



Sixth Annual Kansas City Area Missouri River Clean-up

October 4, 2008

La Benite Park - Sugar Creek, MO

Results

Total Volunteers: 411

MRR Crew: 42

Boats: 19 (1 Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge; 6 MO Dept. of Conservation; 4 MO River Relief, 1 Burns & McDonnell, 3 Rivermiles, 3 EPA, 1 Army Corps of Engineers)

River Miles: 12.5 (RM 345-357, + 1/2 mile at Alligator Cove)

River Level: 8.5 feet (Kansas City gage)

Landfill Tons: estimated 7.5

Scrap Metal Tons: 1.5 tons

Tires: 58 (estimated 0.9 tons)

Total Trash Tonnage: estimated 9.9 tons

Names of River Teams: Water Girls, Piling People, Civil Air Patrol, The Islanders, The Otters, The Winners, 3331, Shay 4 & 5, Mud Hens, Scavengers, Swamp Rats, Lipton Ramrod Tea Bags, The Fridge Brigade, Scallywags, The Beavers, The Couple, The Impacters, The Rockers, Quiet Ones, Trash Wrestlers, GCC, Team Trashy, Random 5, Rockhurst, City Cougars, UMKC

Other Groups: Cargill, UMKC, Scuola Vita Nuova, Sprint, UMKC, Rockhurst University, Coca-Cola Enterprises.



From top to bottom: 1) Volunteers get their safety talk, life jackets and a ride in one of 19 boats at the La Benite Park Ramp. photo by Don Williams. 2) Students from Scuola Vita Nuova cleaned up the riverbank near La Benite Park. photo by Melanie Cheney 3) Missouri River Relief crews bring in a boatload of trash collected by volunteers during the day. photo by Melanie Cheney.

On Saturday, Oct. 4th, La Benite Park came alive early with the sounds of people getting to work and the smells of an Indian summer and coffee. Dumpsters and trailers for tires, trash, and scrap metal were in place. The River Relief crew was busily setting up pop-up tents, the sign-in table, t-shirts, life jackets, maps and the "hydration station". Boat captains began launching at the ramp, beaching their crafts while awaiting the hundreds of volunteers we anticipated.

The Big Muddy flowed past the ramp,

carrying our quarry for the day- the solid waste that litters the shore, catches in the driftwood piles and clutters the dikes and structures along the river. The scout was done, the flags in place. All that was needed was the people-power to move the trash into the waiting containers.

Volunteers started arriving as early as 8:00 a.m. and people began to pitch in immediately. Some staked out a spot to

meet their comrades on the river bank, while keeping an interested eye on the 19 boats assembled to take volunteers out onto the Missouri. Greetings and laughter filled the air as 411 people assembled to take a morning out of their busy lives to help make a difference, and pick up trash along the Missouri River.

After a safety briefing, the fun truly begins. Volunteers step carefully into

for more results, stories and photos, check out our blog: [http://riverrelief.blogspot.com/search/label/La Benite](http://riverrelief.blogspot.com/search/label/La%20Benite)

boats provided by a number of state and federal agencies, corporations and our own River Relief fleet.

Blue skies and moderate temperatures made the boat rides (which are always a favorite part of the day) a treat. For many, this is the first time they've experienced the Big Muddy first hand. There is no experience like that of your first boat ride on the Missouri. All of the urban legends are forgotten as the river weaves her spell over the volunteers.

Volunteers remove their PFD's and take to the riverbank, piling big trash in piles and stuffing the detritus of storm drains

into bags. It is simply amazing what is found out there. Tires and car parts and boats and refrigerators and bar stools and children's toys all make their way into piles awaiting our work boats. Too soon for many, captains return to pick up volunteers for lunch.

A delicious lunch was prepared and waiting, while River Relief work boats began the tedious task of picking up all of the piles of trash and transporting them to a waiting loader and hungry dumpsters. The ramp is controlled madness, as the loader supervisor makes sure that the way to the dumpsters is clear. Hardy volunteers take to the boats to cruise

the project site, throwing everything from bags of trash to boats taken apart in pieces back to the ramp. Sturdy backs move the trash from shore to boat to loader. The loader moves the trash to the containers, repeating this ballet of trash hauling over and over as the afternoon progresses.

351 bags of trash and tons of other debris (an estimated 10 tons!) were removed efficiently in one day from the banks of the Big Muddy by many hands. In its place, we left newly found friendships, care and new-found respect for an incredible natural resource and a huge service to our community.

Trash Tally!

(partial list of trash collected. note - this stretch downstream of the Kansas City metropolitan area has some of the wildest diversity of trash to be found on the river. Check this out!!!)

351 Large Bags of Trash
 39 Tires on Rim
 19 Tires w/o Rim
 2 Rims
 9 Chunks of Styrofoam
 8 Coolers
 1 Cooler Lid
 3 Chest Freezers
 2 Refrigerators
 1 Mini-Refrigerator filled with nasty fishing bait, duct taped closed (now we know why)
 1 Freezer Door
 1 Hot Water Heater
 3 Propane Tanks
 2 Freon Tanks w/ condenser coils
 1 Agricultural Spray Tank
 8 5-gallon Plastic Buckets
 1 5-gallon Metal Bucket
 2 13-gallon Trash Can
 1 25-gallon Metal Drum
 11 55-gallon Metal Barrels
 7 55-gallon Plastic Barrels
 1 55-gallon barrel lid
 1 Construction Road Hazard Barrel

10 Unidentifiable Plastic Pieces
 1 Barstool seat, no legs
 1 Plastic Tub
 3 Car Bumpers
 1 Car Seat
 2 Gas Tanks
 1 8-ft piece of Steel
 20 pieces of Scrap Metal
 1 Barge Cable
 1 piece of Rebar
 1 6-ft plastic tubing
 2 Coast Guard Navigation Buoys

1 5-ft Plastic Garden Edging
 1 small Plastic Rhinoceros
 1 child Car Seat
 2 Milk Crates
 1 4-ft wooden "Be Courteous" Sign
 1 Anchor
 1 16-ft fiberglass boat in pieces
 2 Gail Brown State Representative Signs
 1 Plastic Pallet
 1 Top to Kid's Sand Box
 Footballs, Volleyballs, Basketballs, etc.
 2 Toy cars



1 Floating Brazier from the Brush Creek WaterFire 2007 (travelled over 22 miles from Lake of the Enshriners!)
 1 Boat Seat
 1 Slide from plastic children's playset
 3 more children's plastic playset pieces-unidentifiable

1 Metal Box
 1 Big Metal Fuel Tank
 3 Duck Decoys
 2 Large Tarps
 1 Carpet Foam
 1 Wooden Pallet
 1 12-ft Ladder
 1 Plywood Sheet
 1 Antique Glass Clorox Bottle
 1 3-ft Plastic Planter

1 Traffic Cone
 2 big PVC Pipes
 2 Big Wheel Toys
 1 4X6x8' Treated Lumber
 1 Teletubby
 1 Inflatable Love Doll still in original box (found floating in the river tied up in a plastic bag)
 1 piece of Mistletoe
 1 Adam Sandler DVD-"Going Overboard"