

# Results 2007

Year in Review

MISSOURI





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# Hands on, on the river

## Missouri River Relief - Seven Muddy Years

It's been seven years since our first blockbuster clean-up on the Missouri River. The timing, motivation and vision was right, and since then Missouri River Relief has grown into a multi-state phenomenon, bringing people of different backgrounds, occupations and interests together for one purpose: doing something positive to make the Missouri River a better place.

When we began, we saw that the Missouri River was a neglected and overlooked resource by most of the valley's residents. Since then, interest has grown and much work has been done by government agencies, individuals and organizations to bring attention to the problems and promises of this shared resource. Missouri River Relief offers a chance for everyone to come together on the river itself to do something about it.

Right now is a time of change on the Missouri River. The groundwork has been laid for a multi-state, multi-tribe, multi-

stakeholder work group that will help direct future recovery efforts along the Missouri. Known as the **MRRIC (Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee)**, it is a chance for new cooperation. Missouri River Relief's Vicki Richmond participated in the first stage of the process this year, with the mandate to work for transparency, inclusion and better communication with the citizenry.

*By putting people on the river to help clean her up, Missouri River Relief is putting the river back into the hearts of the people.*

### It's smarter to partner

It's truly a time for individuals in this watershed to become engaged in the process, and Missouri River Relief plays an important part of this. **The partnerships we've developed throughout the valley have served to connect different communities.** We share this river. The river that

flows by Omaha, NE, is the same river that St. Louis drinks. By putting people on the river to help clean her up, Missouri River Relief is putting the river back into the hearts of the people.

*photos by Lindsay Tempinson*



## 2007 at a glance



Missouri Stream Team #1875

clean-ups hosted or participated in: **19**

communities worked in: **16**

volunteers who picked up trash from the Missouri River: **1,765**

students and teachers at educational events: **1,373**

miles of river cleaned: **98.6**

tons of trash removed: **68.3**

**hours of volunteer labor donated to clean up the Missouri River: 9,348 +**

*contributing writers: Steve Schnarr, Vicki Richmond, Melanie Cheney; Cover photos by Lindsay Tempinson, Vicki Richmond & Melanie Cheney*

## CLEAN-UP PARTICIPATION - 2007

EVENT	Community Volunteers	River Relief Core Crew	River Miles Cleaned	Tons of Trash	Media Coverage
River Otter Day Clean-up	132	12	1	15	2 newspapers
Old Plank Road Clean-up	33	33	1.5 (5.5 road miles)	2.4	
Blue River Rescue	40	16	1	1.5	
Chouteau Island Clean-up	24	3	1	.75	
Glasgow Missouri River Clean-up	46	32	9.5	4.6	3 newspapers, 1 radio
Stream Team Clean-up	35	15	9.5	1.4	1 documentary
Yankton Missouri River Clean-up	14	14	4.5	1.25	2 newspapers
James River Rescue	10	10	2	NA	
Alligator Cove "Black Star" Clean-up	15	15	.5	4.5	
St. Louis Clean-up	18	18	1	NA	
Mouth of Osage River Clean-up	70	27	13	3.4	3 newspapers, 1 TV, 2 radio
St. Charles Missouri River Clean-up	146	18	10	3.05	3 TV, 4 newspapers, 1 radio
Operation Clean Stream	6	6	.5	.75	
Cooper's Landing Flying Carp Clean-up	36	20	8	2.9	1 newspaper
Alton Clean-up	20	2	1	1.6	
Omaha Missouri River Clean-up	281	19	15	6.69	3 newspapers, 3 TV, 2 radio
Big Muddy Wildlife Float	75	3	4	.25	2 newspapers, 2 TV, 1 radio
Kansas City Missouri River Clean-up	315	25	15.5	6	1 TV, 1 newspaper
Little Cedar Creek Carpet Clean-up	12	3	.1	2.25	2 newspapers
<b>CLEAN-UP TOTALS</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>60.8 + 7.48</b> <b>(est. tonnage for 499 tires) =</b>	<b>68.3 total trash tons</b>

**Together with other events like Learning Festivals, tree plantings, canoe races, conferences & more, our TOTALS are:**

**3,183 event participants; 68.3 tons of trash removed from 98.6 miles of river;  
Put the Missouri River in 23 newspapers, 10 TV stories, 1 documentary, 7 radio stations**



*River Relief crews bring in the last load of trash in Omaha/Council Bluffs.  
photo by Vicki Richmond.*

## EVENT

Glasgow Missouri River Clean-up  
Stump Island Park, Glasgow, MO  
April 14



MRR crewmembers Dareth Goetemoeller & Ruthie Moccia pick through an old dump near the town of Lisbon. photo by Dory Colbert

## Results snapshot

**Total Volunteers: 46**

Missouri River Relief Core Crew: 25

Total Trash Take: 4.6 tons

River Miles: 9.5 miles (River miles 210.5-211.5 (right bank), 222-229 (both banks), 1.5 miles of Little Chariton River)

Tires: 90

Number of Boats: 3 Missouri River Relief boats

**Partial list of items recovered:**

90 tires, 5 55-gallon metal barrels, 2 refrigerators, 1 accordion, 1 100-gallon steel water tank, 2 Coast Guard buoys, 2 car batteries, 25 metal studs with copper wiring, 15 sheets of roofing tin, 2 truck springs, 3 55-gallon plastic barrels, 7 basketballs, 1 full set of Cadillac hubcaps, 1 mailbox (no mail), 9 refrigerant canisters, Liberty Bell coffee can

**Funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers**

Glasgow is a real river town, with lots of river history and folks that know and love the river. Last time we had a clean-up in Glasgow, high river levels and hazardous drift kept us from putting many volunteers on the river. This year, a threat of snow kept volunteer numbers down, but 46 folks still showed up in a cold drizzle to work hard.

The weather kept us off the river in the morning, so we attacked an old roadside dump near the town of Lisbon that was spilling into a small creek that drains into the Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge. We used our big plate boat as a trailer, filling it three times with numerous bags of trash and scrap.

After a lunch of soup and warm sandwiches, several crews hit the river, locating several tire dumps and some massive floating scrap. Neighbors scoured the banks of trash and, all told, we were pretty amazed at what a relatively small group of hard workers could accomplish. 90 tires hauled off the

riverbanks is no small feat!

After an evening campfire and music in beautiful Stump Island Park, we set out in the morning to round up trash our partners Friends of Big Muddy had gathered a couple weeks before from the Jameson Island Unit of the Refuge.

## EVENT

“Blackstar“ Clean-up  
River Refuge at Alligator Cove  
June 23

The “Flood of 07” was a heartbreaking experience for our friend and crewmember John Breyfogle, owner of the beautiful River Refuge at Alligator Cove. A floatable pontoon cabin, gorgeous riverbank deck and a music stage built on a truck bed had all been destroyed by the floodwaters.

Before he could rebuild, he had to tear it all down. So he worked

up a destruction plan and called in his buddies at River Relief to give him a hand.

With chop-saws, prybars, cutting torches and a lot of nail pulling, we spent all day scrapping old vehicles, outbuildings and half of his collapsed deck. We are happy to report he's hard at work on building a new cabin, this time on stilts!



photos by Melanie Cheney

## EVENT

Sioux Passage Learning Festival  
Birds, Bugs & Botany  
Sioux Passage County Park & Pelican Island Natural Area, Florissant, MO  
May 5, 8

### Sioux Passage Learning Festival

Our Missouri River Learning Festival with Hazelwood School District middle schoolers was the first event in a week of scheduled activities on the river that we called River Camp (see below).

Centered at Sioux Passage County Park, the event brought together students with 14 river educators on the banks of the Missouri River.

We make jokes about the best way to bring needed rain is to schedule a learning festival. This day was no exception. Rain poured down all morning long. Students without raingear were suited up in trashbag ponchos whipped up on the spot. As always, the kids' positive attitudes took over, and the rain became just part of the fun.

Hands-on activities included Missouri American Water's excellent presentation on turning muddy river water into tap water. Ameri-corps Stream Team Assistants showed a sample of living stream critters, from crawfish to the macroinvertebrates that later emerge as adult insects and serve as the canaries of water quality. A huge Water Patrol jet boat became the focus of a talk on river safety. Students got their blood flowing at Missouri River Relief's Recycling Relay and Macro Mayhem, while they clustered amidships our trash boat, Saskia, to hear about where all this trash comes from and what they can do about it.

The event was sponsored by the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Great Rivers Greenway and the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District.

### Birds, Bugs & Botany - A Naturalists' Foray

Monday was a literal tromp in the woods. A group of area birders, botanists and one lone bug buff arrived at Sioux Passage Boat Access. We boated them out to different locations on the three-mile long Pelican Island, one of several remaining islands in the area, representing a variety of habitats from mature cottonwood groves to sandbar to reclaimed farmland.

Groups kept species lists and wandered the island. Spontaneous



*Top: Employees of Missouri American Water show the transition from muddy river water to drinking water. Below: MRR board member Jim Karpowicz brings kids on board the "Saskia" for a talk about trash on the river.*  
photos by Vicki Richmond

discussions on invasive plants, warbler migration and insect identification were rampant. After returning to the ramp, we pulled one of our macroinvertebrate rock baskets and examined what kind of life swarms on the muddy riverbottom.

Following the afternoon of exploration, groups compared species lists and discussed their findings.

## The river does what the river wants to do...

### River Camp 07

The second week in May, we had more than a week of planned activities called **River Camp**. From clean-ups and water quality demonstrations to networking dinners and on-the-river land manager workshops, the idea was to set up our infrastructure for a week, then bring a diverse collection of individuals and groups together to work, learn and celebrate on the river.

Just as we began settling into our new camp, on a beautiful sandbar at the head of Pelican Island, we got the news on the NOAA

weather band: "Massive flooding on the Missouri River...a wall of water heading toward St. Charles." We did our calculations and realized that the predictions would put our camp and downtown St. Charles underwater in just a couple of days.

The difficult decision was made: we packed up our gear and headed back to mid-Missouri, cancelling all programs for the week and lending a hand at our home stretch of the river, helping folks move, stack sandbags and clean-up. **This river teaches us again and again: you can plan all you want, but it's ultimately just up to the river!**

## EVENT

Stream Team Clean-up & Summit  
Sioux Passage County Park, Florissant, MO  
May 6



## Results snapshot

**Total Volunteers: 35 volunteers**

**River Relief Core Crew: 15**

**River Miles: 9.5** (river mile 7-16.5 and "Car of Commerce" Chute)

**Tons of Landfill Trash: 1.4 tons**

**Tires: 8**

**Number of Boats: 5** (1 Missouri Department of Conservation; 4 Missouri River Relief)

**Stream Teams: 516, 1573, 211, 1875, 1876, 1, Parkway North Stream Team, St. Louis Americorps ERT.**

**Dumps often have the most interesting contents.**

**Here's just part of the trash tally from this dump:**

23 large Stream Team bags of trash, 8 tires, several steel posts, 1 TV stand, 27 steel rods, 1 air conditioner, 1 motorcycle (Illinois license 554 421, Dec. 1984), 1 piece chrome trim, one large water softener unit and tank, 1/2 toilet tank, 16-foot bass boat, 1 metal roof truss, 1 Nimrod popup camper (w/little red light), partial furnace, 5 fan blades, 1 lawnmower, 2 propane tanks, 4 BIG metal rods, 1 stainless steel restaurant deep fryer, 15 feet of hardware cloth, 12 sheets of metal, 1 torque converter for an automatic transmission, 1 cast iron tub, 2 bundles of wire, 10 circus tent pegs, 1 volleyball net and pole, 1 portapotty wall, 1 office chair pedestal, 1 TV antenna, 1 CB radio, 1 muck bucket and many, many balls of every kind!!!

Another part of River Camp that we completed before the floodwaters came was a Stream Team Clean-up & Summit.

This unique event was designed to bring together Stream Team participants from the area for a day of hard work and fellowship. Smaller numbers of participants gave us opportunities to exchange savvy, stories and contact information, all while picking up trash.

Volunteers loaded into boats and headed just a couple miles upstream to a large dump located on the MegaScout project last fall. A cast iron tub proved no match for these stalwarts. A motorcycle, a cast iron tub and restaurant equipment were loaded like cordwood into our plate boat, Saskia, and returned to the ramp.

MDC fisheries biologist Danny Brown took out a crew of Stream Teamers from Parkway North High School for a "fishing" expedition, picking trash right out of the river from drift racks pushed aside by the rising water. After lunch, crews found an upside down abandoned boat up on the bank. The Stream Teamers put their collective knowledge to work, flipping the boat and pulling it out of the weeds using our plate boat.

As tired crews returned to camp, MRR crews served up a feast of chicken roasted on an open fire as stories of the day were recounted. An evening program hosted by author and MRR coordinator Jeff Barrow accompanied the riverside dinner. Stream Team members had the opportunity to present their activities to the group.

A perfect opportunity for networking among citizen river stewards, right on the banks of the river where we belong.



*Top left: Crews rolled tons of trash from a dump into the MRR plate boats. Top right: Parkway North students fish "floaters" right out of the river with MDC's Danny Brown. Bottom right: MRR Quartermaster John Brady smokes chicken for the post clean-up dinner.*

*photos by Vicki Richmond and Melanie Cheney*

## EVENT

Mouth of the Osage River Clean-up  
Bonnots Mill, MO  
July 28



The spring floods completely covered our home camp for this clean-up, so it was postponed a month to give things a chance to dry out. Still, by the time we set up camp on Soda Popp's beautiful Osage River lawn, the Osage River was pouring out more cubic feet per second of water than the Big Muddy herself!

With a bunch of help from locals, including a couple families that took out their own boats, we created a massive pile of trash at the Bonnot's Mill ramp. We took on a ridiculous drift pile on the Missouri, a long-time dump just off the Osage, and scoured the banks for trash.

## Tales of a vagabond refrigerator

At this year's Osage Clean-up, we pulled a refrigerator off the river that had travelled all the way from St. Joseph in one year!

### Here's the story...

Last summer, Missouri River Relief engaged in a very interesting journey. We mapped trash on the Missouri River all the way from Ponca State Park, NE, to the Mississippi River - 754 miles on both banks. We called it the MegaScout.

Each river mile was given a 0-5 "trashiness" rating. Dumps, appliances, massive accumulations and large trash items were GPS-ed and photographed if possible. Large floatable objects (refrigerators, hot water heaters, 55 gallon barrels, etc.) were "tagged" - we spray-painted the river mile, date and our initials ("MRR") on the side.

## Results snapshot

**Total Volunteers:** 70

**Missouri River Relief Core Crew:** 27

**River Miles:** 9 on the Missouri River (125-134), 4 on the Osage (from the mouth up)

**Tons of Landfill Trash:** 2.1 tons

**Tons of Scrap Metal:** 1.3 tons

**Tires:** 53

**Number of Boats:** 10 (1 MDC, 3 USFWS, 4 MRR, 2 local boaters)

### Partial List of Trash recovered:

68 large bags of trash, 53 tires (one gargantuan tractor tire), 9 large pieces of scrap metal, 7 large styrofoam chunks, 6 pieces of guttering, 5 pieces angle iron, 3 mattress springs, 3 stove pipes, 2-55-gallon barrels, 2 bikes, 2 toilets, 1 child's pool, 1 chunk of concrete with a post, 1 propane tank, 1 cat walk, 1 oven door, 1 rabbit hutch, 1 stop sign, 1 duck decoy, 1 refrigerator (tagged on MegaScout 7/06, RM 460, recovered at RM 134), 1 tricycle, 2 buoys, 1 microwave, 1 weight machine, 1 cake pan, 1 bird bath stand

This would give us the chance to know, when we pulled these things out of the river, that it was something we saw on the MegaScout AND just how far it had travelled in the interim.

When I was scouting with Soda Popp before the Bonnots Mill clean-up, we spotted one of these refrigerators in a drift pile. It was "tagged" with the river mile 460, from Mill Creek Bend just above St. Joseph, MO. It had travelled 326 miles during the spring flood!!!

We knew we absolutely had to get that thing out of there at the clean-up.

It wasn't easy!

Here's a photo journal of this crazy, vagabond refrigerator:



Left: Melanie Cheney "tags" it up above St. Joseph in July, 2006, at river mile 460. Middle: Using two come-alongs and a chain, Tim Nigh lifts the fridge out of the rack pile as Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge Ranger Tim Haller looks on. Right: USFWS's Colby Wrasse & MRR's John Brady load the refrigerator onto MDC's Charlie Nelson's Bobcat for scrapping.

photos by Lindsay Tempinson

## EVENT

St. Charles Missouri River Clean-up  
Lewis & Clark Boathouse, St. Charles, MO  
August 11

St. Charles is one of the oldest European settlements in Missouri, serving originally as an early Spanish settlement (San Carlos), then settled mainly by the French, becoming the first capital of Missouri and is now in the midst of a huge population boom as St. Louis area suburbs continue to grow outward. It has always been a major Missouri River town and we always receive major support from the city, county and area businesses and organizations.

Our St. Charles clean-up this year was our fifth in the area. This year's clean-up was originally scheduled for May 12, but was postponed due to predicted floods cresting in St. Charles on that day. The reschedule landed on August 11, which turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. 250 volunteers signed up for the event, but only 146 showed up in the heat. And these were 146 really tough individuals!

We focused on areas close to clean-up headquarters. We cleaned the area around Blanchette Landing, the riverfront of Frontier Park, the Riverwoods Conservation Area in Bridgeton, the bases of several area bridges and a massive drift pile 5 miles upstream.

Some of our Meremec River friends showed up with chop saws and wrecking equipment. They focused on a couple of abandoned cars sunk into the riverbank and a dump we've been working on reducing for years.

The City of St. Charles supplied dumpsters for scrap metal and landfill trash from Allied Industries as well as a frontend loader to make moving trash up the ramp a snap. Lewis and Clark Boathouse supplied water access for us. The City Convention and Visitors Bureau arranged for hotel rooms for our crew and the County brought out a boom-grappler truck to move tires. The St. Charles CERT team supplied an emergency cooling tent.



MRR crews wrangle a refrigerator into a boat near St. Charles. photo by Dave Manner

## Results snapshot

### Total Volunteers: 146

Missouri River Relief Core Crew: 18

Total Trash Take: 3.05 tons

River Miles: 10 miles (RM 24-34, both banks)

Tires: 81

Number of Boats: 10 boats (3 MDC, 2 USFWS, 1 USACE, 4 MRR); plus 1 safety boat from St. Charles City Fire Dept.

Stream Teams: 2950, 462, 346, 2499, 1857, 288, "Mighty 211", 1008, 1875, 1711, 347, 2300, 1439, 3164, 2788, 3427

### Partial list of items recovered:

107 large trash bags of landfill trash, 5 styrofoam chunks, 3 plastic coolers, 1 double sink (lemon yellow), 5 plastic buckets, 1 washer, 1 drier, 3 refrigerators, 2 chest freezers, 1 water heater, 5 metal culverts, 23 railroad spikes, 1 plastic patio endtable, 1961 Impala, 1 pink floral comforter, 3 meat cleavers, 1 hunting arrow, 1 Ken doll head, 1 cell phone, 1 fishing rod, 2 metal 55-gallon drums, 2 blue plastic barrels, 3 bicycles, 1 large green (ugly) stuffed tiger, 1 couch, 1 bundle of shingles, 1 piece of a front-end loader bucket, 1 piece of a plow

### Sponsors and Partners:

Pat Jones

St. Louis/Jefferson Solid Waste Management District

Great Rivers Greenway

City of St. Charles

St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau

St. Charles CERT Team

US Army Corps of Engineers

Missouri Department of Conservation

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Missouri Stream Teams

AEP River Operations

Bass Pro Shops

Boeing Employees Community Fund

Missouri American Water

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Ameren UE

Quality Inn

Anheuser-Busch

Waterways Council, Inc.

## EVENT

Cooper's Landing River Clean-up  
& Flying Carp Canoe Race  
Easley, MO  
September 15

### Home Again...

Since our first clean-up in Easley, MO, back in 2001, we've made a clean-up of our home stretch a yearly tradition, often coupled with a riverside festival or other event.

This year, we decided to make our home port clean-up a smaller, neighborhood affair. Word of mouth brought 36 folks out for a beautiful September morning, crews were focused on three spots: the River Road and Katy Trail near Cooper's Landing, several "party spots" downstream and one massive drift pile deposited this spring during the flood.

After a pot luck lunch, another boat hit the Perche Creek in search of an abandoned paddleboat seen by local fishermen.

### The craziest river race ever

The highlight of the day was the second annual Flying Carp Canoe Race, put together by our dear friends the **River Ladies Auxilliary** and **MRR**. The race was split into two courses: one race with one child and one adult, moving upstream to a sandbar where kids had to hop out and pick up trash then paddle back downstream; one race with solo kayak and tandem canoe, which crossed the river, went upstream around several bouys, then proceeded back down to Cooper's Landing.

River Relief provided three safety boats as well as a stroke-by-stroke riverside commentary. With landmark names such as "the Maiden's Mouth" and the "Carpbait Curve", it made for an afternoon of laughter and intense competition.

The race was followed up by an evening of music highlighted by the Charlie Brown Boogie-Down Dance-off, where river rats strutted their stuff to the exotic rhythms of Los Desterrados.



Above: Crews sort recyclables at the Cooper's Landing Clean-up; Left: Canoes race upstream in the second annual Flying Carp Race.

photos by Melanie Cheney

## Results snapshot

### Total Volunteers: 36

River Relief Core Crew: 20

River Miles: 8 (168-174 both banks, plus 2 miles up the mouth of the Perche Creek)

Road & Trail Miles: 3

Tons of Landfill Trash: 1.1

Tons of Scrap Metal: estimated 1.4 tons

Recyclables: 128 cubic feet of plastic, 400 lbs. glass, 20 lbs. aluminum

Tires: 18

Number of Boats: 3 (Missouri Department of Conservation: 1; River Relief: 2)

### Partial List of Trash recovered:

(note: of the 59 bags of trash, 21 went to the dumpster after sorting out the recyclables)

59 bags of trash, 18 tires, 6 folding chairs, 4 styrofoam chunks, 1 message in a bottle from Wathena, KS, at rivermile 439, 3 refrigerators, 3 washing machines, 2 poly 3-gallon jugs, 2 pieces PVC pipe, 2 decoy ducks, 2 left dancing shoes, 2 propane tanks, 2 bicycle tires on rim, 1 sleeping bag, 1 bathroom sink, 1 big TV, 1 ceiling fan, 1 10x13 propeller, 1 stainless steel countertop, 1 plastic baseball bat, 1 car seat, 1 house door, 1 exercise bike, 1 super soaker, 1 caution sign, 1 woman's net underwear, 1 Honda motorcycle fuel tank, 1 winnie the pooh ball, 1 binoculars, 1 paddle boat, 1 steel 55 gallon barrel, 1 plastic 55 gallon barrel, 1 30-gallon metal barrel, 1 buoy, 1/2 of a plastic feed container

## EVENT

Omaha/Council Bluffs River Clean-up  
Omaha, NE  
September 22

2007 was our second year back in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. More than twice as many volunteers showed up, and they did a massive amount of work. This clean-up is coordinated by a partnership between **Back to the River** and **Missouri River Relief**.

We focused crews on dumpsites near bridges as well as abandoned camps. Others scoured the sandbars and banks. One amazing pile of bagged trash took almost four full plate boats to haul the trash to the barge.

Sedimentation had blocked access to the Lewis & Clark Landing Marina, but the **Corps of Engineers** came through the week before to dredge a channel of access. They also brought in the barge and loading flat that disposal bins were stored on. Three dumpsters were filled, with another pile of tires and another of soggy carpet. **Nebraska Game & Parks** led the trash and people hauling fleet, bringing 6 of their huge plate boats.

*Top: There were a lot of young, energetic trash grabbers from the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. Bottom: Crews spent all afternoon hauling in boatloads of trash to the Army Corps of Engineers barge.*



*photos by David Richter*



## Results snapshot

**Total Volunteers: 281**

**River Relief Core Crew: 19**

**River Miles: 15 (river mile 610-625, both banks)**

**Tons of Landfill Trash: 5.4 tons**

**Tons of Scrap Metal: 1.29 tons**

**Tires: 20**

**Number of Boats: 15 (US Army Corps of**

Engineers-2; Nebraska Game & Parks

Commission-6; Missouri River Relief-4; Iowa

Department of Natural Resources-1; National Park

Service-1; Izaak Walton League-1)

**Groups Represented: Boy Scout Troops 3572, 430**

& 494, CASS Program of Iowa Western Community

College, Izaak Walton League.

**Names of Volunteer Crews: "Spanish", "Red Hot**

Chili Lobsters", "Holy Cross", "Ballers", "Troop

3572", "McCarty 5", "Trash Pirates", "Yellow",

"Dirty Dozen", "River Beavers", "Troop 494",

"Flaming Dragons", "Pink Salamanders", "Air Force

1", "Boy Scouts"

**Partial List of Trash recovered:**

233 Large Trash Bags (several required 5-8 people to lift), 1 Wheel Chair (Excellent Condition), 7 55-gallon plastic barrels, 2 Lawn Mower Decks, 15 car/truck tires, 2 Fence Posts, 6 Pieces of Carpet, 2 Car Batteries, 1 Steam Camp Heater, 1 Safe, 3 Tarps, 1 Baby Stroller (no baby), 1 Wad of Insulation, 30 ft. Mesh Fence, 60 ft. PVC Pipe, 18 Metal Tent Poles, 12 Styrofoam Chunks,, 1 Frying Pan, 1 Sign, 1 Cooking Pot, 1 Fire Extinguisher, 23 pieces Scrap Metal, 25 ft. Wire Cable, 3 Propane Tanks, 11 ½ Chairs, 9 Bicycles, 3 Exhaust Pipes/Mufflers, 2 Refrigerators, 7 Metal Grills, 10 Baseballs , 4 Large Banners, 1 Full Bud Light, 1 Propane tank with written message: "This property guarded by unfriendly pets"

## Sponsors & Partners

Back to the River, Inc., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska Environmental Trust, City of Omaha,

City of Council Bluffs, Douglas County, NE, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Bass Pro Shops, Country Inn & Suites, Omaha Airport, Izaak Walton League,

MidAmerican Energy, Snyder & Assoc., 89.7 The River, National Park Service, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources

District, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Ameristar Casino-Council Bluffs, Boy Scout Troop 494,

Lawlor's Custom Sportswear, Rotella's Italian Bakery, Wal-Mart, Sandpiper Cove Marina

## EVENT

Missouri River Watershed Festival at Kaw Point  
Kansas City, KS  
October 5

What do 1000 middle school students, 375 volunteers, and personnel from 2 state agencies, 2 federal agencies and 2 municipal governments have in common? A new and clear appreciation of the value of rivers in the Kansas City Metropolitan area, River Relief style.

On Friday, Oct. 4, 2007, 1000 students with their teachers and chaperons came to energize Kaw Point where Kansas City's 2 Big Rivers meet. Forty-three individual exhibits with a focus on water, rivers and environmental excellence awaited the bustling groups as they toured learning stations with a view of the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

Students had opportunities to touch live reptiles, fish and birds, look at groundwater models, test water quality, run a recycling relay and see how rivers enhance our lives.

With 43 hands-on exhibits, students were offered opportunities to access information in a unique way. All were encouraged to attend Missouri River Relief's cleanup of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers the next day.



*Top right: River Relief crewmember Anthony Pettit coaches students in the trash sort of the Recycling Relay; Middle Right: Experts give a hands-on look into their work on the river; Bottom Right: Tabletop stream dynamics; Above: Students meet the fish and the biologists that study them face to face.*



**to fix  
this**



**start  
here...**



*photos by Dylan Lehrbaum*

## EVENT

Missouri & Kansas Rivers Clean-up  
Kansas City, KS  
October 6



*Clockwise from top left: Surveying the Wreck of the Kansas City Belle; Unified Government crews used their front-end loader to haul trash from the boats to the bins; A couple hours later, little is left of the KC Belle.*

*photos by Dave Marner and Dylan Lehrbaum*

Saturday's weather was perfect, and the effort of 315 volunteers, 18 boat drivers and over 11 organizations was massive! Trash was concentrated up high on the banks, deposited by the spring floods. Volunteers picked trash from drift piles and hauled 341 bags of it over new sand dunes down to the riverbank. Our crews put in another half day on Sunday hauling in the huge piles.

River Relief likes to take on one large project each time we host a clean-up event. Last year, we noticed a houseboat, the "Kansas City Belle", mired in the muck a couple miles up the Kaw. Our **Friends of the Kaw** friend, Riverkeeper Laura Calwell, told us about the canoe and kayak folk who'd for years wanted to do something about it. With chop saws and sweat, the Belle came out in pieces. Today all that remains is the engine compartment, filled with sand and engine. We're making spring plans to have a crane finish the task.

That evening, the MRR crew and Kansas City friends were treated to a traditional KC BBQ tastefully served at Riverfront Park, the crew's base camp. Music

## Results snapshot

### Total Volunteers: 315

River Relief Core Crew: 26

River Miles: 15.5 miles total; 12.5 on Missouri (360 - 372.5, both sides); 3 on Kaw

Tons of Landfill Trash: 4

Tons of Scrap Metal: 2

Tires: 42

Number of Boats: 18 boats (4 Missouri River Relief, 6 MDC, 4 EPA, 3 Rivermiles, 1 Burns & McDonnell)

Groups Represented: The Platte Land Trust, KC Wildlands, The Little Blue River Coalition, Friends of Lakeside Nature Center, Friends of the Kaw, Friends of Kaw Point Park, Rivermiles, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Scuola Vita Nuova, Burns & McDonnell.

### Partial List of Trash

341 bags of trash, 2 Refrigerators, 1 Water Heater, 1 Electric Oven Burner, 2 Doors, 1 100 lb. propane tank, 2 Flowerpots, 1 Conveyer Belt, 21 Chunks of Styrofoam, 3 Plastic Jugs-one with Chemical, 5 Coolers, 24-5 gallon Plastic Buckets, 4-55 gallon Metal Drums, 5-55 gallon Plastic Barrels, 3 Boxsprings, 1 Big Pillow, 1 Can of Wasp Spray, 1 Blue Fuzzy Blanket, 1 License Plate, 1 Bumper, 1 Car Door, 1 Muffler, 2 Batteries, 1 Room full of Foam Padding, 10 Pieces of Wood: ply-wood, posts, Lots of Balls, 1 Toy Dump Truck, 15 ft of Rusty Barge Cable, 33 Pieces of Scrap Metal, 1 Steel Tank, 1 Oxygen Tank, 4 Propane Tanks, One House Boat in parts: (The "Kansas City Belle")

and campfire smoke filled the air as the boats used so recently to haul trash treated newcomers to a sunset cruise.

The folks who joined us at Kaw Point will be back to check out what the Missouri has to offer. And they'll be back again next fall- Oct. 4 to be exact. We're scouting now, determining where we can do the most good. Join us!

## Sponsors and Partners

American Compressed Steel, Americorps, Anheuser-Busch, Bass Pro Shop, Boulevard Brewing Co. , Burns & McDonnell, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Dave and Fran Stous, Intellectual Property Management Group, Kansas City Power & Light, KCMO Water Services, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment, Jackson County, Jan Weaver, Joe Engeln, Little Blue River Watershed Coalition, Mid-MO Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist., Missouri American Water, Missouri Dept of Conservation, Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Missouri Stream Teams, Pat Jones, Platte Land Trust, Port Authority of Kansas City, Rivermiles, Unified Government, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Wyandotte County Conservation District

## EVENTS

### “Away Teams”

- Blue River Rescue, Kansas City, MO
- Chouteau Island Clean-up, St. Louis, MO
- Missouri River Clean-up, Yankton, SD
- James River Rescue, Springfield, MO
- Mississippi River Green Team Clean-up, St. Louis, MO
- Operation Clean Stream, Festus, MO
- Alton Clean-up, Alton, IL

## Have Boats, Will Travel

Since getting our first 18-foot Tracker boat from Bass Pro Shops in 2002, Missouri River Relief has prided itself on being an equipment-based, action-oriented organization. As our fleet has grown—along with our assortment of life jackets, tools and other accoutrements—so has our desire to use our boats and equipment to the maximum.

In 2004, we started taking our boats and gear on “road trips” to help Chad Pregracke’s Living Lands & Waters barge crew with a couple large-scale clean-ups on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

Those trips started a tradition of Missouri River Relief “Away Teams”: we take our equipment, boats and crews on the road to help other organizations with clean-ups on “their” rivers. They do all the organizing and we do the fun part—getting out on the river and cleaning up.

“Away Teams” help to build strong connections with other like-minded groups. We get to expand our horizons with new ideas, techniques and contacts. Our crewmembers love the chance to do the actual clean-up work rather than running the show. It’s just a good deal!

In 2007, we had seven “away teams” from Yankton, S.D., to the Mississippi River to the Springfield Plateau. For the first time, on March 31, we found ourselves on opposite sides of the state on the same day, hauling people and trash for sister organizations.



Our new plate boat, “Hildy Harliner” approaches the Gavin’s Point Dam for the lower river boater tradition of “kissing the dam”. photo by Vicki Richmond

## March 31, 2007

A crew of our grizzled veterans took our plate boat, “Saskia”, to the Mississippi on the same day newer crews led a site on the Blue River, in Kansas City.

### Project Blue River Rescue—Kansas City, MO (hosted by Lakeside Nature Center)

Sixteen crewmembers hit the mouth of the Blue River once again with a hardcore group of Bayer employees, cleaning up a section of floodplain just over the levee from the Bayer plant. Project Blue River Rescue always finds a good way to put our crew to use.

*Quote of the day; “I’d always thought it looked nice down here, but I never imagined how beautiful it is just to be down by the river.” - Bayer employee.*

### Chouteau Island Clean-up - St. Louis, MO (hosted by Trailnet)

Three River Relief founders took the Saskia to the Mississippi to help clean up an island just downstream of the Missouri’s mouth. They even rallied up a crew of fishermen to help out at the off-loading ramp.

## May 18–19, 2007

### Missouri River Clean-up –Yankton, S.D. (hosted by a partnership of local groups and agencies)

It was a special treat to take a couple boats and 14 crewmembers up to the beginning of the Lower Missouri River, where the water from the bottom of Lewis & Clark Lake begins to flow as a river again. This was the fourth year of the locally organized effort, in which over 200 cars and countless dumps had been removed from the riverside.

We had our finest sandbar campspot ever. The paradox of the situation was, while our home ports were flooding down in Missouri, the Gavin’s Point Dam was letting out minimum flows to compensate. The river near Yankton was lower than anyone had seen it in years. *Find of the day: a trash bag full of mineralized bison bones & teeth exposed in the low water.*

## June 9, 2007

### James River Rescue - Springfield, MO (hosted by James River Basin Partnership and Ozark Mountain Paddlers)

The JRBP asked us to bring down a couple boats and scour Lake Springfield. We were joined by a flotilla of local paddlers and got ‘er done. The James River folks and Bass Pro Shops always throw a great party, with local bluegrass on the banks of the

*Find of the day: a vacuum-sealed glass jar with a partially burnt dollar bill and a tea candle.*

## July 14, 2007

### Green Team Mississippi River clean-up—St. Louis, Mo (hosted by Living Lands & Waters & Anheuser-Busch)

Chad’s barge crew invited us to join them again on the St. Louis riverfront. The site of 18 plate boats simultaneously leaving the long cobblestone bank of the old river town, loaded down with trash-hauling volunteers, will never be forgotten. 18 crewmembers came along for the urban expedition.



*Crewmember Jeff Barrow hitches a ride in a plate boat to Chouteau Island for the Living Lands & Waters Clean-up in St. Louis.*

*photo by Scot Heidbrink.*

**August 25, 2007**

**Operation Clean Stream - Fenton, MO (hosted by the Open Space Council)**

These Meremec River folks have their act together. We showed up with 6 hard workers, and just filled their john boats, which were shuttled around by Jet Skis.

**September 15, 2007**

**Alton Clean-up, Alton, IL (hosted by Piasa Palisades Sierra Club)**

We provided a boat and two crewmembers to help out at this Mississippi River Clean-up.



*Bayer employees & River Relief crew forms a "tire line" up the bank near the mouth of the Blue River.*

*photo by Melanie Cheney.*

**The Missouri River's Clean-up Crew**

Missouri River Relief would not exist without our Core Crew of volunteers. This homegrown, grassroots crew of over 30 dedicated river lovers of all ages puts in countless hours all year long to keep our clean-up machine in top shape.

From motorcycle mechanics and chefs to ecologists and government officials, they all love to work hard and enjoy the river. Their unique skills are what makes this on-the-river experience possible.

At events, they drive boats, conduct safety trainings, plan on-the-river strategies for clean-ups, cook meals for volunteers, haul and sort trash, present educational games and booths and keep our events running smoothly.

Between events, they attend planning meetings, help with publications and web content, keep equipment in working order and organized, train in first aid and boat operations and lend a hand whenever needed.



*The MRR crew in Yankton, S.D.  
photo by Wayne Werkmeister*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Race for the Rivers**, Washinton-Columbia Bottoms-August 25,  
**Eco Art Fest**, Cooper's Landing-September 22, 23  
**Big Muddy Wildlife Float**, Franklin Island to Huntsdale-September 29,  
**Overton Bottoms Tree Planting**, Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge-November 3



### It's all about the river...

A large part of the mission of Missouri River Relief is reconnecting people to the Missouri River through direct experience. Our belief is that a truly engaged citizenry needs a personal connection to the river. Clean-ups are one important way to do this, but the opportunities, and groups interested in working on the river, continue to grow.

From educational events to tree plantings to paddling events on the river itself, Missouri River Relief in 2007 brought our skills and equipment to help other organizations strengthen their Missouri River events and keep the focus on the river.

### Race for the Rivers

*August 25 - hosted by Greenway Network*

This was the inaugural run for a new paddling event from Washington, MO, to Columbia Bottoms. Split into two races, one for hardcore racers and the other featuring water quality sampling as part of the fun, the two day event was a great success. Missouri River Relief provided one safety boat with two crewmembers.

### EcoArtFest

*September 22-23 - a benefit for Missouri River Cultural Conservancy*

The first project for our new Americorps Stream Team Assistant, Melanie Cheney, was to coordinate the second annual EcoArtFest at Cooper's Landing. A benefit for the Missouri River Cultural Conservancy, the event was a two-day celebration of music, art and ecological knowledge. Melanie brought in a variety of artists and craft, most working in



recycled media or in natural themes. The event also featured a recycled fashion show and booths on various environmental groups and issues, not to mention the finest riverside sunsets in Boone County.

### Big Muddy Wildlife Float

*September 29 - hosted by Missouri River Communities Network*

We provided a safety boat for a unique float from Franklin Island to Huntsdale through the Manitou Bluffs. Over 75 paddlers visited presentations from all agencies (and Missouri River Relief) working on the river as they floated downstream. We also arranged a trash pickup contest, with participants receiving raffle tickets for each bag of trash collected.

### Overton Bottoms Tree Planting

*November 3 - a partnership with Friends of Big Muddy*

We celebrated the opening of a new tract of the Big Muddy NFWR by teaming up with Friends of Big Muddy to plant 250 nutbearing trees below the bluffs upstream of Rocheport.

*Top: Over 70 paddlers hit the river for MRCN's Big Muddy Wildlife Float; Below left: Young kids take care planting a new oak tree in the Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge; Below right: Artist Rex Bandy painted riverside art at the EcoArtFest.*

*photos by Melanie Cheney*



## SPONSORS

We're Cleaning up the Big Muddy...  
with help from these folks!

### **\$20,000 to \$55,000**

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Mid-MO Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist.

### **\$10,000 to \$20,000**

MO Dept. of Conservation  
Back to the River  
Pat Jones

### **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Bass Pro Shops  
Boone Electric Community Trust  
Joe Engeln  
Great Rivers Greenway District  
Kansas City Water Services  
Kansas City Port Authority  
Missouri American Water  
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

### **\$2,000 to \$4,999**

Ameren UE  
American Compressed Steel  
Anheuser Busch  
Boeing Employee's Fund  
Jackson County  
Kansas City Power & Light  
Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment  
LAD Foundation  
National Park Service  
St. Charles Conv. & Visitors Bureau  
St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist.  
Waterways Council

### **\$500 to \$1,999**

John Brady  
Burns & McDonnell  
Coca-Cola Enterprises  
Earthshare  
Friends of Big Muddy  
Intellectual Property Mgmt. Group  
Lakeside Nature Center  
Sierra Club - Piasa Palisades  
Dave & Fran Stous  
Trailnet - Confluence Greenway  
Jan Weaver

### **in kind donations & services**

Allied Waste...Americorps...Forrest Keeling Nurs-  
ery...Missouri Stream Team...Missouri River Com-  
munities Network...Living Lands & Waters...Socket  
Internet...Veolia Environmental Services...Waste  
Management...Alternative Fuel Source

17

photos by Vicki Richmond, Ruthie Moccia, Steve Schnarr & Scot Heidbrink



# River Relief, Inc. 2007 Annual Report



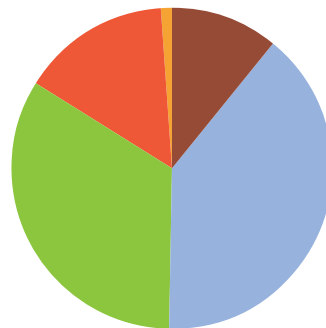
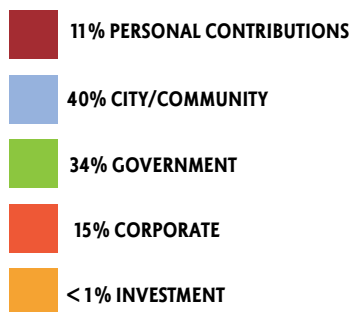
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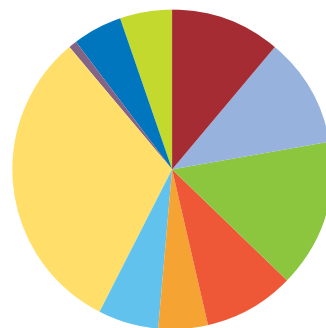
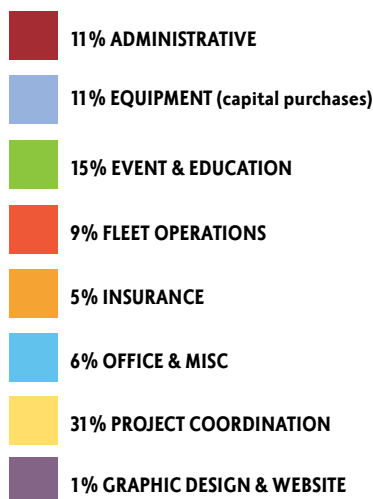
## REVENUE

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Personal Contributions	\$ 20,813	11 %
City/Community	\$ 75,067	40%
Government	\$ 65,113	34%
Corporate	\$ 27,825	15%
Investment	\$ 22	< 1%



## EXPENSES

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Administrative	\$19,217	11%
Equipment (Capital Purchases)	\$17,882	11%
Event & Education	\$24,669	15%
Fleet Operations	\$15,605	9%
Insurance	\$ 8,584	5%
Office & Miscellaneous	\$10,318	6%
Project Coordination	\$52,249	31%
Graphic Design & Website	\$ 2,482	1%
Volunteer Recruitment & Development	\$ 7,972	5%
Outreach	\$ 8,927	5%



## DONATIONS & GRANTS

### \$20,000 to \$55,000

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Mid-MO Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist.

### \$10,000 to \$20,000

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Back to the River

Pat Jones

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Waste Management