



# Siouxland River Clean-up '09

June 27, 2009

Chris Larson Park, Sioux City, IA

## Results Snapshot

**Total Volunteers:** 182

**MRR Crew:** 23

**Boats:** 11 (4 Missouri River Relief, 1 Army Corps of Engineers, 2 Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 4 Nebraska Game & Parks)

**Rivermiles:** 12 (10 on the Missouri River mm 728-738, 2 at the mouth of the Big Sioux)

**River level:** 16.7 (Sioux City gage)

**Scrap Tons:** tba

**Landfill Tons:** tba

**Tires:** 7

**Total Tonnage:** tba



*photos by Dylan Lehrbaum and Carol Merbach*

Our Siouxland clean-ups are a special point of pride with Missouri River Relief. Thanks to the efforts of our Middle Reach Manager Vicki Richmond and the proactive involvement of a long list of local partners, Siouxland is developing its own crew to organize an annual Missouri River clean-up themselves.

And all that hard work made this an even smoother-running event than last year's success.

With the high water the area has been experiencing, we were "worried" that there might not be good spots to place volunteers to clean up. Well, there was no problem there! One crew tackled the stormwater outfall that spills trash right into the ramp area, scooping up trash with pool nets and, eventually a boat.

The overflow from the old municipal dump on the Nebraska side, a major site last year, was tackled once again. This time the hardcore trash-getters even waded out into the

water to retrieve items hidden by the high water, then cutting them apart with a chopsaw to clean out the mud.

Several crews tackled stormwater outfalls from the Interstate, which were thankfully much cleaner than last year. Others hit the riverside trail in mass, even climbing over the fence to bag up trash blown off the interstate. All that trash got hauled back by ATV.

Most of the riverside spots were fishermen and recreational trash - cans, bottles, worm boxes, broken chairs and fishing line. It felt good to get that stuff out of there. Because the river was about as high as it has been in a while, much of the trash we often find washed in had already been washed downstream.

A new addition this year were two \$100 awards offered to the most interesting trash find and the group that brought the most volunteers. The awards were provided by Keep Northeast Nebraska Beautiful.

The local Latter Day Saints temple deservedly received the award for most volunteers - 36 members came to help everywhere from sign-up to tear down to river crews to trail crews! There were also 9 volunteers from University of South Dakota Upward Bound, 9 volunteers from the new Siouxland Mudpuppies clean-up group and 9 volunteers from B&G Brick.

The most interesting trash award went to a group of friends that found a rusty old pogo stick! Don't see those often anymore.



**for links to more stories and photos, check out our event webpage:**

<http://www.riverrelief.org/event/siouxland-clean-up-09/>

# Trash Tally!

97 bags of trash  
 7 tires  
 4 chunks of styrofoam  
 2 55 gallon metal drums  
 2 hot water heaters  
 2 refrigerators  
 4 washers  
 1 chest freezer  
 1 propane tank  
 1 microwave  
 1 microwave cart  
 1 mattress  
 1 box spring  
 2 bed rails  
 1 recliner  
 1 folding chair  
 2 car bumpers  
 1 side view mirror  
 1 rearview mirror  
 1 auto grill  
 2 wooden pallets  
 1 pvc pipe  
 5 pieces of lumber  
 33 metal strips  
 3 metal pipes  
 5 metal hunks  
 36 feet of steel cable  
 3 pieces of chain link fence  
 1 bridge decking



1 1966 Iowa Licence Plate  
 1 1948 blue Buick Roadmaster hood  
 6 pieces of metal decking  
 1 metal fence with wood posts  
 1 computer monitor  
 6 pieces of rebar  
 2 televisions  
 2 8X10 sheets of plate metal  
 1 Union Pacific Railroad sign  
 1 pogo stick  
 1 doggie door  
 1 railroad car hand brake actuator  
 1 tin of wet snuff  
 1 pale yellow toilet bowl  
 1 duck decoy head  
 1 computer monitor  
 1 small U.S. Flag Stationary  
 1 polished native copper stone from Santa Rita, NM  
 1 minnow fishing lure  
 1 full can of beer-Miller Lite  
 1 football  
 1 plaid lawn chair  
 1 water tank  
 1 No Wake sign  
 1 grill  
 1 crab skeleton

## Thanks and Praises

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