

4th Annual Elk River Watershed Cleanup Summary

October 1st, 2011

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

670 lbs of trash removed (estimated)

The fourth annual Elk River Watershed clean up couldn't have happened on a more perfect day in October. Volunteers from the Wapiti Park campground and several other individuals came together to help remove approximately 670 lbs from in and around the Elk River, St. Francis River, and Big and Mitchell Lakes!

At 9 a.m. on October 1st, 2011 20 volunteers plus 4 staff team leaders reported to one of the four staging areas to enjoy delicious baked goods from Diamond City Bread and hot coffee from Caribou Coffee before heading out to clean up around their designated area.

Dave Hannula from the Citizen and West Sherburne Tribune was out to cover the event again this year. The article was published in the October 8th, 2011 copy of the Sherburne County Citizen newspaper!

Volunteers worked from approximately 9am until 11am picking up nearly 670 pounds of trash (estimated) on nearly 6 miles of stream. Trash collected included items such as aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, cigarette butts, car tires, metal car parts, a vacuum, a glass refrigerator door, shoes, rebar, wire, a TV, a computer, bikes, Styrofoam, fast food wrappers, work gloves, shot gun shells, news papers, a gas can and various plastic pieces.

This was the first year that Big and Mitchell Lakes were included in the cleanup; The Big Lake Community Lakes Association was also kind enough to donate funds to assist in purchasing materials for the event this year. The crews picking up around the lakes heard many praises from citizens passing by! What a great feeling, we hope to include the lakes again in the future.

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.

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

Big Lake Crew (3): This crew met at Big Lake Lions Park and covered bridge crossings on the Elk River at County Road 5 and CSAH 15. They also covered the bridge crossing at CSAH 15 on the St. Francis River and its adjacent canoe launch. (Approximately 1.5 miles)

Odds and Ends Crew (2): This crew covered Tibbits Brook off of County Road 35 in Elk River as well as Snake River off of 173rd Ave.

Wapiti Crew (8): **"Adopted" by the Wapiti Park campers in 2009.** 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. (Approximately 1 mile)

Becker Bridges Crew (5): The Becker Crew met at the Becker Community Center. The crew covered the Elk River bridge crossings at CSAH 23, State HWY 25, CSAH 24 and CSAH 11. Two of the team members also traveled to Palmer township to remove trash from bridge crossings along the Elk River and Rice Creek including CR 16, CR 20 and CSAH 6 (Approximately 2 miles).

Big and Mitchell Lakes (5): This Crew met at Lakeside Park on Big Lake and split off into two groups each going around in opposite direction around the lakes, the main focus of their efforts was public fishing areas. Two of these crew members also assisted the Big Lake crew at the St. Francis bridge on CSAH 15. (Approximately 1.5 miles)

Sponsors:

Staff time: Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District

Funds: Big Lake Community Lakes Association, Lake Orono Improvement Association, Sherburne County Rural Living Task Force.

Volunteers: Wapiti Park Campers, committed individuals

Waste disposal: Sherburne Public Works, Jerry's Auto Parts and Salvage, Central Appliance Recyclers

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

Collection Materials: Sherburne Public Works

Meeting Facilities: Big Lake Lions Park; City of Big Lake, Lakeside Park; Becker Community Center, 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 and CSAH 15. And the St. Francis at the CSAH 15 bridge crossing
Pictured: Mike Buckley, Amber Larson (Big and Mitchell Lake crew), Frances Gerde, and Blake Buzzo

Odds and Ends Crew: Shane and Tiffany Determan removed trash from Tibbits Brook off of Co. Rd. 35 and from the Snake River off of 173rd Ave.
Pictured: Shane Determan dropping off bags at one of the designated drop off sites





Wapiti Park Crew: 8 residents of Wapiti Park Campground in Elk River took on the task of removing litter from the Elk River along the campground
Pictured (not in order): Angel Hardy, Patrick Pellegrin, Thomas Hedlund, Skip Deutchman, Karry Schwanki, Scott Schwanki, Karen Betland and Tiffany Determan

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: Terry Vander Eyk, Bill Bronder, Joel Schwarting, and Judi Klosterman
Not Pictured: Ron Burley



Big and Mitchell Lakes Crew: Crew members met at Lakeside park and dispersed into two groups going in opposite directions around the lakes
Pictured: Amy Vrudny, Jeff Vrudny, Tommy Vrudny, and Amber Larson
Not Pictured: Francine Larson