



# C.R.O.W. JOINT POWERS

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## Press Release

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2005

Contact: Diane Sander, Crow River Organization of Water

### **Crow River Volunteers Unite!**

On September 17, 2005 the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) coordinated the second annual Crow River Clean Up Day. Citizens from surrounding communities came together at ten different cities across the watershed to help pick up garbage from the banks of the Crow River and its tributaries. A total of 280 citizens volunteered their time to removed 6 tons of garbage! Clean up activities started at 8 a.m. and ran until Noon in each community. Following the clean up, volunteers enjoyed lunch and admired their piles of trash and hard work. This was the first year that citizens in Dayton, Lake Lillian, Paynesville and Watertown participated in the event.

Cities that participated in the clean up included Buffalo, Dayton, Hanover, Hutchinson, Lake Lillian, New London, Paynesville, Rockford, St. Michael and Watertown. Diane Sander, CROW Coordinator stated that "The event was a huge success and each year it expands to include another neighboring community in the Crow River Watershed. The clean up allows people to get in touch and take ownership in the Crow River and helps to improve recreational opportunities on the River."

In total, the clean up resulted in the collection of 6 tons of garbage including: plastic and glass bottles, cans, fast food containers/wrappers, tires, lawn furniture, appliances, air compressor tank, syringes, stove, motorcycle frame, propane tanks, parts of a wooden wagon wheels, cans of spray paint, basketball, softball, fishing poles, a steering column, construction debris, water heater, pallets, PVC pipe, sheets of Styrofoam, trailer parts, bed frame and mattresses. Over 24 miles of shoreline was picked up by 280 volunteers in the event. Participants included Boy Scout troops, students in the Jobs for MN Graduates program, Coles Karate and Jujitsu classes, Crow River Trail Guards in Paynesville, South Fork Crow River Association, St. Michael Area River Team and the Lake Lillian Sportsmen club among others.

In addition to the many citizen volunteers that donated their time, 50 local businesses and organizations also contributed to the event to make it a HUGE SUCCESS. Sander stated that "Without their help, this event would not be possible." Subways in Rogers, Albertville, Buffalo, St. Michael, Delano, Rockford, Spicer, Watertown, Hutchinson, River Inn in Hanover and James Street Coffee Company in Paynesville donated delicious sandwiches. Culligan and Cub Foods donated bottled water. SuperValu, MarketPlace Foods, Cash Wise Foods, Big Store Grocery, Coborn's, and Wright Soil and Water Conservation District donated cookies and bags of chips to complete the meal for the volunteers. The volunteers received a T-shirt, provided through donations from Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter, Carver County Land & Water Services, Hutchinson Technologies and 3M located in Hutchinson. Cities participating in the event, Randy's Sanitation, Lake Lillian Township and Three Rivers Park District provided dumpsters and trash removal. Trash bags and gloves were donated through the Department of Natural Resources Adopt a River Program.

The event was a huge success! Planning has all ready begun for the 2006 Crow River Clean Up Day! If you would like to participate, please contact Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext.3

