge crew members at CSAH 11 (approximately 1.25 miles)

Wapiti Crew (12): As the name states, this team met at Wapiti Park in Elk River. The Wapiti Crew cleaned the Elk River from the entrance of Wapiti Park, downstream along the Elk River and up to the landing at the east side of the Park. Crew members were all residents of the Park and have already signed up for the 3rd Annual Elk River Watershed Cleanup! (Approximately 1 mile)

Becker Bridges Crew (6): The Becker Crew met at Becker City Park and split into two teams. One team covered the Elk River bridge crossings at CSAH 23 and State HWY 25 and the other covered CSAH 24 and CSAH 11 (Approximately 2 miles)

Lake Orono Crew (2): Not pictured below: two members of the Lake Orono Improvement Association took their pontoon from lake Orono up to Wapiti Park (.5 miles).

Volunteers worked from approximately 9am until 11am picking up nearly 830 pounds of trash (estimated) on nearly 6 miles of stream. Trash collected included items such as hunting decoys, a life jacket, bicycles, tires, a realtor sign, a metal chair, winter gloves, metal car parts, a couch, sleeping bags, shoes, magazines, fast food wrappers, cigarette filters, glass bottles, styrofoam, aluminum cans, and various plastic pieces.

Of special note: We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their donation of both breakfast (wonderful bakery items from Diamond City Bakery) and people to help with removing trash from the Elk River!

Additionally, the folks at Wapiti Campground have already indicated that they would like to participate in the cleanup next year! In fact, they have unofficially adopted the sections of the Elk River that are adjacent to the Park! **Way to go!**

Next year we would like to have additional groups adopt sections of the Elk River! If you know of any groups (i.e. boy scouts, girl scouts, church groups...) that may be interested in teaming up to cleanup the Elk River have them contact the Sherburne SWCD at 763-241-1170 ext. 3.

Sponsors:

Staff time: Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District, City of Elk River, Sherburne County, Extension Service

Funds: Elk River Watershed Association, Sherburne County Rural Living Task Force, Knights of Columbus.

Volunteers: Wapiti Park, Knights of Columbus

Waste disposal: Allied Waste, Jerry's Auto Parts and Salvage, Central Appliance Recyclers

Food and Drink: Coborn's, Caribou Coffee, Java Me Kraze, Diamond City Bakery.

Collection Materials: MN DNR Adopt-A-River Program

Meeting Facilities: Town of Big Lake, City of Becker, Wapiti Park



Big Lake Crew: The Big Lake Crew removed debris from the Elk River near Lions Park, and local bridge crossings including CSAH. 5, CSAH 43 and CSAH 15. Pictured: Rich Belanger, Tom Hallaway, Lavern Knobbe

Odd and Ends Crew: Shane and Tiffany Determan removed litter from the St. Francis River @ Co. Rd. 15, Snake River @ 185th Ave. and the Elk River at Co. Rd. 73





Wapiti Park Crew: 11 residents of Wapiti Park Campground in Elk River took on the task of removing litter from the Elk River along the campground. Pictured at left: Angel hardy, Karry Schwanki, Scott Schwanki, Pam Robinson, Cheryl St. Aoro, Kimberly Satovich, Sophia Satovich, Anna Christ, Sharie Odden, Matt Evall, Alicia Kish, Ralph Robinson



All ages are encouraged to participate in removing litter from the river!

“Team Wet” of Wapiti Park braved the Elk River to keep it clean!





Becker Bridges Crew: Members of the Becker Crew removed trash from the Elk River at bridge crossings in the Becker area including: Co. Rd. 11, Co. Rd. 23, Co. Rd. 24, and HWY 25. Pictured: Mark Basiletti, Susan Basiletti, John Riebel (Sherburne County Commissioner), GG Phillips and Bob Hurd.

Bob Hurd, Mark Basiletti, Shane Determan and Susan Basiletti relax after a day of hard work!



Bob Hurd and Shane Determan attempt to remove a couch which was long ago disposed of in the Elk River.