

**3rd Annual Elk River Cleanup Summary**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**9 am- 11 am**  
**600 lbs trash removed**

At 9 am on October 16th, 27 volunteers plus 5 staff team leaders reported to one of six locations within the Elk River Watershed with the intentions of removing trash from, in, and around the Elk River and its tributaries. This was the third Elk River Watershed Cleanup Event, an event which has become an annual ritual for its coordinators and some of the volunteers groups. In 2009 the Wapiti Campground Crew informally adopted the section of the Elk River which runs through the camp in the City of Elk River.

Volunteers worked from approximately 9am until 11am and removed 13 bags of trash, and 17 tires from the Elk River Watershed. Other items of trash collected included items such as a metal chair, a bike, hubcaps, sheet metal, garage sale signs, buckets, metal sign poles, aluminum cans, and various plastic pieces. Using the MN DNRs rubbish weights guide we have determined that nearly 600 pounds of debris was removed.

Dave Hannula from the Citizen and West Sherburne Tribune visited the Becker location to capture the day's events on camera and paper! We can expect to see coverage in next Saturdays paper; October 23rd Citizen Newspaper. We will also submit a summary to the Elk River Star News.

Volunteers removed trash from the following locations:

- 1.) Big Lake Crew (8): This crew met at the Big Lake Lions Park and covered the Elk River and the St. Francis bridge crossings at: CSAH 43, CSAH 15, CSAH 5.  
**Team Leader:** Bill Bronder, Sherburne SWCD
- 2.) Odds and Ends Crew (2): Removed litter from Tibbits Brook at County Road 35  
**Team Leader:** Tiffany Determan, Sherburne SWCD
- 3.) 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 up to the landing at the east side of the Park. The Wapiti Crew adopted a one mile section of the Elk River in 2009. They will continue to participate in the event on a yearly basis.  
**Team Leader:** Gina Hugo, Sherburne SWCD
- 4.) Becker Bridges Crew (4): the Becker Crew covered the Elk River bridge crossings at CSAH 23, CSAH 24, CSAH 11, and State HWY 25.  
**Team Leader:** Francine Larson, Sherburne SWCD
- 5.) Palmer Bridges Crew (4): This area was a new edition to the cleanup event. The team visited the Elk River and Rice Creek at bridge crossing s along CSAH 16, CSAH 6, CSAH 20 and State HWY 25.  
**Team Leader:** Nicki Blake-Bradley, City of Elk River
- 6.) Elk River Canoe (2): Two members of the Lake Orono Improvement Association canoed the Elk River from the 166<sup>th</sup> St. Canoe Landing in Big Lake down to Wapiti Campground in Elk River (~5 miles).

**\*Of special note: We would like to thank Wapiti Campground in Elk River for their participation and dedication to keeping trash out of the Elk River. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the camp has rounded up participants and we look forward to many more years of their participation! THANKS A TON!**

If your group (i.e. boy scouts, girl scouts, church groups...) is interested in teaming up to cleanup the Elk River have them contact the Sherburne SWCD at 763-241-1170 ext. 3

**Also, thanks to the companies who donated time and resources to make the event successful!**

**Funds:** Elk River Watershed Association, Sherburne County Rural Living Task Force, Lake Orono Improvement Association.

**Waste disposal:** Sherburne County, Jerry's Auto Parts and Salvage, Central Appliance Recyclers

**Food and Drink:** Coborn's, Caribou Coffee, Diamond City Bakery.

**Collection Materials:** MN DNR Adopt-A-River Program

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

**Canoe Rental & Gift Certificates:** Clear Waters Outfitters